

MARGARET HALEY

# Childhood Days

4 songs for solo alto voice & piano

words by Robert Louis Stevenson

2021



**HALEY EDITION**  
[www.margarethaley.info](http://www.margarethaley.info)

**HE 69**

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ISMN: 979-0-57056-090-5 (full score)



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**Childhood Days** 4 songs for solo alto voice & piano (2021)

Duration: 6 minutes

**Performance Note**

The music should flow. Tempo, dynamics and articulation indicated should be considered as a guide, no more. In the piano part, which is integral to the composition, pedalling may be included but sparingly.

## Programme Note

Dedicated to my beloved grandchildren, *Childhood* 4 songs for alto voice & piano (2021) is written in the same vein as Robert Louis Stevenson's verse from *A Child's Garden of Verses* (1885). A similar sense of naivety and wonder depict four childhood scenes.

**MH**



## **A Child's Garden of Verses**

by Robert Louis Stevenson

### **The Cow**

The friendly cow all red and white,  
I love with all my heart:  
She gives me cream with all her might,  
To eat with apple-tart.

She wanders lowing here and there,  
And yet she cannot stray,  
All in the pleasant open air,  
The pleasant light of day;

And blown by all the winds that pass  
And wet with all the showers,  
She walks among the meadow grass  
And eats the meadow flowers.

### **From A Railway Carriage**

Faster than fairies, faster than witches,  
Bridges and houses, hedges and ditches:  
And charging along like troops in a battle,  
All through the meadows the horses and cattle:  
All of the sights of the hill and the plain  
Fly as thick as driving rain;  
And ever again, in the wink of an eye,  
Painted stations whistle by.

Here is a child who clammers and scrambles,  
All by himself and gathering brambles;  
Here is a tramp who stands and gazes;  
And there is the green for stringing the daisies.  
Here is a cart run away in the road  
Lumping along with man and load;  
And here is a mill and there is a river  
Each a glimpse and gone for ever!

## The Moon

The moon has a face like the clock in the hall;  
She shines on thieves on the garden wall,  
On streets and fields and harbour quays,  
And birdies asleep in the forks of the trees.

The squalling cat and the squeaking mouse,  
The howling dog by the door of the house,  
The bat lies in bed at noon,  
All love to be out by the light of the moon.

But all of the things that belong to the day  
Cuddle to sleep to be out of her way;  
And flowers and children closer their eyes  
Till up in the morning the sun shall arise.

## The Swing

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,  
Rivers 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!

*dedicated to my beloved grandchildren*

# **Childhood Days**

4 songs for solo alto voice & piano

for Maisie Kate

# The Cow

**Semplice** (♩ = 80)

rit. . . . .

**A Tempo**

*p*

Alto voice

The friend - ly

Piano

*p*

5

cow all red and white, I love with all my heart: She gives me

*mp*

*p*

9

cream with all her might, To eat with ap - ple - tart. She

*mp*

*mf*



13

wan - ders low - ing here and there, And yet she can - not stray, All

17

in the plea - sant o - pen air, The plea - sant light of day;

21

And blown by all the winds that pass And wet with all the sho - wers,

25

She walks a - mong the mea - dow grass And eats the mea - dow flo - wers.

rall.

for Noah James

# From A Railway Carriage

**Vivace** (♩ = 100)

The musical score is written for a solo alto voice and piano. It is in the key of D major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The tempo is marked 'Vivace' with a quarter note equal to 100 beats per minute. The score is divided into four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and block chords in the left hand. Dynamics include *f* (forte), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *fz* (forzando).

**System 1:** The vocal line begins with a rest, followed by the lyrics "Fas - ter than fai - ries,". The piano accompaniment starts with a *mf* dynamic and transitions to *f* for the vocal entry.

**System 2:** The vocal line continues with "fas - ter than wit - ches, Brid - ges and hou - ses, hed - ges and dit - ches;". The piano accompaniment maintains the *f* dynamic.

**System 3:** The vocal line has the lyrics "And char - ging a - long liketroops in a bat - tle, All through the mea - dows the hor - ses and cat - tle:". The piano accompaniment features a *fz* dynamic for the first two measures.

**System 4:** The vocal line concludes with "All of the sights of the hill and the plain Fly as thick as dri - ving rain; And". The piano accompaniment features a *fz* dynamic for the first two measures.

22

e-ver a-gain, in the wink of an eye, Pain-ted sta-tions whi-stle by.

28

Here is a child who clam-bers and scam-bles, All by him-self and ga-the-ring bram-bles;

32

Here is a tramp who stands and ga-zes; And there is the green for strin-ging the dai-sies.

36

Here is a cart run a-way in the road Lum-ping a-long with man and load; And here is a mill and

41

there is a ri-ver Each a glimpse and gone for e-ver!



for Elliana Kate

**The Moon**

Tranquillo (♩ = 80)

*mp*

The moon has a face like the clock in the hall; She

*mp*

6 shines on theives on the gar-den wall, On streets and fields and har-bour quays, And

11 *mf*

bir-dies a sleep in the forks of the trees. The squal-ling cat and the

16 *mp* *mf* *mp*

squeak-ing mouse, The howl - ing dog by the door of the house, The bat that lies in

*mp* *mf* *mp*

The musical score is written for a solo alto voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Tranquillo' with a quarter note equal to 80 beats per minute. The dynamics range from mezzo-piano (mp) to mezzo-forte (mf). The lyrics describe the moon's presence in various settings: a clock in a hall, a garden wall, streets and fields, harbor quays, and a bird sleeping in tree forks. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.



20 *mf*

bed at noon, All love to be out by the light of the moon.

25 *mp*

But all of the things that be-long to the day Cud - dle to

30 *p*

sleep to be out of her way; And flo - wers and child - ren close their eyes

34 *mp* *mf*

Till up in the morn - ing the sun shall a - rise.

for Violet Rose

# The Swing

Felice (♩ = 69)

The first system of the musical score consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a time signature of 6/8. It contains a whole rest for the first six measures. The piano accompaniment is in a bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. It features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand. A dynamic marking of *p* (piano) is placed at the beginning of the piano part.

The second system of the musical score includes the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with the lyrics "How do you like to go Up in a swing, Up in the air so". The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern. Dynamic markings include *p* at the start and *mp* (mezzo-piano) later in the system. A slur is placed over the vocal line for the phrase "Up in a swing, Up in the air so".

The third system of the musical score includes the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with the lyrics "blue? Oh, I do think it the plea-san-test thing". The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern. A dynamic marking of *p* is placed at the beginning of the piano part.

The fourth system of the musical score includes the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with the lyrics "E-ver a child can do! Up in the air and". The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern. Dynamic markings include *mp* and *mf* (mezzo-forte).

27

o-verthewall, Till I can see so wide, Ri-versand trees and cat-tleand all O-ver the coun-try

33

side Till I look down on the

39

gar-den green, Down on the roof so brown Up in the air I go fly-ing a-gain,

45

Up in the air and down!

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