

HILARY TANN

A GIRL'S SONG TO HER MOTHER

A Girl's Song to Her Mother was first performed on 30 July 1999, the Celtic Weekend at the Pan-American Games, Winnipeg, Manitoba, by mezzo-soprano Mari Morgan and oboist Sherry Bonness. This work has been recorded on Westmark Productions CD, *Un Llais, Dwy Law/One Voice, Two Hands* (WCD 30087), by Mari Morgan and pianist Richard Lind.

A Girl's Song to Her Mother*

Menna Elfyn

I remember your shawl's fragrance
in the crook of your shoulder.
There I'd find leaves of the palm tree,
and shelter;
there I'd find a heartbeat
like hummingbirds.
My yoke was so tender
enfolded in your arms.

I remember the songlines
of the blanket's murmur,
the coverlet received every year
for your labour,
slave of the old story,
caressed by your skin
and the balm of garment
to hide away your pain.

I sing nightly of the shawl,
its timeless embrace,
how gently it raised me
safely with grace.
Tonight, is my turn
to place a blanket over you,
and keep you, my mistress,
without burden or cry.

(Refrain)

<i>Fy hudo i gwm plu,</i>	Take me to the vale of feathers,
<i>i fyd lledrith, yn fabli,</i>	to the dancing world, my downy one,
<i>fy mhen ar obennydd,</i>	my head on your pillow,
<i>fy nydd ym mhlu'r gweunydd.</i>	my days filled with cotton grass and love.

*"Can Merch I'w Mam," a Welsh poem written and translated by Menna Elfyn. Copyright by the author; used by permission.

for Menna Elfyn

A GIRL'S SONG TO HER MOTHER

A Lullaby for Solo Voice and Oboe
(or Other Melody Instrument)

Menna Elfyn*

Hilary Tann

Larghetto flessibile (♩ = 48)

The musical score is written for Voice and Oboe. It begins with a tempo and performance instruction: 'Larghetto flessibile (♩ = 48)'. The music is in 6/8 time and consists of 16 measures. The first system shows the Oboe part starting with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The second system shows the Voice part starting with the lyrics 'I re - mem - ber_ your shawl's fra - grance in the'. The third system continues the lyrics 'crook of your shoul - der. There I'd'. The fourth system continues the lyrics 'find leaves_ of the palm_ tree, and_ shel -'. The Oboe part provides a melodic accompaniment with various articulations and dynamics, including a piano (*p*) dynamic in the second system.

Voice

Oboe

p

4

8

p

I re - mem - ber_ your shawl's fra - grance in the

12

crook of your shoul - der. There I'd

16

find leaves_ of the palm_ tree, and_ shel -

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20

ter, _____ there I'd find a heart - beat _____ like

24

humming-birds. _____ My yoke was so ten - der en -

28

fold - ed in your arms. _____ Ah _____

32

_____ *accel. poco* _____

mp _____ *mf* _____ *mf* _____

poco più mosso

36

mf _____ *rit.* _____

Take me to the world of feath - ers, _____ to the danc - ing world, my
Fy hu - do i gwm _____ plu, _____ i fyd lled - rith, yn _____

mf _____

39 **a tempo** *p* *cresc.*

down - y one, my head on your pil - low, my
fab - li, fy mhen ar o - ben - nydd, fy

42 *f* *rit. poco* *dim.*

days filled with cot - ton grass and love. Ah
nydd ym mhlu'r gweu-nydd.

f *dim.*

46 **a tempo** *p*

Ah I re - mem - ber the song - lines of the

pp

50

blan - ket's mur - mur, the cov - er - let re - ceived ev - 'ry

p

54

year for your la - bour, Ah

p

58

slave of the old sto - ry, car -

62

essed by your skin and the balm of gar - ment

66

rit. poco **a tempo**
 to hide a-way your pain. My head on your pil - low, my
 Fy mhen ar o - ben-nydd, fy

70

rit. **f** *allarg. molto* *dim.*
 days filled with cot - ton grass and love.
 nydd ym mhlu'r gweu-nydd.

73

a tempo **pp**
 Ah Ah

77

p

I sing night - ly ___ of the

81

shawl, ___ its ___ time - less em - brace, ___ how ___

p

85

gent - ly ___ it raised ___ me ___ safe - ly with grace. ___

p

89

___ To - night is ___ my ___ turn ___ to place a blan - ket

93

p

o-ver you, ___ and keep ___ you, my mis - tress, ___ with - out bur - den or

p

97 *mp* *p*
 cry. Ah
mp *p* *mp*

101 *accel. poco*
mf

104 *poco più mosso* *f* *rit. dim.*
 Take me to the vale of feath - ers, to the danc - ing world, my
f *dim.*

107 *a tempo* *p* *cresc.*
 down - y one, my head on your pil - low, my days filled with
p *cresc.*

111 *mf* *rit. poco* *dim.* *p* *accel.*
 cot - ton grass and love. Ah Ah
mf *dim.* *p*

115 poco più mosso

f *rit. poco dim.*

Take me to the vale of feath - ers, _____ to the
Fy hu - do i gwm _____ plu, _____ i fyd

118

a tempo p

danc - ing world, my down - y one, my head _____ on your
lled - rith, yn _____ fab - li, fy mhen _____ ar o -

121

cresc. mp

pil - low, _____ my days _____ filled with cot - ton grass and love. _____
ben - nydd, _____ fy nydd _____ ym _____ mhlu'r _____ gweu-nydd. _____

125

rit. dim.

Ah _____ Ah _____

128

allarg. a tempo p

Ah _____ and love. _____
Ah _____ ym mhlu'r gweu-nydd. _____