

Four Short Songs for Children by Joe St.Johanser



1 The Rainbow - Christina Rossetti

2 Sea Shell - Amy Lowell

3 The Swing - Robert Louis Stevenson

4 The Crocodile - Lewis Carroll

The Rainbow : Christina Rossetti

Boats sail on the rivers,
 And ships sail on the seas;
 But clouds that sail across the sky
 Are prettier than these.

There are bridges on the rivers,
 As pretty as you please;
 But the bow that bridges heaven,
 And overtops the trees,
 And builds a road from earth to sky,
 Is prettier far than these.

Sea Shell : Amy Lowell

Sea Shell, Sea Shell,
 Sing me a song, O Please!
 A song of ships, and sailor men,
 And parrots, and tropical trees,

Of islands lost in the Spanish Main
 Which no man ever may find again,
 Of fishes and corals under the waves,
 And seahorses stabled in great green caves.

Sea Shell, Sea Shell,
 Sing of the things you know so well.

The Swing : Robert Louis Stevenson

How do you like to go up in a swing,
 Up in the air so blue?
 Oh, I do think it the pleasantest thing
 Ever a child can do!

Up in the air and over the wall,
 Till I can see so wide,
 River and trees and cattle and all
 Over the countryside--

Till I look down on the garden green,
 Down on the roof so brown--
 Up in the air I go flying again,
 Up in the air and down!

The Crocodile : Lewis Carroll

How doth the little crocodile
 Improve his shining tail,
 And pour the waters of the Nile
 On every golden scale!
 How cheerfully he seems to grin,
 How neatly spreads his claws,
 And welcomes little fishes in
 With gently smiling jaws!

4
poem by
Christina Rossetti
1830 - 1894

The Rainbow

music by
Joe St. Johanser

Moderato

♩ = 100

smoothly flowing mp

Boats sail on the ri-vers, and

mf dolce legato

p

Detailed description: This system contains the first four measures of the piece. The vocal line (treble clef) begins with a whole rest, followed by a half note 'Boats', a quarter note 'sail', a quarter note 'on the', a quarter note 'ri-', a quarter note 'vers,', and a final quarter note 'and'. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the right hand and chords in the left hand. Dynamics include *mf dolce legato* and *p*.

5

ships sail on the seas; But clouds that sail a - cross the sky -

p

Detailed description: This system contains measures 5 through 7. The vocal line continues with a half note 'ships', a half note 'sail on the seas;', a quarter rest, a quarter note 'But', a quarter note 'clouds that sail a -', a quarter note 'cross the sky -'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern. Dynamics include *p*.

8

Are pret - ti - er than these

mf *p* *mf*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 8 through 11. The vocal line has a whole rest, followed by a quarter note 'Are', a quarter note 'pret -', a quarter note 'ti -', a quarter note 'er than these'. The piano accompaniment features a series of chords in the right hand and chords in the left hand. Dynamics include *mf*, *p*, and *mf*.

12

mp

There are brid-ges on the ri-vers, As

p

Detailed description: This system contains measures 12 through 15. The vocal line has a whole rest, followed by a quarter note 'There are', a quarter note 'brid-ges on the', a quarter note 'ri-', a quarter note 'vers,', and a final quarter note 'As'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern. Dynamics include *mp* and *p*.

mf

pret-ty as you please; But the bow that brid-ges hea - ven, — And

o-ver-tops the trees, And builds a road from earth to sky — Is

To C. A.

pret - ti - er far pret - ti er far than these

accel.

molto rall.

Sea-shell

music by
Joe St.Johanser

Moderato

♩ = 100

dreamy

mp

Sea-shell Sea-shell, Sing me a song, O Please!

mp dolce *p*

♩ = ♩

Detailed description: This system contains the first five measures of the piece. The vocal line is in 4/4 time, starting with a whole rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5, and ending with a quarter rest. The piano accompaniment is in 4/4 time, starting with a half rest, followed by chords of G4-A4, G4-A4-B4, and G4-A4-B4, and ending with a half note G4. Dynamics include *mp dolce* and *p*. A tempo marking of *Moderato* and a metronome marking of ♩ = 100 are present. A note equality symbol (♩ = ♩) is at the bottom right.

