

## PERFORMANCE NOTES

In jazz terminology, this piece would probably be considered a ballad, although to me it seems more like a ballad trying to be a lullaby. Sing it with great tenderness and quietude. Throughout the second verse, the male voices should try to be very smooth and inobtrusive beneath the treble melody.

In the third verse, the male voices should shine. Lots of pathos is available here. Let it work for you. This verse will speak deeply to your listeners, trust me. The fourth verse is emotional as well. Do not be afraid of that. It is an important part of choral singing. The relaxing of the tempo that begins in m. 42 to the end is an important part of the story. Again, do not be afraid of it. However, the e-minor chord on m. 47 is very important. Let it have a quiet “ping,” and keep the sound moving as you strike the dissonances in m. 48. Always employ very appropriate jazz technique. Enjoy!

—Ken Berg

### TEXT

Little Boy Blue,  
Come and blow your horn,  
The sheep's in the meadow,  
The cow's in the corn.  
Where is that little boy  
Who looks after the sheep?  
He's under the haystack,  
Fast asleep.

Little Boy Blue,  
Close your eyes,  
Rest your head,  
Soon your daddy  
Will carry you,  
Tuck you safe  
In your bed.  
(Blue boy,  
Daddy will keep you  
Safe and warm.)

Will you awaken him?  
Oh no, not I!  
For if I do,  
He's sure to cry.  
(Do not wake him,  
For he sure to cry.)

Son of mine,  
Sleep, my Little Boy Blue! (My son!)  
Your daddy's here,  
He's watchin' over you. (My son!)  
How the years tumble by,  
Soon a man you will be;  
Oh, my little boy,  
What will that make me?

Little Boy Blue,  
You're a song in my heart!  
How I long to be worthy  
Of the love you impart.

Sweet be your sleep.  
Dream of songs  
Brave and true.  
May your life be a blessing,  
My little son,  
My Little Boy Blue.

Mother Goose  
Adapted by Ken Berg

### AVAILABLE EDITIONS

→ Full/Choral Score	1.3555
String Bass Part	1.3555A

### Other Nursery Rhymes for Mixed Choir and Jazz Trio

Sing a Song of Sixpence	1.3553
Hey, Diddle, Diddle	1.3554

for the Birmingham Boys Choir 2015 Concert Tour of the Czech Republic

# Little Boy Blue

for SATB Chorus and Jazz Trio  
(Piano, String Bass, and Drum Set ad lib.)

Mother Goose  
Adapted by Ken Berg

Ken Berg (ASCAP)

**Tenderly** ♩ = 64

Soprano  
Alto

Tenor  
Bass

Piano

*mf molto espr.*

String Bass

*mf molto espr.*

Pno.

Str.  
Bass

5 *mf molto espr.*

S  
A

Lit - tle Boy Blue, — Come and blow — your — horn, The

T  
B

Lit - tle Boy Blue, — Come and blow — your horn, The

Pno.

Str.  
Bass

7

sheep's — in the mea - dow, — The cow's — in the corn.

sheep's — in the mea - dow, — The cow's — in the corn.

9

Where is that lit-tle boy — Who looks af - ter the sheep? He's

Where is that lit-tle boy — Who looks af - ter the sheep? He's

11

un - der the hay - stack \_ Fast a - -

un - der the hay - stack \_ Fast a - -

13

*unis.*

sleep.

8

sleep.

This block contains the musical notation for measures 13 and 14. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system is for the vocal line, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics 'sleep.' are written below the staff. The second system is for the piano accompaniment, starting with a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp. It features a right-hand part with a melodic line containing triplets and a left-hand part with block chords. The third system is for the bass line, also in a bass clef, featuring a melodic line with triplets. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading 'Copying is illegal' is oriented diagonally across the entire page.

15

This block contains the musical notation for measures 15 and 16. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system is for the vocal line, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The second system is for the piano accompaniment, starting with a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp. It features a right-hand part with a melodic line containing triplets and a left-hand part with block chords. The third system is for the bass line, also in a bass clef, featuring a melodic line with triplets. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading 'Copying is illegal' is oriented diagonally across the entire page.

17 *mf* molto *espr.*

Lit - tle Boy Blue, — Close your eyes, — Rest your head, — Soon your

*mp* molto *espr.*

(Blue boy, blue boy,

*(mf* molto *espr.*)

19

dad - dy Will car-ry you, — tuck you safe — In your bed.

Dad - dy Will keep you Safe and

21

Will you a - wak en him? Oh no, not I! For

warm.) (Do not wake him, For

23

if I do, He's sure to

he is sure to

25

*cry.*

*cry.*      Son of mine,

27

*Optional: altos may join the tenors to augment the melody.*  
*f molto espr.*

*f molto espr.*

Sleep, my Lit-tle Boy Blue! Your

*f molto espr.*

Sleep, my Lit-tle Boy Blue! (My son!) Your

*f molto espr.*

*f molto espr.*



29

**Meno mosso**

dad - dy's here, — He's watch - in' o - ver you. — How the  
 you. —

dad-dy's here, — He's watch in' o - ver you. (My son!) — How the

**Meno mosso**

**Meno mosso**

31

years — tum - ble by; — Soon a man — you will be;

years — tum - ble by; — Soon a man — you will be; Oh, my

**ff**

**ff**

**ff**

**ff**

33

lit-tle boy, — What will that — make me?

*mf*

*mf*

**Più mosso**

35

Lit - tle Boy Blue, — You're a song — in my heart! How I

*mp molto espr.*

*mp molto espr.*

**Più mosso**

*mp molto espr.*

**Più mosso**

*mp molto espr.*

37 *f*

long — to be wor - thy — Of the love — you im-part.

*f*

long — to be wor - thy — Of the love — you im-part.

*f*

39 *mf molto espr.*

Sweet be your sleep. — Dream of songs — Brave and true. May your

*mf molto espr.*

Sweet be your sleep. — Dream of songs — Brave and true. May your

*mf molto espr.*

*mf molto espr.*

41

*meno mosso* *mp*

life be a bless-ing, My lit-tle son, My Lit-tle Boy

*mp*

life be a bless-ing, My lit-tle son, My Lit-tle Boy

*meno mosso* *mp*

*meno mosso* *mp*

43

*meno mosso* *mf*

Blue, Lit-tle Boy Blue, Lit-tle Boy

Blue, Lit - tle Boy Blue, Lit - tle Boy Blue,

Blue, Lit-tle Boy Blue, Lit - tle Boy Blue,

*meno mosso* *mf*

*meno mosso* *mf*

*meno mosso*

45

Blue, my Lit - tle Boy Blue.

my Lit - tle Boy, Lit - tle Boy

3

*mp*

48

Blue.

*mp*

3