

Sing Song



Christina G. Ropetti

Per Drud Nielsen

Sing Song

9 engelske børnerim af Christina Rossetti
med musik for sopran og klaver
af Per Drud Nielsen

til Dagmar og Esther

www.perdrudnielsen.dk

2023

Fra barnekammeret

Christina Rossettis 126 børnerim

Christina Rossetti (1830-94) - engelsk digter med italienske aner - var ugift og barnløs, men skrev trods dette livsvilkår ikke færre end 126 Nursery Rhymes. Hun udgav hovedparten af dem i 1872 under titlen *Sing Song*, og jeg har benyttet den samme titel til mine fire samlinger af tonesættelser af de små børnerim.

Christina Rossetti tilegnede sine børnerim "to the Baby who suggested them", og det barn, der var anledningen til de mange børnerim, var antagelig en nevø til en nær ven, sprogforskeren og oversættereren Charles Cayley.

Mine i alt fire samlinger af tonesættelser af Christina Rossettis børnerim skal heller ikke mangle en dedikation. Samlingerne er tilegnet 'tøserne', Dagmar og Esther, som er mine to yngste efterkommere, og som har forsynet to af mine samlinger - den for kor og den for sopran og klaver - med skønne, farvelagte tegninger.

Der er stor variation blandt Christina Rossettis børnerim. De strækker sig fra de rene tosserier (f.eks. *Mix a Pancake*) over livsvisdom pakket ind i børnevenlige metaforer (f.eks. *If all were Rain*) til digte om børnedød, der ikke lader Friedrich Rückerts mere berømte *Kindertotenlieder* meget tilbage at ønske (f.eks. *Baby lies so fast asleep*).

Mine fire samlinger

Det, der adskiller mine fire samlinger af tonesættelser fra hinanden, er ikke udvalget af børnerim - tværtimod er fællesmængden i den henseende stor - men deres besætning:

Marts 2017

9 engelske børnerim af Christina Rossetti med musik for sopran og cello

Februar 2021

11 engelske børnerim af Christina Rossetti med musik for sopran, klarinet, engelskhorn og fagot

Februar 2021

8 engelske børnerim af Christina Rossetti med musik for forskellige korbesætninger

Februar 2023 (den herværende samling)

9 engelske børnerim af Christina Rossetti med musik for sopran og klaver

De to samlinger, der blev færdiggjort i februar 2021 - den for sopran og tre blæsere og den for kor - blev begge påbegyndt i foråret 2020 på foranledning af corona-nedlukningen den 11. marts. Vi måtte jo alle indskrænke vores sociale liv og stort set holde os for os selv, og i den situation tænkte jeg, at det ville være godt at have et projekt, der kunne holde mig beskæftiget så længe, det skulle være, og som løbende ville kaste små musikalske frugter af sig.

På den måde blev min tilflugt fra coronaen gennem 2020 det barnekammer, som Christina Rossetti - halvandet hundrede år tidligere - havde oprettet med sine Nursery Rhymes.

Anvendelse og transskriptionsmuligheder

Christina Rossettis børnerim er korte, og det er satserne i mine fire samlinger derfor også. Deres tekniske sværhedsgrad er ikke høj, så jeg forestiller mig, at de vil være bredt anvendelige.

Samlingen for sopran og tre blæsere tilbyder mange transskriptions-muligheder. En udskiftning af det F-stemte engelskhorn med det ligeledes F-stemte waldhorn er mere end nærliggende og kan foretages uden notationsmæssige ændringer. Andre transskriptioner, som kræver ændringer af nodebilledet, foretager jeg gerne. Det kræver kun en henvendelse til mig på min mailadresse

perdrudnielsen@gmail.com.

Der er ingen indre sammenhæng mellem Rossettis børnerim og heller ingen sammenhæng mellem deres tonesættelser. Satserne kan derfor benyttes i et valgfrit antal og med en valgfri indbyrdes rækkefølge.

