

Guy Bunce

# Balulalow

for SATB voices, solo  
and organ

für gemischte Stimmen (SATB)  
Sopran-Solo und Orgel

Vocal score / Chorpartitur

HY 2021 G

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## Foreword

Balulalow for four trebles and string quartet was composed in late 2008. The present version is scored for SSAA and can be performed by a female choir or four soloists. The accompaniment remains true to the original, but is easily adaptable for string orchestra (an optional double bass part has been added). The piece takes the cradle-song style suggested by the poem as its inspiration; indeed the word Balulalow is old Scottish for lullaby. The rocking string quartet accompaniment that dominates the piece and the long lyrical lines help express the lullaby mood, whilst the augmented fourth motif, which can be found on the words “young Jesus sweet” and throughout, adds an air of uncertainty. The words, written around 1567 by James, John, and Robert Wedderburn, are first sung by solo treble before being taken up by the vocal quartet, leading towards a climax on the final line of each stanza.

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## Vorwort des Komponisten

Balulalow für 4 Frauenstimmen und Streichquartett entstand Ende 2008. Die vorliegende Fassung ist für SSAA und kann von Frauenchor oder Solisten aufgeführt werden. Die Begleitung ist in enger Anlehnung an die ursprüngliche Streichquartett-Fassung für Streichorchester eingerichtet (ein optionaler Bass-Part wurde hinzugefügt). Das Stück übernimmt den Wiegenlied-Stil der durch das Gedicht vorgegeben ist als Inspiration; so ist auch das Wort Balulalow das alt Schottische für Wiegenlied. Die schwingende Streichquartettbegleitung hilft zusammen mit den langen lyrischen Linien die Wiegenliedstimmung auszudrücken, während das Motiv der übermäßigen Quarte über den Worten „young Jesus sweet“ einen beständigen Klang von Unsicherheit hinzufügt. Der Text, um 1567 von James, John, and Robert Wedderburn geschrieben, wird zunächst von einer Solostimme gesungen bevor er vom Frauenchor (Quartett) zu einem Höhepunkt in der letzten Zeile jeder Strophe geführt wird.

poem by James, John, & Robert Wedderburn (c1567)

Oh my dear heart, young Jesus sweet,  
Prepare thy cradle in my spirit,  
And I shall rock thee to my heart  
And never more from thee depart.

But I shall praise thee ever more  
With songs sweet unto thy glory;  
The knees of my heart shall I bow,  
And sing that right *Balulalow!*

# Balulalow

Commissioned by Royal Holloway Chapel Choir

Words by James, John & Robert  
Wedderburn (c1567)

Guy Bunce  
(2007)

$\text{♩} = 75$  Rocking

6 4 7

21 Solo *p dolce*

O my dear heart, — young Je - sus sweet, Pre - pare thy

28 *mp* *p*

cra - dle — in my spi - rit, — And I shall rock thee,

34 *mp* *p*

— and I shall rock thee in my heart, — and I shall

40 *mf* *p*

rock thee, rock thee in my heart — And ne-ver more — from thee de -

45

part. \_\_\_\_\_

Freely *p*

O my dear heart, —

O my dear heart, young

O my dear

50

— young Je - sus sweet, Pre - pare thy cra - dle

Je - sus sweet, Pre - pare thy cra - - dle

heart, young Je - sus sweet, Pre - pare thy cra - - dle

53

tutti *p* *mp*

O my dear heart, young Je - sus

in my spi - rit, O my dear heart, young Je - sus

in my spi - rit, O my dear heart, young

in my spi - rit, O my dear heart, young Je - sus

57

sweet, Pre - pare thy cra - dle in my

sweet, Pre - pare thy cra - dle in thy

8 Je - sus sweet, Pre - pare thy cra - dle in thy

sweet, Pre - pare thy cra - dle in thy

60

*mf* spi - rit, *f* And I shall rock thee

*mf* spi - rit, *f* And I shall rock thee

8 *mf* spi - rit, *f* And I shall rock thee

*mf* spi - rit, *f* And I shall rock thee

64

in my heart And ne-ver more from thee de -

in my heart And ne-ver more from thee de -

in my heart And ne-ver more from thee de -

in my heart And ne-ver more from thee de -

*♩=75 Rocking* *Soprano Solo* I shall

part. But I shall praise thee, part. part. part.

74

praise thee ev-er-more With songs sweet to thy Glo-ry, -

*cresc. poco a poco*

The knees of my heart shall I bow, And

*pp* *cresc. poco a poco*

Ah Ah Ah

*pp* *cresc. poco a poco*

Ah Ah Ah

*pp* *cresc. poco a poco*

Ah Ah Ah

*pp* *cresc. poco a poco*

Ah Ah Ah

sing that right Ba - lu - la - low! And sing that

*f*

Ah Ah Ah And sing that

*f*

Ah Ah Ah And sing that

*f*

Ah Ah Ah And sing that

*f*

Ah Ah Ah And sing that