

# Ye Spotted Snakes

GLEE

William Shakespeare

Richard J. S. Stevens, 1782

The musical score is written for a tenor voice in the key of D major (two sharps) and common time (C). It consists of 42 measures across ten staves. The piece is marked with various dynamics: *mf* (measures 1-3), *p* (measures 4-7), *f* (measures 8-11), *Dolce* (measures 13-15), *Cresc.* (measure 17), *mf* (measures 18-19), *mp* (measure 20), *p* (measure 21), *mf* (measures 22-23), *Dim.* (measures 26-27), *pp* (measures 29-32), *mf* (measures 33-34), *f* (measures 35-37), *rf* (measures 38-40), *p* (measures 41-42).

The lyrics are as follows:

Ye spot-ted snakes with dou - ble tongue, Thor - ny hedge - hogs be not  
 seen; Newts and blind worms, newts and blind worms, newts and blind worms do no  
 wrong, Come not near our fai - ry queen, Come not near our fai - ry  
 queen. Sing in your sweet—  
 lul - la - by, sing— sing in your sweet— lul - la, lul - la -  
 -by, lul-la - by, lul-la, lul-la, lul-la - by. Ne - ver harm, nor spell, nor  
 charm, Come our love - ly la - dy nigh; So good night, so good -  
 night, so good night, with lul - la - by, lul-la - by, lul-la, lul-la, lul-la - by.  
 Weav - ing spi - ders come not here, 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

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

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

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

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

61 charm, Come our love - ly la - dy nigh; So good night, so good night,so good

62 63 *p* 64 *Dim.* 65 night,so good

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