

William Shakespeare

Richard J. S. Stevens, 1782

The musical score is written for a Bass voice in the key of D major (two sharps) and common time (C). It consists of 42 measures across ten staves. The lyrics are: "Ye spotted snakes with double tongue, Thorny hedge-hogs be not seen; Newts and blind worms, newts and blind worms, newts and blind worms do no wrong, Come not near our fairy queen, Come not near our fairy queen. Sing in your sweet lullaby, sing in your sweet lullaby - by, lul-la - by, lul-la - by. Ne - ver harm, nor spell, nor charm, Come our lovely lady night; So good - night, so good - night, so good night, with lul - la - by, lul-la - by, lul-la - by. Weav - ing spi - ders come not here, Hence! hence, ye long-legg'd spin-ners, ye long-legg'd spin-ners, hence! Bee-tles black, ap-proach not".

Measure numbers 1 through 42 are indicated above the notes. Dynamic markings include *mf*, *p*, *f*, *Dolce*, *Cresc.*, *mp*, *pp*, *rf*, and *f*. The score concludes with a repeat sign at the end of measure 42.

43 44 45 46 *Cresc.* 47 *p*
 near; Worm and snail do no of - fence, worm and snail do

48 49 50 51 *Dolce* 52
 no of - fence. Sing in your

53 54 *Cres.* 55 *mf* 56
 sweet lul - la - by, sing in your sweet lul - la -

57 *p* 58 *pp* 59 60
 -by, lul - la - by, lul - la - by. Ne - ver harm, nor spell, nor

61 62 63 *p* 64 *Dim.* 65
 charm, Come our love - ly la - dy night; So good night, so good night, so good

66 67 *pp* 68 *Dim.* 69
 night, with lul - la - by, lul - la - by, lul - la - by.

Richard John Samuel Stevens (1757-1837) was a contemporary of Thomas Arne (1710-1778), the two being the most recognised of the Georgian composers who produced "Shakespearean Music", the others having sunk into relative obscurity. Arne is world famous, his settings of 'Under the Greenwood Tree', and 'Blow, Blow thou Winter Wind' being almost as well known as 'Rule Britannia'. Stevens, on the other hand produced settings of 15 Shakespearean texts, of which 'Ye Spotted Snakes', first printed in 1782 and the refrain added in 1792, was by far the most popular, being reprinted endless times, 'Sigh no more Ladies', 'Crabbed Age and Youth', 'Blow, Blow', and 'The Cloud-cap't Towers' also following in popularity. With these, and his 'Fairy Glee (To Oberon in Fairyland)', Stevens obtained, and still holds, a somewhat 'fragile claim to immortality'. The usual piano accompaniment has here been removed, as the intention was for this part-song to be performed unaccompanied. The original music is now out of copyright. This transcription for Immanuel's Ground, Warwick, © Shelwin Music, Oxford 2007/2015. Edwin and Sheila Macadam, tel: 01865 865773.