

Guy Bunce

Balulalow

for SATB voices,
solo and organ

für gemischte Stimmen(SATB),
Sopran-Solo und Orgel

full score / Partitur
(organ/Orgel)

HY 2021 OP

hayo

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!*

Sw. warm Strings & Flute 8'
Sw. coupled to Ch. if Ch. enclosed

Balulalow

Commissioned by Royal Holloway Chapel Choir

Words by James, John & Robert
Wedderburn (c1567)

Guy Bunce
(2007)

$\text{♩} = 75$ Rocking

Organ *pp*

Org. [Add 4'] *subito mp*

Org. *mf* [Reduce to 8'] *p*

Ped.

S. Solo *p dolce*

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

Org.

28 *mp* *p*

S. Solo *mp* *p*

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

Org. *mp* *p*



34 *mp* *p*

S. Solo *mp* *p*

and I shall rock thee in my heart,

Org. [Add]



39 *mf* *p*

S. Solo *mf* *p*

and I shall rock thee, rock thee in my heart And ne-ver

Org. *mf* *mp*

Ped.

44 **Freely**

S. Solo
 A. more from thee de - part.
 T. O my dear heart,
 B. O my dear heart, young

Org. **Freely**
 rehearsal only

Ped.



50 **tutti**

S. O my dear
 A. young Je-sus sweet, Pre-pare thy cra-dle in my spi - rit, O my dear
 T. Je - sus sweet, Pre - pare thy cra - dle in my spi - rit,
 B. heart, young Je - sus sweet, Pre - pare thy cra - dle in my spi - rit, O my dear

Org.

55

S. *mp* heart, young Je - sus sweet, *mf* Pre - pare thy cra-dle in my spi -

A. *mp* heart, young Je - sus sweet, *mf* Pre - pare thy cra-dle in thy spi -

T. *mp* O my dear heart, young Je - sus sweet, *mf* Pre - pare thy cra-dle in thy spi -

B. *mp* heart, young Je - sus sweet, *mf* Pre - pare thy cra-dle in thy spi -

Org. *mp* *mf*



61

S. *f* rit, And I shall rock thee in my heart *mp* And ne-ver

A. *f* rit, And I shall rock thee in my heart *mp* And

T. *f* rit, And I shall rock thee in my heart *mp* And ne-ver

B. *f* rit, And I shall rock thee in my heart *mp* And

Org. *mf* *f* [Sw. to Reeds] [Reduce - Reeds]

Ped. *mf* *f*

67 $\text{♩} = 75$ Rocking *p* Soprano Solo *p dolce*

S. more ___ from thee de - part. But I ___ shall praise thee,

A. ne-ver more from thee de ___ part.

T. more ___ from thee de - part.

B. ne-ver more from thee de - part.

[Sw. 8'] $\text{♩} = 75$ Rocking *p*

Org.



73 *mp* *p*

S. Solo I shall praise thee ev - er - more With songs sweet to thy Glo - ry, ___

Org.

Ped.

79 *cresc. poco a poco*

S. Solo
The knees of my heart shall I bow, _____ And sing that

S. *pp* *cresc. poco a poco*
Ah _____ Ah _____ Ah _____ Ah _____

A. *pp* *cresc. poco a poco*
Ah _____ Ah _____ Ah _____ Ah _____

T. *pp* *cresc. poco a poco*
Ah _____ Ah _____ Ah _____ Ah _____

B. *pp* *cresc. poco a poco*
Ah _____ Ah _____ Ah _____ Ah _____

Org. *cresc. poco a poco*
[Add] [Add]

Ped.

86

S. Solo

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

S.

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

A.

Ah Ah And sing that right Ba - lu - la -

T.

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

B.

Ah Ah And sing that right Ba - lu -

[Add Reeds] [Gt.]

Org.

Ped.

mf *f*

92

S. *mf* *p*
 — And sing that right Ba - lu - la - low! Ba - lu - la low!

A. *mf* *p* *p*
 low! And sing that right Ba - lu - la - low! Ba -

T. *mf* *p*
 low! And sing that right Ba - lu - la - low! —

B. *mf* *p*
 low! And sing that right Ba - lu - la - low! —

Org. *mf* [Reduce] *p* [Soft Sw.]

Ped.



98

S. Ba - lu - la - low! Ba - lu - la low! — Ba -

A. lu - la low! — Ba - lu - la - low! — Ba - lu - la low! — Ba -

T. *p*
 Ba - lu - la low! Ba - lu - la - low! — Ba - lu - la low!

B. *p*
 Ba - lu - la - low! Ba - lu - la

Org. [Reduce]

Ped.

104

S. lu - la - low! Ba - lu - la - low! _____

A. lu - la - low! _____ Ba - lu - la - low! _____

T. _____ Ba - lu - la - low! _____ Ba - lu - la low! _____

B. low! Ba - lu - la low! _____

Org. *dying away*

Ped.

pp



110 [to Strings only]

Org. *pp*

Ped. *pp*