

The Willow-Wren and the Stare

(stare is an old word for a starling)

Words by W. H. Auden

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Music by Tom Cunningham © 2012

$\text{♩} = 120$
Very flexible tempo

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 120 and 'Very flexible tempo'. The piano accompaniment features a prominent eighth-note pattern in the right hand, starting with a dynamic of *mf*. The first system covers measures 1-3, with tempo markings of *rit.*, *A tempo*, *rit.*, and *Più mosso*. The second system (measures 4-6) includes the lyrics 'A star - ling and a wil - low - wren' and a dynamic change from *mf* to *mp*. The third system (measures 7-9) includes the lyrics 'On a may - tree by a weir' and features a *Più mosso* section with a dynamic of *f*. The fourth system (measures 10-12) includes the lyrics 'Saw them meet and heard him say: "Dear - est of my dear, More live - ly than these"'. The piano part in this system changes to *mp* and includes a *Red.* (ritardando) and *sim.* (sostenuto) marking. The score concludes with a dynamic of *mf* in the piano part.

rit. **A tempo** **rit.** **Più mosso**

mf *f*

4 *mf* $\text{♩} = 92$
A tempo rit. A star - ling and a wil - low - wren
mf *mp* *mf*

8 On a may - tree by a weir **Più mosso** **A tempo** **rit.**
f

12 $\text{♩} = 120$
mp romantic and very expressive
Saw them meet and heard him say: "Dear - est of my dear, More live - ly than these"
mf *mp*
Red. *sim.*

17

wa - ters chort - ling As they leap the dam, My sweet - est duck, my pre - cious goose, My

22

white las - ci - vious lamb." With a smile she lis - tened to him,

27

Talk - ing to her there: rit. mp

30

What does he want? said the wil - low - wren; Much too much, said the

Più mosso mf

33 $\text{♩} = 120$ *mp* *mf*

stare. "For - give these loves who dwell in me, These brats of greed and fear, The

mp

Ped. *sim.*

38 *mp*

honk-ing bot-tom - pinch-ing clown, The sni-velling son - net - eer, That

mf

42

so, bet-ween us, e - ven these, Who till the grave are mine, For

mp

46 $\text{♩} = 80$ *mf con rubato*

all they fall so short of may, Dear heart, be still a sign." With a

mf

51

♩=120

♩=92

mp innocent

smile she closed her eyes, Si-lent she lay there: rit. Does he

56

Freely
mf cynical

mean what he says? said the wil-low-wren; Some of it, said the

Più mosso

59

♩=132
mf passionate

the "i" in winds as in pin, not as in pine.

stare. "Hark! Wild Ro-bin winds his horn And, as his notes re-quire,

mf

Ped. *sim.*

64

Now our laugh-ter-lov-ing spi-rits Must in awe re-tire And let their kind-er