

# GARTAN MOTHER'S LULLABY

Co. Donegal traditional

*Tenderly mm ~90*

Measures 1-4 of the piece. The music is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo is marked 'Tenderly mm ~90'. The dynamic is *mp*. The right hand plays chords and single notes, while the left hand plays a simple bass line.

Measures 5-8. Measure 5 is marked with a '5'. The right hand features a melodic line with a slur over measures 6 and 7. The left hand continues with a steady bass line.

Measures 9-12. The right hand plays chords, and the left hand has a more active bass line with eighth notes.

Measures 13-16. Measure 13 is marked with a '13'. The right hand has a melodic line with a slur over measures 14 and 15. The left hand continues with a bass line.

Measures 17-20. Measure 17 is marked with a '17'. The dynamic is *pp*. The right hand plays chords, and the left hand has a more active bass line with eighth notes.

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21

*mf*

25

*pp* *rit.*

29

*mp* 1 2 *p*

34

*p* *molto rit.*

This hauntingly beautiful modal song was discovered in Co. Donegal by the collector and musicologist Herbert Hughes, who included it in his collection *Irish Country Songs* (1909). The version I have used is that recorded by harpist Mary O'Hara. The well-known folklorist Joseph Campbell composed lyrics in English (beginning "Sleep o babe for the red bee hums / The silent twilight's fall") to the melody. I have not seen any reference to the existence of original Irish lyrics to this song.