

# The water demon

[ Erik Johan Stagnelius ]

for baritone and piano

Tomas Friberg (2017)



**The water demon** [The Nix/Näcken] (1821)

The evening is festooned with golden clouds  
the fairies dance in the meadow  
and the leaf-crowned Näcken  
plays his fiddle in the silvery brook.

Little boy in the brush on the bank  
resting in the violet vapor  
hears the noise from the chilly water  
calls out in the still night.

"Poor old fellow, why do you play?  
will it take the pain away?  
you bring the woods and the fields to life  
but you'll never be a child of God.

Paradise's moonlit nights  
eden's flower-crowned plains  
angels of the light on high--  
never to be beheld by your eye."

Tears stream down the old man's face  
down he dives into the rapids  
the fiddle silences.  
And the Näcken will never  
play again in the silvery brook.

Erik Johan Stagnelius (1793–1823)

English translation: Edmund Gosse (1886)

# The water demon

[ E.J. Stagnelius ]

Gently flowing ♩ = 58

Baritone

*p* The eve - ning is fest - ooned with gold - - den

Piano

Bar.

clouds *p* the fair - ies da - nce

Pno.

11 *rit.* *a tempo*

Bar. in the mea - dow *p* and the leaf -

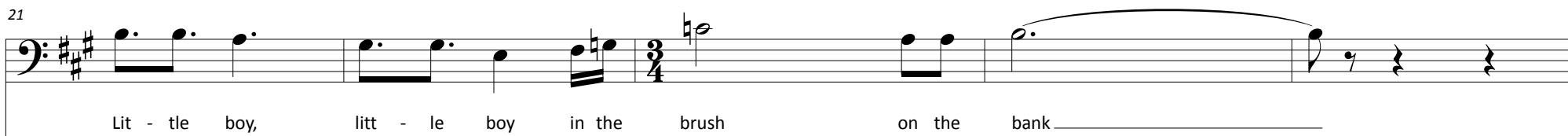
Pno. *rit.* *a tempo* *p*


16

Bar. crown - ed Näck - en *mp* plays his fid - dle in the sil - ve-ry brook \_\_\_\_\_

Pno. *p*

21

Bar.  Lit - tle boy, litt - le boy in the brush on the bank

Pno.  *mp*

26

Bar.  *p* rest - ing in - the viol - et va - por

Pno.  *p*

31 *rit.* *a tempo*

Bar.

*p* hears the noise from the chil - ly wa - ter *mp* calls

31 *rit.* *a tempo*

Pno.

36 *Mockingly* ♩ = 108

Bar.

out in the still of the night

36 *p* *f* *8va*

Pno.

42

Bar.

Pno.

8va

*f*

48

Bar.

*f* "Poor old fel - low, why do you play?"

Pno.

*mf*



53

Bar. *rit.* will it take the pain a - way? \_\_\_\_\_ Oh, why - do you play? *f* you bring the woods \_\_\_\_\_

Pno. *rit.*

58

Bar. \_\_\_\_\_ and the fields to life but you'll ne - ver be a child of God. \_\_\_\_\_

Pno. *mf*

63

Bar.

*f* Pa - ra - di - ses moon - lit nights \_\_\_\_\_ ed - ens flow - er crown - ed plains \_\_\_\_\_ ang - els of the

Pno.

*f*

68

Bar.

*rit.* light on high \_\_\_\_\_ ne - ver to be be - held by your eye \_\_\_\_\_

Pno.

*rit.*

*p*

73 *a tempo*

Bar. *f* Poor old fel - low, why do you play? will it take the pain a -

Pno. *f* *mf*

78 *rit.* **Tempo I - meno mosso**

Bar. way? — Oh, why - do you play? Oh, why - do you play?"

Pno. *mp* *f* *p*

Gently flowing ♩ = 58

84

Bar.

Piano

*p* Tears stream down, tears stream down the

90

Bar.

old man's face

Piano

*mp*

95

Bar. *mp* down - he dives in - to the ra - pids *rit.*

Pno. *p* *rit.*

## Tempo I - meno mosso

100

Bar. *mf* the fid - dle sil - en - ces ces and the Näck - en will ne -

Pno. *p*

105

Bar.

105

Pno.

*p*

*rit.*

*mp*

*p*

*pp*

*8va*

- ver play a - gain \_\_\_\_\_ *p* in the sil - ve - ry brook \_\_\_\_\_