Bangsbostrand, februar 2023

Per Drud Nielsen

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En ung Christina Rossetti
tegnat af Arthur Hughes



Love me, I love you

Børnerim af Christina Rossetti
fra samlingen "Sing Song", 1872
Musik: Per Drud Nielsen, 2017
Version for sopran og klaver 2023

Andante innocente ♩ = app. 74

Love me, I love you,

p

p

And. And. And. *

Detailed description: This system contains the first four measures of the piece. The vocal line begins with a whole rest in the first measure, followed by the lyrics 'Love me, I love you,' in the second measure. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and a melodic line in the right hand. Dynamics include piano (*p*) and piano fortissimo (*pp*). The system concludes with a repeat sign and an asterisk.

Love me, my ba - by; Sing it high, sing it low,

p

And. *

Detailed description: This system contains the next four measures. The vocal line continues with 'Love me, my ba - by; Sing it high, sing it low,'. The piano accompaniment maintains its rhythmic pattern. Dynamics include piano (*p*). The system concludes with a repeat sign and an asterisk.

Sing it as may be. Mo - ther's arms un - der you,

poco rit. *a tempo*

p

And. *

Detailed description: This system contains the final four measures. The vocal line concludes with 'Sing it as may be. Mo - ther's arms un - der you,'. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand that rises towards the end. Dynamics include piano (*p*), piano fortissimo (*pp*), and piano fortissimo (*pp*). The system concludes with a repeat sign and an asterisk.

Her eyes a - bove you; Sing it high, sing it low,

Leg.

*

poco rit. a tempo rit.

Love me, I love you.

Leg.

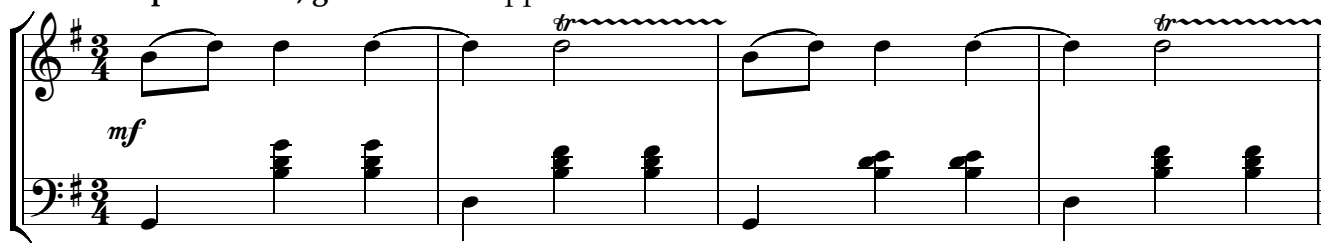
Leg.

*

Mix a Pancake

Børnerim af Christina Rossetti
fra samlingen "Sing Song", 1872
Musik: Per Drud Nielsen, 2017
Version for sopran og klaver 2023

Tempo di valse, giocoso $\text{♩} = \text{app. } 50$



mf

Mix a pan - cake, Stir a pan - cake,
Fry the pan - cake, Toss the pan - cake,



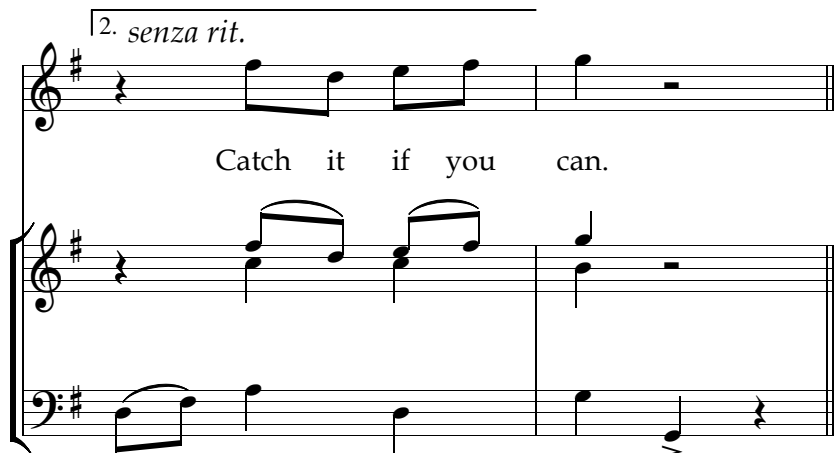
1. *senza rit.*

Mix a pan - cake, Stir a pan - cake, Pop it in the pan;
Fry the pan - cake, Toss the pan - cake,



2. *senza rit.*

Catch it if you can.





