
A Cradle Song

for Viola and Piano

by Stephen Hill (ASCAP)



SARAHTIM Music Publishing



About the Work...

Composed in 2007, [A Cradle Song](#), was written at the request of Peter Alexander (Alexander Publishing) and is part of a larger project of Solo Compositions written for each major instrument of the Orchestra: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Horn in F, Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba, Violin, Viola, Cello and Double Bass. The project consisted of composing music to specific poems chosen by Peter that he felt reflected the character of each instrument. For the Solo Viola, the poem assigned was [A Cradle Song](#) by William Blake.

A Cradle Song by William Blake

*Sleep, sleep, beauty bright,
Dreaming in the joys of night;
Sleep, sleep; in thy sleep
Little sorrows sit and weep.*

*Sweet babe, in thy face
Soft desires I can trace,
Secret joys and secret smiles,
Little pretty infant wiles.*

*As thy softest limbs I feel,
Smiles as of the morning steal
O'er thy cheek, and o'er thy breast
Where thy little heart doth rest.*

*O the cunning wiles that creep
In thy little heart asleep!
When thy little heart doth wake,
Then the dreadful light shall break.*

Website: <https://www.stephenhillcomposer.com>

Soundcloud: <https://soundcloud.com/sarahtim-music/a-cradle-song-for-viola-and>

About the Composer...

Stephen Hill (b.1958), was born and raised in Southern California. He studied with Composer, Philip Westin (a student of Roy Harris and Ingolf Dahl) at Cerritos College (1976-77), and with Composer Dr. W. Francis McBeth (who was a student of Clifton Williams, Bernard Rogers, and Howard Hanson) at Ouachita Baptist University (1978-80), in Arkadelphia, Ark. He did his graduate work at California State University, Los Angeles (1980-84) under Composers Dr. Byong Kon Kim, and William Hill.

Stephen Hill composes for the simple joy of it. He writes for Wind Ensemble, Orchestra, Chorus, Piano and Solo Instrumental works. He self-publishes his music through SARAHTIM Music Publishing, named for his daughter Sarah and his son Tim.

He taught Band and Orchestra for over 37 years. The last 25 years were spent teaching K-8th Band and Orchestra at the Maybrook Campus of Whittier Christian Schools. He currently teaches privately and directs the Orchestra at California High School in Whittier, Ca.

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“Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:7-8 NIV)

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(An impression from the William Blake poem, *A Cradle Song*)

♩ = 92 With ebb and flo and gentleness throughout

A a tempo

The musical score is arranged in four systems, each featuring a Viola part and a Piano part. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The score includes various musical notations such as dynamics (pp, p, mp, rit., a tempo), articulation (accents, slurs), and performance directions (Loco). Measure numbers 1 through 20 are indicated at the beginning of each system. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'PERUSAL SCORE' is overlaid across the entire page.