

**Don Freund**

***The Chimney Sweeper***

**Two Songs from William Blake**

*for Soprano and Piano*

(1967)

*Freundworks Publishing*

# The Chimney Sweeper

## Two Songs from William Blake

Don Freund

### I. From "Songs of Innocence"

(1967)

♩ = 144

*mp childlike*

Soprano

When my moth-er died I was ve-ry young,

Piano

*f* *p*

This system contains the first two staves of the musical score. The Soprano staff begins with a whole rest, followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. The Piano accompaniment starts with a forte (f) dynamic, featuring a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the right hand and chords in the left hand. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 144, and the mood is 'mp childlike'. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

6

And my fath-er sold me while yet my tongue Could

*f* *p*

This system contains the third and fourth staves. The Soprano staff continues with a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note F#5, and a quarter note G5. The Piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern, alternating between forte (f) and piano (p) dynamics. The tempo and key signature remain consistent with the first system.

12

scarce - ly cry "weep! 'weep! 'weep!

*f* *f*

This system contains the fifth and sixth staves. The Soprano staff features a quarter note G5, a quarter note A5, a quarter note B5, and a quarter note C6. The Piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern, alternating between forte (f) and piano (p) dynamics. The tempo and key signature remain consistent with the previous systems.

18 *mp*

'weep!" So your chim - neys I sweep, and in

23

soot. I sleep.

*mf*

*Piu Mosso* (♩ = 208)

30 *Piu Mosso* (♩ = 208)

There's lit-tle Tom Dac-re, who cried when his

*mf* *f*

36

head, That curl'd like a lamb's-back, was shav'd:

*mf* *f*

42

*rit. -----*  $\text{♩} = 160$  *warmly*

so I said "Hush, Tom! nev-er

*mf* *warmly*

48

*Piu Mosso* ( $\text{♩} = 208$ )

mind it, for when your head's bare You know that the

*Piu Mosso* ( $\text{♩} = 208$ )

*p* *mf* *p*

*Sostenuto Ped. -----*

55

soot can-not spoil your white hair."

*mf*

60  $\text{♩} = 144$  *mp childlike*

And so he was

*mp* *p*

$\text{8}^{vb}$

65  $\text{♩} = 192$  (*lilting*)

qui-et, and that ve-ry night, As Tom was a-sleep-ing he had such a

*8va*

$\text{8}^{vb}$

70 *rit. molto*  $\text{♩} = \text{♩} = 100$ , *wondrous*

sight! That thou-sands of sweep-ers, Dick, Joe, Ned, and

*8va*

*p*

$\text{8}^{vb}$

74  $\text{♩} = 208$  *mysterious*

Jack, — Were — all of them lock'd up in cof-fins of black. —

*8va*

$\text{♩} = 208$

*p, legato*

$\text{8}^{vb}$

*very sustained, miraculous*

*poco rit.* *8<sup>va</sup>* And by came an

*pp*

(♩ = ♪)

an - gel who had a bright key, And he o - pen'd the cof - fins and

*8<sup>va</sup>* *pp* *(loco)* *p*

*Exuberant* (♩ = 80) *f*

set them all free; Then down a green plain leap - ing,

*pp* *f*

laugh - ing, they run, And wash in a riv - er,

95

and shine \_\_\_\_\_ in the Sun.

*marcato*

99

Then na - ked and white, \_\_\_\_\_ all their bags left be -

102

hind, \_\_\_\_\_ They rise up - on clouds and sport in \_\_\_\_\_

*port.*

7

Ped \_\_\_\_\_  
Sostenuto Ped. - - - - -

104

the wind;

*poco rit.*

*8va*

*sustained, reverent*

And the an - gel told Tom if he'd be a good boy,

He'd have God for his fath - er, and nev - er want joy.

*mp, bleak*

And

so Tom a - woke; and we rose in the dark, — And got with our



120

bags and our brush-es to work. Tho' the morn-ing was cold,

127

(♩ = ♪)

Tom was hap - py and warm: So if

*p*

132

all do their du - ty they need not fear

*mf, warm*

138

♩ = 192, simple

harm. If all do their du - ty they need not fear harm.

*p*

*attacca*

10 Interlude (Piano alone)

*Prestissimo* (♩ = 138)

139

marcato

Detailed description: This system contains measures 139 to 142. The music is in 3/8 time. Measure 139 has a treble clef with a whole rest and a bass clef with a whole rest. Measure 140 has a treble clef with a half note G4 and a bass clef with a half note G2. Measure 141 has a treble clef with a half note A4 and a bass clef with a half note A2. Measure 142 has a treble clef with a half note B4 and a bass clef with a half note B2. The word "marcato" is written above the treble staff in measure 142.

143

*f*

8<sup>vb</sup>

Detailed description: This system contains measures 143 to 145. The music is in 3/8 time. Measure 143 has a treble clef with a half note G4 and a bass clef with a half note G2. Measure 144 has a treble clef with a half note A4 and a bass clef with a half note A2. Measure 145 has a treble clef with a half note B4 and a bass clef with a half note B2. The dynamic marking "f" is written above the treble staff in measure 144. The marking "8<sup>vb</sup>" is written below the bass staff in measure 145.

