

SM 2263

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# To Madame Melba CUCKOO SONG

Words by  
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Music by  
ROGER QUILTER  
*Opus 15, No 1*

**Molto allegro** (♩ = 96)

PIANO

Musical notation for the piano introduction, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef). The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 2/4. The music features a melody of eighth notes in the right hand and a bass line of eighth notes in the left hand, with triplets and slurs. The dynamic marking is *mf*. There are three measures shown, each ending with a fermata and a double bar line.

Vocal line and piano accompaniment for the first verse. The vocal line is on a single staff with lyrics: "Blow, blow, winds of May, Ruf - fle the bloom - y". The piano accompaniment consists of two staves. The key signature is two sharps, and the time signature is 2/4. The music features a melody of eighth notes in the right hand and a bass line of eighth notes in the left hand, with triplets and slurs. The dynamic marking is *mf*. There are three measures shown, each ending with a fermata and a double bar line.

Vocal line and piano accompaniment for the second verse. The vocal line is on a single staff with lyrics: "spray, Blow all the balm a - way;". The piano accompaniment consists of two staves. The key signature is two sharps, and the time signature is 2/4. The music features a melody of eighth notes in the right hand and a bass line of eighth notes in the left hand, with triplets and slurs. The dynamic marking is *mf*. There are three measures shown, each ending with a fermata and a double bar line.

Vocal line and piano accompaniment for the final line. The vocal line is on a single staff with lyrics: "Hark! 'tis my round - e - lay. Cuck - ool". The piano accompaniment consists of two staves. The key signature is two sharps, and the time signature is 2/4. The music features a melody of eighth notes in the right hand and a bass line of eighth notes in the left hand, with triplets and slurs. The dynamic marking is *mf*. There are three measures shown, each ending with a fermata and a double bar line.



*poco tranquillo* ( $\text{♩} = 80$ )

*p*

Long — ere the oak-leaves shine, —

*poco tranquillo*

*legato*

*Leg.* \* *Leg.* \*

Or the wool-ly buds on — the vine Prom - ise the

*Leg.* \* *Leg.* \* *Leg.* \*

blood of the wine, — *poco rit.* I dream of the

*dolce e sostenuto*

*dolce e molto legato*

*Leg.* \* *Leg.* \* *Leg.* \*

dear con - fine Of the woods that are mine, that are mine.

*Leg.* \* *Leg.* \* *Leg.* \*

Cuck - oo! Cuck - oo! With *p*

*più allegro* (♩ = 96)  
i - ron frost on the bark, And the ha - zels stiff - end and stark,

*più allegro*  
*p*

*poco cresc. e poco più mosso*  
Far from the doom of the dark I drown the lay of the

*poco cresc. e poco più mosso*

lark. Cuck - oo!

*poco agitato* (♩ = 120)  
*mp*

cuck - ool I have nei - ther sor - row nor

The first system of the score features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower two staves. The vocal line begins with a rest followed by the lyrics 'cuck - ool' and 'I have nei - ther sor - row nor'. The piano accompaniment includes a prominent triplet in the right hand and various rhythmic patterns in the left hand. Performance markings include *mp* and *poco agitato*. The system concludes with a double bar line and a fermata over the final note.

strife, Mu - sic's the joy of my life,

The second system continues the vocal line with the lyrics 'strife, Mu - sic's the joy of my life,'. The piano accompaniment features a triplet in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand. Performance markings include *mp* and *poco agitato*. The system ends with a double bar line and a fermata.

*cresc. ed. appassionato*

Beau - ty and plea - sure are rife, And all the world

The third system features the vocal line with lyrics 'Beau - ty and plea - sure are rife, And all the world'. The piano accompaniment is more active, with a triplet in the right hand and a complex bass line. Performance markings include *mf* and *molto cresc.*. The system ends with a double bar line and a fermata.

is my wife.

The fourth system concludes the vocal line with the lyrics 'is my wife.'. The piano accompaniment features a triplet in the right hand and a complex bass line. Performance markings include *f*, *passionato*, and *brillante*. The system ends with a double bar line and a fermata.

*a tempo. primo*  
*mf*  
 Blow, blow, winds of May, Ruf - fle the bloom - y

*a tempo. primo*  
*mf*

This system contains the first two lines of music. The vocal line is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The piano accompaniment is in bass clef. The tempo is marked 'a tempo. primo' and the dynamic is 'mf'. The lyrics are 'Blow, blow, winds of May, Ruf - fle the bloom - y'. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment with some triplet figures.

*cresc.*  
 spray, Blow all the balm a - way;

*cresc.*

This system contains the third and fourth lines of music. The vocal line continues with 'spray, Blow all the balm a - way;'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern, now marked with a 'cresc.' (crescendo) dynamic. There are several triplet markings in the piano part.

*cresc.* *ff*  
 Hark! *L. H.* hark! hark!

*cresc.* *ff*

This system contains the fifth and sixth lines of music. The vocal line has 'Hark! hark! hark!' with 'L. H.' (left hand) written above the first 'hark!'. The piano accompaniment is marked with 'cresc.' and 'ff' (fortissimo). The piano part features more complex triplet and sixteenth-note patterns.

*L. H.*  
 'tis my round - e - lay, my round -

*L. H.*

This system contains the seventh and eighth lines of music. The vocal line concludes with ''tis my round - e - lay, my round -'. The piano accompaniment features a 'L. H.' (left hand) section with sustained chords in the bass clef and a final melodic flourish in the right hand.

*poco rit.* *mp a tempo.*

e - lay. Cuck - ool

*poco rit.* *mp a tempo.*

*mf*

cuck - ool

*mf* *poco*

*cresc.* *poco accel.* *f*

*f rit.*

L.H.

## CUCKOO SONG.

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Blow, blow, winds of May,  
Ruffle the bloomy spray,  
Blow all the balm away ;  
Hark ! 'tis my roundelay.  
Cuckoo ! Cuckoo !

Here's to the merry morn,  
Another joy is born,  
Hail to the huntsman's horn,  
For the bluebell greets the corn.  
Cuckoo ! Cuckoo !

Long ere the oak-leaves shine,  
Or the woolly buds on the vine  
Promise the blood of the wine,  
I dream of the dear confine  
Of the woods that are mine, that are mine.  
Cuckoo ! Cuckoo !

With iron frost on the bark,  
And the hazels stiffened and stark,  
Far from the doom of the dark  
I drown the lay of the lark.  
Cuckoo ! Cuckoo !

I have neither sorrow nor strife,  
Music's the joy of my life,  
Beauty and pleasure are rife,  
And all the world is my wife.  
Cuckoo ! Cuckoo !

Blow, blow, winds of May,  
Ruffle the bloomy spray,  
Blow all the balm away ;  
Hark ! 'tis my roundelay.  
Cuckoo ! Cuckoo !

ALFRED WILLIAMS.