

Five Blake Songs

I. The Smile

William Blake

Michael Murray

$\text{♩} = 54$

Voice *mp*
 There is a Smile of Love, And there

Clarinet* *mf* *p*

6
 is a Smile of De - ceit, ——— And there is a Smile of Smiles ——— In

10
 which these two Smiles meet. ——— And there is a Frown of Hate, And there

14
 is a Frown of dis - dain, And there is a Frown of Frowns Which you strive to for- get in

* score in C (vocal score)

19 *f* *ff*

vain; For it sticks in the Heart's deep Core, And it sticks in the deep

mf *f*

23 *f*

Back - bone, And no Smile that ev - er was smiled, But on - ly one Smile a -

mf

27 *mf*

lone, That be - twixt the Cra - dle & Grave, It on - ly once Smiled can

mp

31 *mp* *rit.* *p*

be, But when it once is Smiled; There's an end to all Mis - er - y.

II. I heard an Angel singing

$\text{♩} = 60$

mf

I heard an An-gel sing-ing — When the day was spring-ing: —

mf *mp*

$\text{♩} = \text{♩} \text{ (sempre)}$

4 "Mer - cy, — Pi - ty, Peace — Is the world's re-

mf

7 lease." Thus he sung all day Ov-er the new mown hay,

mp

10 Till the sun went down And hay-cocks look-ed brown.

f

13 I heard a Dev-il curse Ov-er the heath & the furze:

mp

16

"Mer-cy could be no more If there was no-bo - dy poor, And

mf

18

pi - ty no more could be If all were as hap - py as we."

20

At his curse the sun went down, And the heav-ens gave a frown.

f *mp*

23

Down poured the hea-ry rain Ov-er the new reap'd grain, And Mis-er-ies' in-crease Is

26

Mer - cy, — Pi - ty, — Peace. —

mf *rit.*

III. The Fly

ca. 1.5"

The musical score is written in a single system with two staves. The upper staff is a vocal line, and the lower staff is a piano accompaniment. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into measures 1 through 13. Measure 1 starts with a piano dynamic of *sfp* and a tempo marking of 'ca. 1.5"'. The piano part features a series of chords with a tremolo effect, indicated by a wavy line under the notes. The vocal line begins with a *sim.* (sostenuto) marking. Measure 3 contains a triplet of eighth notes in the piano part, marked with a forte *f* dynamic. Measure 4 includes the tempo marking '♩ = 200' and the vocal line begins with the lyrics 'Lit-tle Fly, Thy sum-mer's play My thought-less'. The piano part is marked with a forte *f* dynamic. Measure 9 contains the lyrics 'hand Has brushed a - way. Am not I A fly like'. The piano part is marked with a forte *f* dynamic. Measure 13 contains the lyrics 'thee? Or art not thou A man like me?'. The piano part ends with a piano *p* dynamic and a wavy line under the notes.

sfp

sim.

f

sfp

f

♩ = 200

mf

Lit-tle Fly, Thy sum-mer's play My thought-less

f

mp

9

hand Has brushed a - way. Am not I A fly like

f

mp

13

thee? Or art not thou A man like me?

p

17 $\text{♩} = \text{♩} (\text{♩} = 100)$ *f*

For I dance _____ And drink & sing, Till some blind hand Shall brush my

23

wing. If thought is life _____ And strength & breath, And the want Of

29 $(\text{♩} = \text{♩})$ *mf*

thought is death, Then am

32 *mp*

I A hap-py fly, If I live, Or if I die.

IV. Holy Thursday

$\text{♩} = 80$

6

Is

11

this a ho - ly thing to see In a rich — and fruit - ful land Babes re - duced to mis - er -

(sub-tone)

15

y, Fed with cold and us - ur - ous hand?

18

22

Is that trem - bling cry a song? Can it be — a song of joy? And so ma - ny child - ren

26
 poor; It is a land of po-ver-ty!

31
p *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *subito p* *f*

35
 And their sun — does nev - er shine. And their fields
 (sub-tone)
pp

39
 are bleak & bare. And their ways are filled with thorns. It is e-ter - nal win-ter there.
mp

43
 For where-'er — the sun does shine, And where-'er the rain does fall, Babe can nev - er hun-ger

47
 there, Nor pov - er - ty — the mind ap - pall.
molto rit.
mf *p*

V. The Little Vagabond

$\text{♩} = 80$

Dear Moth-er, — dear Moth-er, — the

Church is cold, But the Ale-house is health-y — & pleas-ant — & warm;

spoken*
Be-sides, I can tell where I am used well; Such us-age in heav-en will

ne- ver do well. But if at — the Church they would give us — some Ale And a

pleas-ant fire our souls to re-gale, We'd sing and — we'd pray all the live-long day

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

*The notated rhythm of the spoken passages is provided as a guide, and is not to be interpreted literally.

16

Nor ev-er once wish from the Church to stray. Then the Par-son might preach & drink & sing, And

p *mf*

19

we'd be as hap-py as birds in the spring, And mod-est — dame Lurch, who is

mp

22

al-ways at Church, Would not have ban-dy chil-dren nor fast-ing — nor birch. And

p *mf*

25

God, like a fa-ther re-joic-ing to see His chil-dren as pleas-ant and hap-py as he, Would

27

have no more quar-rel with the De-vil or the bar-rel But kiss him — & give him both drink and ap-par-el. —