

Watt's Cradle Carol

scored for SATB choir and organ

Words by Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Music by Philip Le Bas



Watt's "Cradle Hymn" (1706)

1. Hush, my dear; lie still and slumber
Holy angels guard thy bed;
Heavenly blessings, without number,
Gently falling on thy head.
Sleep, my babe! Thy food and raiment,
House and home, thy friends provide,
All without thy care or payment;
All thy wants are well supplied.
2. How much better thou'rt attended
Than the Son of God could be,
When from heaven he descended,
And became a child like thee!
Soft and easy is thy cradle;
Coarse and hard thy Saviour lay,
When his birthplace was a stable,
And his softest bed was hay.
3. Was there nothing but a manger
Cursed sinners could afford
To receive the heavenly Stranger?
Did they thus affront the Lord?
Soft, my child! I did not chide thee,
Though my song may sound too hard
'Tis thy mother sits beside thee,
And her arms shall be thy guard.
4. See the kindly shepherds round him,
Telling wonders from the sky;
There they sought him, there they found him,
With his virgin mother nigh.
See the lovely Babe addressing;
Lovely Infant! how he smiled!
When he wept, his mother's blessing
Soothed and hushed the holy Child.
5. Lo! he slumbers in a manger,
Where the horned oxen fed
Peace, my darling! here's no danger
Here's no ox a-near thy bed.
May'st thou live to know and fear him,
Trust and love him, all thy days;
Then go dwell forever near him,
See his face, and sing his praise.

Revised 2017

Watts' Cradle Carol

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Music: Philip Le Bas

Gently $\text{♩} = 70$ *Sopranos:* *mp*

1. Hush, my dear, lie still and slum - ber; ho - ly an - gels

Gently $\text{♩} = 70$ *p*

With pedals

6 guard thy_ bed. Hea - v'nly bles - sings with - out_ num - ber gen - tly fal - ling_ on thy head.

11 Sleep my babe; thy food and rai - ment, house and_ home thy friends pro - vide: all with - out thy

16 care or_ pay - ment, all thy wants are well_ sup - plied.

mf

Add 16' pedals

p

2. How much bet-ter thou'rt at - tend-ed, than the Son of God could be, when from hea - ven

26

he de - scend-ed and be - came a child like thee! Soft and ea - sy is thy cra - dle,

31

coarse and hard thy Sa - viour lay, when his birth place was a sta - ble

35

and his soft - est bed was hay.

Full Organ *p*

cresc. molto

All in unison:

39

Forcefully

3. Was there no - thing but a man - ger cur - sed sin - ners could af - ford

f

43

to re - ceive the heav'n - ly stran - ger? Did they thus af - front their Lord?

*Solo soprano:*47 *Very gently*

p Soft! my child; I did not chide thee, though my - song might sound too hard: 'tis thy mo ther

Manuals only

pp subito

52

sits be- side thee, and her arms shall be thy guard.

Tenors: *p* aah aah aah

Basses: aah

mp

Add pedals

Sopranos: *mf* Smoothly and expressively

57

Altos: *p*

4. See the kind-ly shep-herds round him, tell - ing won-ders from the sky! Where they sought him,

aah aah aah

62

there they found him, with his Vir- gin Mo - ther nigh. See the lov-ely Babe ad-dres-sing:

aah aah See the lov - ly_ Babe ad-dres-sing:

f

67 *mf*

lov - ely In - fant, how he smiled! When he wept, the mo - ther's bles - sing soothed and hushed the

aah *p* *mp* hushed the

lov - ely In - fant, how he smiled! *aah*

Detailed description: This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is the vocal line in treble clef, starting with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The lyrics are "lov - ely In - fant, how he smiled! When he wept, the mo - ther's bles - sing soothed and hushed the". The bottom staff is the piano accompaniment in bass clef, with lyrics "lov - ely In - fant, how he smiled!" and a vocalization "aah" under a long note. A piano (*p*) dynamic is marked at the start of the accompaniment, and mezzo-piano (*mp*) is marked later. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

72 *p* *Slower* $\text{♩} = 62$ *very distantly* *pp* *ah*

Ho - ly Child.