Crying, my little one

Børnerim af Christina Rossetti
fra samlingen "Sing Song", 1872
Musik: Per Drud Nielsen, 2017
Version for sopran og klaver 2023

Andante semplice ♩ = app. 78



con bocca chiusa

mp
Cry - ing, my litt - le one, foot - sore and wea - ry?

mp

Fall a - sleep, pret - ty one, warm on my shoul - der;

mf

I must tramp on through the win - ter - night drea - ry,

mf

f lugubre

While the snow falls on me col - der and col - der.

f lugubre

p dolce

You are my one, and I have not an - o - ther;

p dolce

Sleep soft, my dar - ling, my trou - ble and trea - sure;

Sleep warm and soft in the arms of your mo - ther;

rit.
Drea - ming of pret - ty things, drea - ming of plea - sure.

rit.

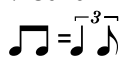
ritenuto
con bocca chiusa



What does the Bee do?

Børnerim af Christina Rossetti
fra samlingen "Sing Song", 1872
Musik: Per Drud Nielsen, 2017
Version for sopran og klaver 2023

Medium Swing ♩ = app. 124



mp

Bring home ho - ney.

sempre portato

mp

Bring home mo - ney.

Lay out the mo - ney.

rit. *mp a tempo e quasi senza rit.*
Eat up the ho - ney.

What does the bee do? Bring home ho - ney.

What does Fa - ther do? Bring home mo - ney.

What does Mo - ther do? Lay out the mo - ney.

rit. *f* *mp* *a tempo e quasi senza rit.*

What does ba - by do? Eat up the ho - ney.

Wee wee Husband


Børnerim af Christina Rossetti
fra samlingen "Sing Song", 1872
Musik: Per Drud Nielsen, 2017

Version for sopran og body percussion, 2020

Scherzando ♩ = app. 94


mf

Sopran



Wee wee hus - band, Give me some mo - ney,

Body percussion



Opadvendte nodehalse: Klap med højre hånd på brystbenet.

Nedadvendte nodehalse: Klap med venstre hånd på venstre lår.



I have no com - fits, And I have no ho - ney.



Wee wee wi - fie, I have no mo - ney,



senza rit.



Milk, nor meat, nor bread to eat, Com - fits, nor ho - ney.





If all were Rain

Børnerim af Christina Rossetti
fra samlingen "Sing Song", 1872
Musik: Per Drud Nielsen, 2013
Version for sopran og klaver, 2023

Danzante ♩ = apr. 74

mp

If all were rain and ne - ver sun, No bow could span the

hill; If all were sun and ne - ver rain, There'd

be no rain - bow still.

p

No bow could span the hill;

There'd be no rain - bow

poco rit.

still.



Ding a ding

Andante con moto ♩ = app. 94
Ordene 'ding' og 'dong' synges
med korte vokaler og lange ng-lyde.

Børnerim af Christina Rossetti
fra samlingen "Sing Song", 1872
Musik: Per Drud Nielsen, 2017
Version for sopran og klaver 2023

The first system of the musical score is for the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is written in a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 3/4 time signature. It begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic for the first two measures, followed by a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic for the remaining measures. The lyrics are: "Ding a ding, Ding a ding," The sweet bells sing, And say: The piano accompaniment is written in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with the same key signature and time signature. It features a forte (*f*) dynamic for the first two measures and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic for the last measure. The piano part consists of chords and moving lines that support the vocal melody.

The second system of the musical score continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is written in a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 3/4 time signature. It begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and ends with a *poco rit.* (slightly ritardando) marking. The lyrics are: "Come, all be gay, Come, all be gay" For a wed - ding day. The piano accompaniment is written in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with the same key signature and time signature. It features a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and a *poco rit.* marking. The piano part consists of chords and moving lines that support the vocal melody.

