

Janet Graham

Meditation on a Northumbrian Song

## **Meditation on a Northumbrian Song**

The well-known Northumbrian song "Bonny at morn" is a lullaby in which a mother frequently interrupts her song to berate the rest of her family for not carrying out their tasks. The baby's presence in the home has made everyone idle.

The piece is freely based on fragments of the tune, which appears in full in the central section. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and final section contains some louder and slightly more animated phrases intended to suggest the mother's frustration, but they soon give way to a return of the languid mood of the opening.

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**Lento** ♩ = 50

Viola

*p molto espressivo*

5

*p mp mf*

10

*f mp*

13

*f mp mp*

18

*p p ppp* rit. (False harmonic)

23 **Più mosso** ♩ = 64

*p*

28

*mp*

33

Musical notation for measures 33-39. The piece is in 2/4 time. The bass clef is used. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. There are dynamic markings of *p* and *mf* and hairpins indicating volume changes.

40

*p*

poco rit. . .

Musical notation for measures 40-47. The piece is in 2/4 time. The bass clef is used. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. There is a dynamic marking of *p* and a *poco rit.* marking with a fermata.

48

Lento ♩ = 50

*p* *mf* *mp* *mp*

Musical notation for measures 48-52. The piece is in 2/4 time. The bass clef is used. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked *Lento* with a quarter note equal to 50. The melody features triplets and a quintuplet. Dynamic markings include *p*, *mf*, *mp*, and *mp*.

53

*mf*

Musical notation for measures 53-54. The piece is in 2/4 time. The treble clef is used. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody features a triplet and a quintuplet. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present.

55

*mf* *mp*

Musical notation for measures 55-57. The piece is in 2/4 time. The treble clef is used. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody features triplets. Dynamic markings include *mf* and *mp*.

58

*p* *pp* *p*

Musical notation for measures 58-62. The piece is in 2/4 time. The bass clef is used. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody features triplets. Dynamic markings include *p*, *pp*, and *p*.

63

poco rit. . . . .

*pp* *p* *pp*

Musical notation for measures 63-69. The piece is in 2/4 time. The bass clef is used. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody features triplets. Dynamic markings include *pp*, *p*, and *pp*. A *poco rit.* marking with a fermata is present.