

John Fletcher
(1579-1625)

Sweetest melancholy

Walter Cecil Macfarren
(1826-1905)

allegro ♩=132

Soprano
f Hence, all you vain de - lights, As short as *p* are the nights, Where - in you spend your

Alto
f Hence, all you vain de - lights, As short as *p* nights, Where - in you spend your

Tenor
f Hence, all you vain de - lights, Short as *p* are the nights, Where - in you spend your

Bass
f Hence, all you vain de - lights, As short as *p* are the nights, Where - in you spend your

Accomp. (ad lib.)
f *dim.* *p* *cresc.*

5

S
fol - ly; *f* There's nought in this life sweet, If man were wise to see't, *p* But on - ly

A
fol - ly; *f* There's nought in this life sweet, If man were wise, *p* But on - ly

T
fol - ly; *f* Nought in this life sweet, If man were wise, *p* But on - ly

B
fol - ly; There's *f* nought in this life sweet, If man were wise to see't, *p* But on - ly

Accomp.
dim. *p*

10 15

S me-lan - cho-ly, But on-ly me-lan - cho-ly, Oh, sweet-est me-lan-cho-ly! Oh, sweet-est

A me-lan - cho-ly, But on-ly me-lan - cho-ly, Oh, sweet-est me - lan - cho - ly! Oh,

T me-lan - cho-ly, But on-ly me-lan - cho - ly, Oh, Sweet-est me - lan -

B me-lan - cho-ly, But on-ly me-lan - cho - ly, Oh, Sweet-est, sweet - est me - lan -

20

S me-lan-cho - ly! *f* Wel-come, *p* fold - ed arms, and fix-ed eyes, A

A sweet - est me-lan-cho- ly! *f* Wel-come, *p* fold-ed arms, and fix - ed eyes,

T cho - ly, me-lan-cho- ly! *f* Wel-come, *p* fold - ed arms, and fix-ed eyes, A

B cho- ly! *f* Wel-come, *p* fold-ed arms, fix'd eyes, A

25

S
sigh that pierc-ing mor-ti-fies, A *sf* look that's fast-'ned on the ground, A tongue chained up with -

A
A sigh that pierc - mor-ti-fies, *sf* Wel - come, *sf* wel - come, A tongue chained up with -

T
sigh that pierc-ing mor-ti-fies, A *sf* look that's fast-'ned on the ground, A tongue chained up with -

B
sigh that pierc-ing mor-ti-fies, *sf* Wel - come, *sf* wel - come, A tongue chained up with -

30

S
out a sound, *f* Wel-come, Foun - tain heads and path-less groves, — Pla-ces which pale *dim.*

A
out a sound, *f* Wel-come, Foun - tain heads and path-less groves, — Wel - come, *dim.*

T
out a sound, *f* Wel-come, Foun-tain and path-less groves, Pla - ces *dim.*

B
out a sound, *f* Wel-come, Foun-tain and path-less groves, — Pla - ces *dim.*

35

S pas-sion loves, *p* Moon- light walks, when all the fowls Are warm-ly housed, save *dim.*

A Wel - come, *p* Moon - light walks, when all housed, save *dim.*

T pas-sion loves, *p* Moon - light walks, when all housed, save *dim.*

B Wel - come, *p* All housed, all housed, save *dim.*

p *dim.*

40 45

S *pp* bats and owls, *ff* A mid-night bell, a part-ing groan, These are the sounds we feed_ u -

A *pp* bats and owls, *ff* A mid-night bell, a part-ing_ groan, These are the sounds we feed_ u -

T *pp* bats and owls, *ff* A mid-night bell, a part-ing groan, These are the sounds we feed_ u -

B *pp* bats and owls, *ff* A mid-night bell, a part-ing_ groan, These are the sounds we feed_ u -

pp *ff*

S
pon, Then stretch our bones, Then stretch our bones in a still, gloom-y *dim.*

A
pon, Then stretch our bones, Then stretch our bones in a still, gloom-y *dim.*

T
pon, Then stretch our bones, Then stretch our bones in a still, gloom-y *dim.*

B
pon, Then stretch our bones, Then stretch our bones in a still, gloom-y *dim.*

S 50
val-ley; *p* No - thing's so sweet, so dain - ty sweet, As love-ly me-lan - 55

A
val-ley; *p* No - thing's so sweet, so dain - ty sweet, As love-ly me-lan -

T
val-ley; *p* No - thing's so sweet, so dain - ty sweet, As love-ly me-lan -

B
val-ley; O love-ly me-lan -

60

S *cresc.*
cho - ly, *mf* Oh, sweet-est me - lan-cho - ly, oh, sweet-est

A *cresc.*
cho- ly, *mf* Oh, sweet-est me - lan - cho - ly, oh,

T *cresc.*
cho - ly, *mf* Oh, sweet-est, sweet - est

B *cresc.*
cho - ly, Oh, *mf* sweet - est me - lan - cho - ly, oh,

cresc. *mf*

65

S me - lan-cho - ly, *f* oh, sweet-est me - lan - cho - ly!

A sweet - est *f* oh, sweet-est me - lan - cho - ly!

T me - lan-cho - ly, *f* oh, sweet-est me - lan - cho - ly!

B sweet - est *f* oh, sweet-est me - lan - cho - ly!

f