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Lullaby

Alan Stringer

W.H. Auden

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W. H. Auden

\[ J= \text{mm 88} \]

Lullaby

Freely, expressively throughout

Soprano and alto

Ah! Lay your sleeping head my

Tenor and Bass

love, human on my faithless arm.

Piu mosso \( J=120 \)

Soprano

Time and fever burn away individual beauty from

Tenor

Ah!

Bass

thoughtful children, and the grave proves the child ephemeral.
But in my arms till break of day, let the living creature lie, mortal, guilty.

but to me the entirely beautiful.

Ah! Soul and body have no bounds to
lovers as they lie upon her tolerant enchanted slope

in their ordinary swoon; Grave the vision Venus sends of

Ah!

cresc.

supernatural sympathy, universal love and

Faster

while an abstract insight wakes among the glaciers

cresc.
and the rocks
the hermit's carnal ecstasy.

Chorus hums. Solo soprano sings the words.

Certain-ty,
fi-del-i-ty on the stoke of mid-night

pass like vib-ra-tions of a bell, and

fashion-a-ble mad-men raise their pe-dan-tic bor-ing
Every farthing of the cost,

All sing:

all the dreaded cards foretell shall be paid but from this night

not a whisper, not a thought, not a kiss nor look be

lost. Ah! Beauty, midnight,
Ah!

Slightly slower

A tempo

--
voluntary powers,
Nights of insult let you
cresc. molto

pass, watched by every human love.

ppp