

This Little Light of Mine

Two-part mixed choir or soprano/baritone duet
with keyboard and flute

For the members of the Bolton Family
as commissioned by John R. Bolton, loving father and husband

Spiritual
arr. Brenda C. Kayne

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 72, and the mood is *espress.* (expressive). The score is divided into three systems:

- System 1 (Measures 1-4):** The Flute part begins with a rest, then enters in measure 3 with a melody marked *mp*. The Piano part provides accompaniment with a bass line of eighth notes and a treble line of chords, marked *mp legato (con pedale)*.
- System 2 (Measures 5-8):** The Flute part continues with a melodic line marked *cresc.* (crescendo). The Piano part continues with a similar accompaniment pattern.
- System 3 (Measures 9-12):** The Flute part has a long note in measure 9 marked *dim.* (diminuendo). The Soprano (S.) and Baritone (B.) parts enter in measure 10 with the lyrics "This lit-tle light of". The Piano part continues with a triplet in measure 10 and a triplet in measure 11, both marked *mp*.

13

S. mine, _____ This lit-tle light of

B. *mp* I'm gon-na let it shine.

Pno.

17

S. mine, _____ This lit-tle light of

B. I'm gon-na let it shine.

Pno.

21

S. mine, _____ Let it shine, let it

B. I'm gon-na let it shine, Let it shine, let it

Pno.

25

S. *cresc.* *mp*
 shine, Let it shine. All through the

B. *cresc.* *mp*
 shine, Let it shine. All through the night,

Pno. *cresc.* *mp*

29

S. *cresc.* *mf*
 day and night, I'll let it shine, I'll let it shine all through the

B. *cresc.* *mf*
 I'm gon-na let it shine. All through the day,

Pno. *cresc.* *mf*

33

S. *cresc.* *f* *dim.*
 day and night, gon-na let it shine. I'm gon-na

B. *cresc.* *f* *dim.*
 I'm gon-na let it shine. All through the night,

Pno. *cresc.* *f* *dim.*

37

S. *mf* let it shine, *dim.* Let it shine, *mp* Let it shine, Let it

B. *mf* I'm gon-na let it shine, *dim.* Let it shine, *mp* Let it shine, Let it

Pno. *mf* *dim.* *mp*

41 A tempo Flute may improvise.

Fl. *mf*

S. shine.

B. shine.

Pno. A tempo *cresc.* *mf*

45

Fl. *cresc.*

Pno. *cresc.*

49

Fl.

S.

B.

Pno.

mf

mf

mf

Ev - 'ry - where I

53

Fl.

S.

B.

Pno.

mf

mf

Ev-'ry-where I'll let it shine, I'll let it shine, I'll let it

go, I'm gon-na let it shine. Ev - 'ry - where I

57

Fl.

S.

B.

Pno.

shine_ ev-'ry - where I go, gon-na let it shine,

go, I'm gon-na let it shine. Ev - 'ry - where I

cresc. *f*

cresc. *f*

cresc. *f*

cresc. *f*

61

Fl.

S.

B.

Pno.

I'm gon-na let it shine, Let it shine, Let it

go, I'm gonna let it shine, Let it shine, Let it

dim. *mf* *mp*

dim. *mf* *cresc.* *dim.* *mp*

dim. *mf* *cresc.* *dim.* *mp*

dim. *mf* *cresc.* *dim.* *mp*

A tempo

65

Fl.

rit. *mf*

S.

mf

shine, Let it shine.

B.

mf

shine, Let it shine.

Pno.

rit. A tempo *mf* *dim.*

68

Pno.

mp

The musical score is arranged in four systems. The first system (measures 65-67) includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Soprano (S.), and Baritone (B.), and the beginning of the Piano (Pno.) part. The Flute part starts with a melodic line in 5/4 time, marked *mf* and *rit.* in measure 67. The vocal parts (S. and B.) have lyrics: "shine, Let it shine." with a long note in measure 67. The Piano part features a rhythmic accompaniment in 5/4 time, marked *mf* and *rit.* in measure 67, then *A tempo* and *dim.* in measure 68. The second system (measures 68-70) shows the continuation of the Piano part, marked *mp*, with a more complex accompaniment.

Performance Notes: Easy piece written for two-part mixed choir or soprano/baritone duet, keyboard, and flute. Organ, piano, or digital keyboard may be used. The tempo is slow, but must be performed with energy so that the piece does not create a lazy atmosphere. Beginners, particularly the sopranos, need not sustain all tones, especially at m. 35 and m. 61 and at ending. Flute may improvise at interlude. It is important the the melody stands out just a bit throughout the piece. A congregation or audience can join in on the melody on the last verse.

Program Notes: There is a peppy children's version of "This Little Light of Mine" that has been sung around the campfire or vacation bible school for decades. This version is a slower, more reflective style in deference to the original spiritual. There are slight jazz flavorings to this arrangement as a kind of stylistic extension of the folk tradition. Although the text is based on a New Testament scripture, there is a universal appeal in the symbol of light as hope and goodwill.