

LITTLE LAMB

Words by William Blake (1757-1827)

Music by Sherri Porterfield

William Blake was an English poet, painter and engraver who is now regarded as one of the earliest and greatest figures of Romanticism. He is probably best known for his hand-illustrated series of lyrical and epic poems, the most famous of these being **Songs of Innocence** (1789) and **Songs of Experience** (1794).

In these two collections, it was Blake's desire to show "The two contrary states of the human soul." In **Songs of Experience**, Blake uses the **Tiger** to represent energy, strength, cruelty and life as it is actually portrayed. The corresponding symbol in **Songs of Innocence** is the **Lamb**, which represents the childlike feelings of life and is used as a symbol of caring. In the poem "The Lamb," Blake attempts to show the relationship of children to the meek and gentle Lamb who, in turn, represents God. Because children are a creation of God, Blake shows that by fostering the child, the adult is also cherishing the Lamb of God.

Throughout his life Blake was ignored and considered to be insane by the public. He lived his life in poverty and died a poor and neglected man.

As an option, it is suggested that "Little Lamb" be performed as a companion composition to "The Tiger", an energetic, three-part mixed setting by the composer (SV9154). In doing so, the singers may have a better understanding of the contrast between Blake's **Songs of Innocence** and **Songs of Experience**.

for Elyse and Ashley

LITTLE LAMB

Two-Part Treble (opt. SSA), accompanied

Words by WILLIAM BLAKE
Music by SHERRI PORTERFIELD

Tenderly (♩ = 76-80)

I

II

Piano

p

peda *peda* *peda* *peda*

5 *Solo* *p*

Lit-tle Lamb who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee? Gave thee life and

9

pedal simile throughout

rit. *a tempo*

bid thee feed by the stream and o'er the mead.

a tempo

rit. *a tempo*

Detailed description: This system contains the first musical phrase. It features a vocal line in the upper staff with lyrics 'bid thee feed by the stream and o'er the mead.' The piano accompaniment is in the lower staves. The tempo markings 'rit.' and 'a tempo' are placed above the vocal line and below the piano accompaniment respectively.

15 *Tutti*
mp

Gave thee cloth - ing of de - light, soft - est cloth - ing wool - y bright.

mp

Gave thee cloth - ing of de - light, soft - est cloth - ing wool - y bright.

15 *mp*

Detailed description: This system contains the second musical phrase. It features two vocal lines in the upper staves with lyrics 'Gave thee cloth - ing of de - light, soft - est cloth - ing wool - y bright.' The piano accompaniment is in the lower staves. The tempo marking 'mp' is placed above the first vocal line and below the piano accompaniment. A rehearsal mark '15' is present at the beginning and middle of the system.

19 *f* *joyce!*

Gave thee such a ten - der voice, mak - ing all the vales re - joyce, re -

f

Gave thee such a ten - der voice, mak - ing all the vales re - joyce!

19 *f*

Detailed description: This system contains the third musical phrase. It features two vocal lines in the upper staves with lyrics 'Gave thee such a ten - der voice, mak - ing all the vales re - joyce, re -' and 'Gave thee such a ten - der voice, mak - ing all the vales re - joyce!'. The piano accompaniment is in the lower staves. The tempo marking 'f' is placed above the first vocal line and below the piano accompaniment. A rehearsal mark '19' is present at the beginning and middle of the system. The word 'joyce!' is written above the first vocal line.

rit. 24 *a tempo*

joice!

rit. *p* *a tempo*
Solo or Part II only

Lit - tle Lamb who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee?

rit. *p* *a tempo*

28 *mp* *mf*

Lit - tle Lamb I'll tell thee. Lit - tle Lamb I'll tell thee.

Tutti *mp* *mf*

Lit - tle Lamb I'll tell thee. Lit - tle Lamb I'll tell thee.

28 *mp* *mf*

31

He is call - ed by thy name; for he calls him-self a Lamb.

He is call - ed by thy name; calls him-self a Lamb.

31

36 *p* poco a poco cresc.

He is meek and he is mild. He be - came a

He is meek and he is mild. He be - came a

36 *p* poco a poco cresc.

40

lit - tle child. I a child and thou a Lamb.

lit - tle child. I a child, thou a Lamb.

40 *mf*

44 *rit.* // *a tempo mp*

We are call - ed by his name. Lit - tle Lamb God

We are call - ed by his name. Lit - tle Lamb

44 *rit.* // *a tempo mp*

rit. e dim.

bless thee. Lit - tle Lamb God bless thee. *rit. e dim.*
 bless thee. Lit - tle Lamb bless thee. *rit. e dim.*
rit. e dim.

48

p slowly

molto rit.

a tempo

Lit - tle Lamb may God bless thee. *slowly p molto rit. a tempo*
 Lit - tle Lamb may God bless thee. *slowly p molto rit. a tempo*

48

p slowly

molto rit.

a tempo

p slowly molto rit. a tempo

p. rit.