Piú pesante

f *mp*

"Dong a dong, Dong a dong," The bells sigh long, And call:

f *mp*

Detailed description: This system contains the first two lines of the musical score. The top staff is the vocal line, starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic and moving to mezzo-piano (*mp*). The lyrics are "Dong a dong, Dong a dong," The bells sigh long, And call:". The piano accompaniment is in G major and features a strong rhythmic pattern in the right hand and a more melodic line in the left hand. Dynamics range from *f* to *mp*.

p *poco rit.*

— "Weep one, — weep all" — For a fu - ne - ral.

p

Detailed description: This system contains the second two lines of the musical score. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "— 'Weep one, — weep all' — For a fu - ne - ral." and concludes with a fermata. The piano accompaniment features a dynamic of *p* and a tempo marking of *poco rit.* (ritardando). The piece ends with a double bar line.

Baby lies so fast asleep

Børnerim af Christina Rossetti
fra samlingen "Sing Song", 1872
Musik: Per Drud Nielsen, 2017
Version for sopran og klaver, 2023

Musikken har lånt et par toner fra
"Lille Guds barn, hvad skader dig"
og fra Bach-koralen "Es ist genug".

Tranquillo, quasi una Berceuse
♩. = app. 42

poco rit.

mp Ba - by lies _____ so
p Ba - by lies _____ so

første vers mp, andet vers p

mp

fast a - sleep That we can - not wake her;
fast a - sleep That no pain can grieve her;

Will the an - gels clad in white
Put a snow - drop in her hand,

Fly from hea - ven to take her?
Kiss her once and leave her.

poco rit.



Where innocent bright-eyed Daisies are

Hvor bellisser blomstrer uskyldshvidt

Børnerim af Christina Rossetti
fra samlingen "Sing Song", 1872

Musik og dansk tekst:

Per Drud Nielsen, 2020

Version for sopran og klaver, 2023

Andante tranquillo e innocente ♩ = app 54

poco rit.

a tempo

mp Where
Hvor

The first system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is the vocal line, starting with a whole rest followed by a half note G4. The piano accompaniment is in the lower two staves, with the right hand playing chords and the left hand playing a bass line. The tempo markings 'Andante tranquillo e innocente', 'poco rit.', and 'a tempo' are positioned above the staves. The dynamic marking 'mp' is placed below the piano accompaniment.

in - no - cent bright - eyed dai - sies are, With blades of grass be -
bel - lis - ser blom - strer u - skylds - hvidt i græs - set, hvor jeg

The second system of the musical score continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the vocal staff. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line. The tempo markings 'poco rit.' and 'a tempo' are positioned above the staves.