Ho - ly Child. *p*


Tenors: *5. Lo! he slum - bers in his man - ger,* *pp* *simply*

$\text{♩} = 62$ *Slower* *p* *PPP*

Very soft pedals

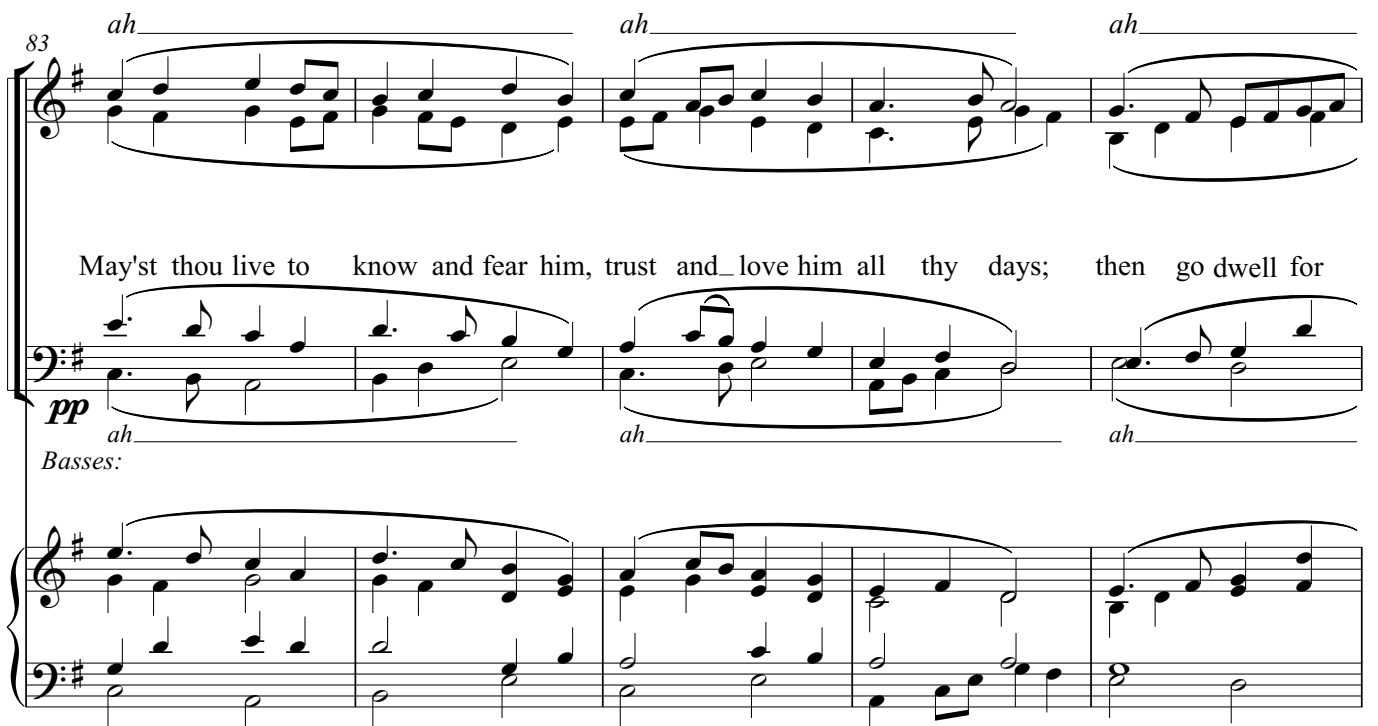
Detailed description: This system contains the second two staves of music. The top staff is the vocal line in treble clef, starting with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a tempo marking of "Slower" with a quarter note equal to 62 (♩ = 62). The lyrics are "Ho - ly Child." followed by a long note with a "very distantly" *pp* *ah* vocalization. The bottom staff is the piano accompaniment in bass clef, with lyrics "Ho - ly Child." and a piano (*p*) dynamic. A section for Tenors is indicated with the lyrics "5. Lo! he slum - bers in his man - ger," and a piano (*p*) dynamic, with the instruction "simply". The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment and ends with the instruction "Very soft pedals".

77 *ah* *ah* *ah* 7



where the horn-ed ox-en fed; peace, my dar-ling, here's no dan-ger, here's no ox a - near thy bed.

83 *ah* *ah* *ah*



May'st thou live to know and fear him, trust and love him all thy days; then go dwell for

pp
ah *ah* *ah*
Basses:

rit.

88

ah

mp

e - ver_ near him, see his face and sing his praise.

See his face and

mp

ah

rit.

p

Add 16' pedal

molto rit.

92

pp

sing his praise, and sing his praise, and sing his praise.

pp

molto rit.

pp