146

*ff*

8<sup>b</sup>

Detailed description: This system contains measures 146 to 149. The music is in 3/8 time. Measure 146 has a treble clef with a half note G4 and a bass clef with a half note G2. Measure 147 has a treble clef with a half note A4 and a bass clef with a half note A2. Measure 148 has a treble clef with a half note B4 and a bass clef with a half note B2. Measure 149 has a treble clef with a half note C5 and a bass clef with a half note C3. The dynamic marking "ff" is written above the treble staff in measure 146. The marking "8<sup>b</sup>" is written below the bass staff in measure 146.

150

*ff*

*ff*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 150 to 153. The music is in 3/8 time. Measure 150 has a treble clef with a half note G4 and a bass clef with a half note G2. Measure 151 has a treble clef with a half note A4 and a bass clef with a half note A2. Measure 152 has a treble clef with a half note B4 and a bass clef with a half note B2. Measure 153 has a treble clef with a half note C5 and a bass clef with a half note C3. The dynamic marking "ff" is written above the treble staff in measure 150. The dynamic marking "ff" is written above the treble staff in measure 152.

154

8<sup>va</sup>

Detailed description: This system contains measures 154 to 156. The music is in 3/8 time. Measure 154 has a treble clef with a half note G4 and a bass clef with a half note G2. Measure 155 has a treble clef with a half note A4 and a bass clef with a half note A2. Measure 156 has a treble clef with a half note B4 and a bass clef with a half note B2. The marking "8<sup>va</sup>" is written above the treble staff in measure 154.

157

*ff*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 157 to 160. The music is in 3/8 time. Measure 157 has a treble clef with a half note G4 and a bass clef with a half note G2. Measure 158 has a treble clef with a half note A4 and a bass clef with a half note A2. Measure 159 has a treble clef with a half note B4 and a bass clef with a half note B2. Measure 160 has a treble clef with a half note C5 and a bass clef with a half note C3. The dynamic marking "ff" is written above the treble staff in measure 158.

159 *poco rit.* *Slow* (♩ = 60)

*fff* *f*

161 *f* ♩ = 120 ♩ = 60

*p* *pp* *pp*

164

*p* *mp*

166

*mp* *f* *accel.*

168 *Slow* *Fast* *Slow*

*mp* *f* *ff* *attacca*

*p* *8vb* *Sostenuto Ped.*

## II. From "Songs of Experience"

170  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 44$  *desolately*

A lit - tle black thing a - mong the snow,

$\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 44$

*fff* *f* *mp*

174

Cry - ing "weep! weep! — 'weep!" in — notes of woe!

*mp*

175 *f (an adult voice)*

"Where — are thy fath - er and moth - er? say?"

176 *mp childlike*

"They are both gone up to the church to pray.

177 *with increasing bitterness to the end*

"Be - cause I was hap - py up - on the heath,

*mp*

178

And smil'd, ——— smil'd a - mong the win - ter's snow,

*mp*

They clothed me, cloth-ed me— in the clothes of death, And

*mp, but heavy*

taught me, taught— me to sing, — sing the— notes of woe.—

*mf* *f*

*a little faster* (♩ = 60)

“And be-cause I am hap-py and dance,— dance— and sing,

*f*

They think they have done me no— in - ju - ry, And are gone

*f*

187

to praise God, praise God

*f*

189

*marcatissimo*

and his Priest and King,

(optional doubling)

*ff*

191

Who make up a heaven of our misery."

*p, dolce* *ff, violent*

*ff* *ff* *ff*

193

*accel.*

*ff* *p* *ff* *ff* *ff*

Ped. *Sostenuto Ped.*

*Don Freund*  
*The Chimney Sweeper: Two Songs to Poems of William Blake*  
*for Soprano and Piano*

*from SONGS OF INNOCENCE*  
THE CHIMNEY SWEEPER

When my mother died I was very young,  
And my father sold me while yet my tongue  
Could scarcely cry “weep! ‘weep! ‘weep! ‘weep!”  
So your chimneys I sweep, and in soot I sleep.

There’s little Tom Dacre, who cried when his head,  
That curl’d like a lamb’s back, was shav’d: so I said  
“Hush, Tom! never mind it, for when your head’s bare  
You know that the soot cannot spoil your white hair.”

And so he was quiet, and that very night,  
As Tom was a-sleeping he had such a sight!  
That thousands of sweepers, Dick, Joe, Ned, and Jack,  
Were all of them lock’d up in coffins of black.

And by came an angel who had a bright key,  
And he open’d the coffins and set them all free;  
Then down a green plain leaping, laughing, they run,  
And wash in a river, and shine in the Sun.

Then naked and white, all their bags left behind,  
They rise upon clouds and sport in the wind;  
And the angel told Tom if he’d be a good boy,  
He’d have God for his father, and never want joy.

And so Tom awoke; and we rose in the dark,  
And got with our bags and our brushes to work.  
Tho’ the morning was cold, Tom was happy and warm:  
So if all do their duty they need not fear harm.

*(Piano Interlude)*

*from SONGS OF EXPERIENCE*  
THE CHIMNEY SWEEPER

A little black thing among the snow,  
Crying “weep! ‘weep!” in notes of woe!  
“Where are thy father and mother? say?”  
“They are both gone up to the church to pray.

“Because I was happy upon the heath,  
And smil’d among the winter’s snow,  
They clothed me in the clothes of death,  
And taught me to sing the notes of woe.  
“And because I am happy and dance and sing,  
They think they have done me no injury,  
And are gone to praise God and his Priest and King,  
Who make up a heaven of our misery.”