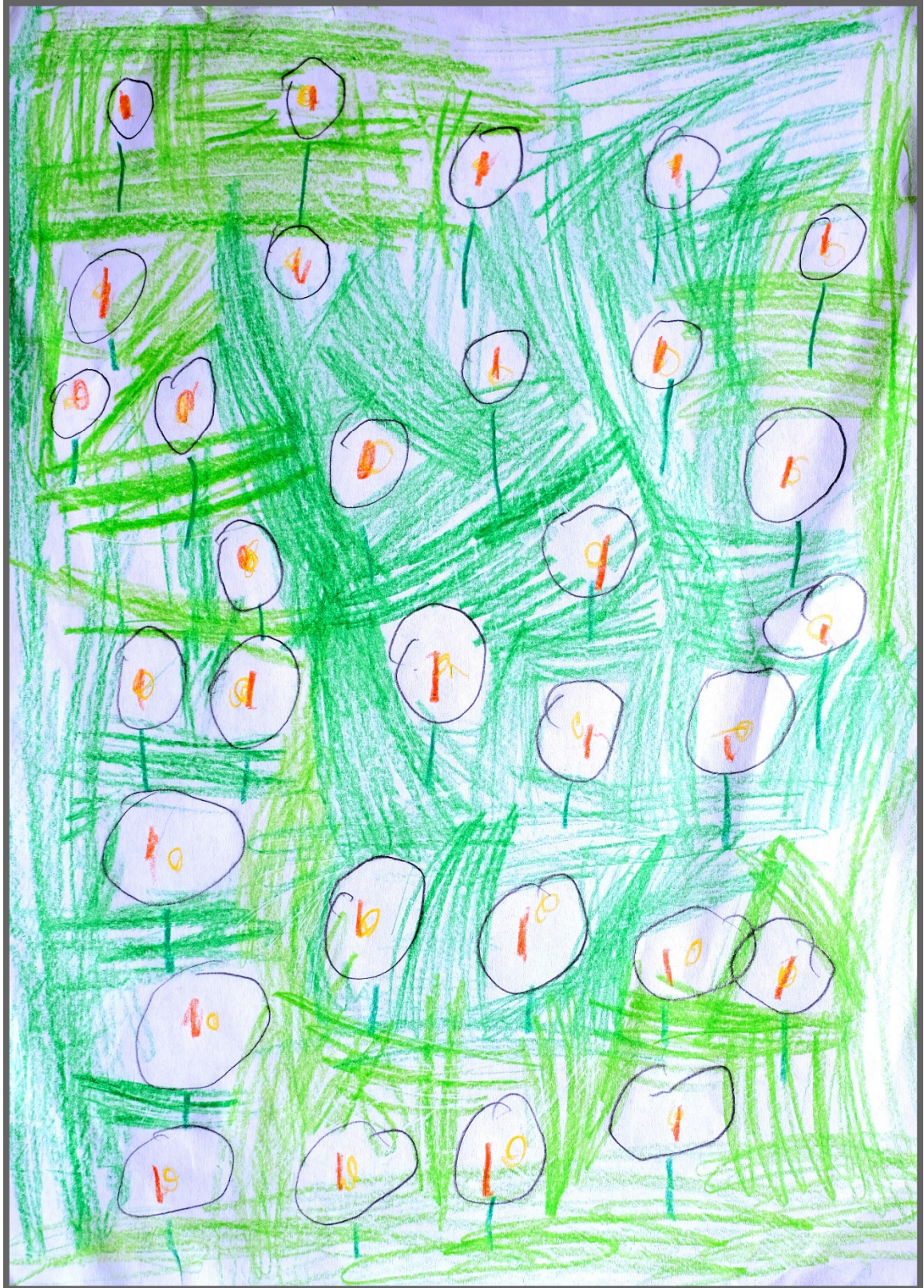
tween, Each dai - sy stands up like a star
 bor, på stjer - ne - tæp - pet ly - se - grønt

Out of a sky of green, Each dai - sy stands up
 er de mit stjer - ne - flor, på stjer - ne - tæp - pet

p

like a star Out of a sky of green.
 ly - se - grønt er de mit stjer - ne - flor.

rit.



Alle tekster

Love me, I love you,
Love me, my baby;
Sing it high, sing it low,
Sing it as may be.
Mother's arms under you,
Her eyes above you;
Sing it high, sing it low,
Love me, I love you.

Mix a pancake,
Stir a pancake,
Pop it in the pan;
Fry the pancake,
Toss the pancake,
Catch it if you can.

Crying, my little one, footsore and weary?
Fall asleep, pretty one, warm on my shoulder:
I must tramp on through the winter night dreary,
While the snow falls on me colder and colder.
You are my one, and I have not another;
Sleep soft, my darling, my trouble and treasure;
Sleep warm and soft in the arms of your mother,
Dreaming of pretty things, dreaming of pleasure.

What does the bee do?
Bring home honey.
And what does Father do?
Bring home money.
And what does Mother do?
Lay out the money.
And what does baby do?
Eat up the honey.

Wee wee husband,
Give me some money,
I have no comfits,
And I have no honey.
Wee wee wifie,
I have no money,
Milk, nor meat, nor bread to eat,
Comfits, nor honey.

If all were rain and never sun,
No bow could span the hill;
If all were sun and never rain,
There'd be no rainbow still.

"Ding a ding,"
The sweet bells sing,
And say:
"Come, all be gay"
For a wedding day.
"Dong a dong,"
The bells sigh long,
And call:
"Weep one, weep all"
For a funeral.

Baby lies so fast asleep
That we cannot wake her:
Will the angels clad in white
Fly from heaven to take her?
Baby lies so fast asleep
That no pain can grieve her;
Put a snowdrop in her hand,
Kiss her once and leave her.

Where innocent bright-eyed daisies are,
With blades of grass between,
Each daisy stands up like a star
Out of a sky of green.



Sing Song:
a
Nursery Rhyme Book
by
Christina G. Rossetti.