36

A song of ships, and sai - lor men, and par - rots, and tro-pi-cal trees

Detailed description: This system contains measures 36-40. The vocal line starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5, and ends with a quarter rest. The piano accompaniment is in 4/4 time, starting with a half rest, followed by chords of G4-A4, G4-A4-B4, and G4-A4-B4, and ending with a half note G4. A key signature change to one flat (Bb) occurs at measure 38. Dynamics include *mp dolce* and *p*.

40

Of is - lands lost in the Span-ish Main Which no man e-ver may

mf excited

sempre legato

Detailed description: This system contains measures 40-44. The vocal line starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5, and ends with a quarter rest. The piano accompaniment is in 4/4 time, starting with a half rest, followed by chords of G4-A4, G4-A4-B4, and G4-A4-B4, and ending with a half note G4. Dynamics include *mf excited* and *sempre legato*.

45

find a-gain, Of fish-es and co - rals un der the waves, And sea-hor-ses sta-bled in

mf

Detailed description: This system contains measures 45-49. The vocal line starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5, and ends with a quarter rest. The piano accompaniment is in 4/4 time, starting with a half rest, followed by chords of G4-A4, G4-A4-B4, and G4-A4-B4, and ending with a half note G4. Dynamics include *mf*.

great green caves.

p

Sea-shell Sea-shell, Sing of the things the things you know so well.

rit.

The Swing

Moderato

♩ = 72

mf

How would you like to go up in a swing,

63

Up in the air_ so blue?_____

Oh, I do think it_ the

mf

p

68

plea-sant-est thing E-ver a child can do_____

mp

p

mf

73

Up in the air_ and o-ver the wall, Till I can see_ so wide,_____

p

mf

78

Riv-er and trees and cat-tle and all O-ver the coun-try side—

p

83

Till I look down on the gar-den green, Down on the roof so

mp

88

brown— Up in the air I go fly-ing a-gain,—

mf

93

molto rall.

Up in the air— and down.

mp

The Crocodile

Allegro

98 ♩ = 140

Musical score for measures 98-101. The vocal line (treble clef) has a rest for four measures, followed by the word "How" on a half note. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand. Dynamics include *mf* in the vocal line and *mf* in the piano accompaniment.

Musical score for measures 102-105. The vocal line (treble clef) has the lyrics "doth the lit - tle croc - o - dile" and "Im - prove his shin - ing". The piano accompaniment (grand staff) continues with the eighth-note bass line and chords. Dynamics include *p* in the piano accompaniment.

Musical score for measures 106-109. The vocal line (treble clef) has the lyrics "tail," and "And pour the wa - ters". The piano accompaniment (grand staff) continues with the eighth-note bass line and chords. Dynamics include *mf* and *p*.

Musical score for measures 110-113. The vocal line (treble clef) has the lyrics "of the Nile" and "On e - very gol - den scale!". The piano accompaniment (grand staff) continues with the eighth-note bass line and chords. Dynamics include *mf*.

114

How cheer-ful - ly he seems to grin,

118

How neat - ly spreads his claws,

122

And wel-comes lit - tle fish - es in With

Andante

126 ♩ = 100

gent - ly smil - ing

molto rall.

128 ♩ = 80

The musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is for the voice, written in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It contains the lyrics "gent - ly smil - ing jaws!". The first two measures of the voice part are marked with a hairpin crescendo leading to a dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo) above the staff. The lower staff is for the piano accompaniment, written in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with the same key signature. It features a dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte) in the second measure. In the final measure, there is a marking "Bb" above the bass staff, which is accompanied by a vertical line of five ledger lines below the staff, indicating a low bass register.