

for the BBC Singers and Tanya Houghton

# My Perfect Stranger

Kevin Crossley-Holland (b. 1941)

BOB CHILCOTT

## 1. Prologue

**Measured** ♩ = c. 92

UPPER VOICES

SOPRANO  
ALTO

TENOR  
BASS

HARP

**Measured** ♩ = c. 92

*p*

6

11 *p* *mp*

S.  
A.

T.  
B.

*p* *mp*

This is what hap-pens. This is how it be - gins. A -

*mp*

Commissioned by BBC Radio 3 and first performed by the BBC Singers, Finchley Children's Music Group, and Tanya Houghton conducted by the composer, on 13 December 2016 at Milton Court, London.

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15 *mf*

- no - ther cen-sus is un-der-way, a - no - ther round of tax - es in Ju - de - a:

*mf*

20 *p* *mp*

each man with his wife in his own ci - ty,

*p* *mp*

24 *mf*

each of their chil - dren, and each ba - by,

*mf* *mp*

## 2. My Perfect Stranger

**Dancing** ♩ = c.116

MARY (ALTO) *mp* *energico*

Quick and slow. \_\_\_\_\_

**Dancing** ♩ = c.116

*mp*

6

Tight as a drum. I'm round as lady moon \_\_\_\_\_

*eliss.* *f*

11 (MARY) *f*

call - ing to me, \_\_\_\_\_ call - ing to

Call - ing to me, *mp*

S. A. *mf* Call - ing to me,

16



me. \_\_\_\_\_ My ba - by will be born \_\_\_\_\_ to -

call - ing to me

*mp* call - ing to me

21 (MARY)



- night. \_\_\_\_\_

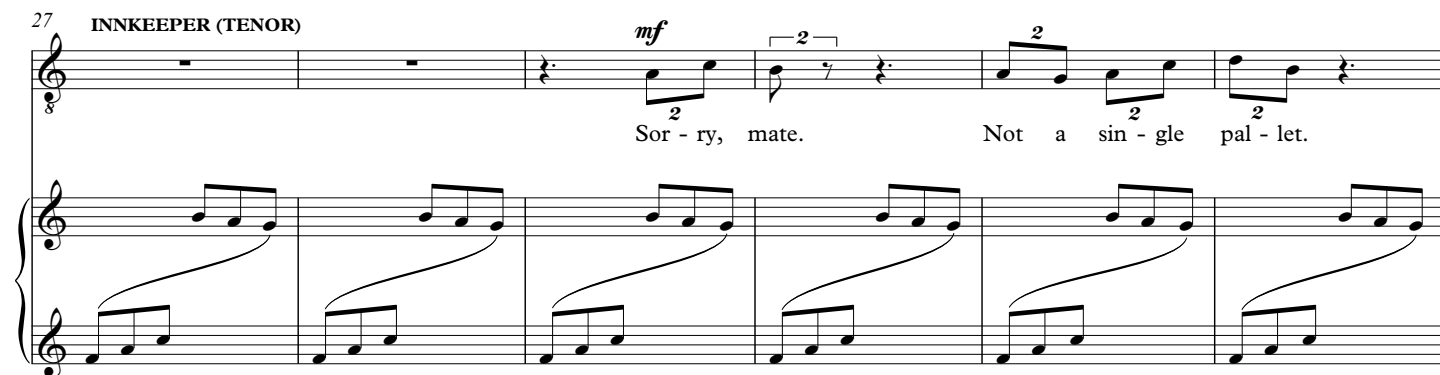
Lul - ly,

*mp* Lul - ly, lul - ly, \_\_\_\_\_ lul - lay. \_\_\_\_\_

*mp* Lul - ly, lul - ly, \_\_\_\_\_ lul - lay. \_\_\_\_\_

*mp* Lul - ly,

27 INNKEEPER (TENOR)



*mf* Sor - ry, mate. Not a sin - gle pal - let.

33

*f*

2 2

Tell<sup>2</sup> you what! Your Ma - ry can share a stall with

38 (INNKEEPER)

*mf*

my old ox.

By *mf* by,

S. A. *mf* By by, lul - ly, lul -

T. B. *mf* By by,

43

*mp*

- lay.

(SHEPHERDS)

*mp* This flock of sky-lights skip-ping, and sky - voi-ces sing-ing, 'The

*mf*

# 3. Epilogue

Measured ♩ = c. 92

SOPRANO  
ALTO

TENOR  
BASS

Measured ♩ = c. 92

*p*

5

10

*p* *mp*

We aim and stray, we want, we dream.

*p* *mp*

*mp*

The musical score is for a piece titled '3. Epilogue'. It features four vocal parts: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass, and a piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked 'Measured ♩ = c. 92'. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The piano part begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The vocal parts enter at measure 5. The lyrics 'We aim and stray, we want, we dream.' are sung by the vocalists. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support, with some measures featuring sustained chords. The score includes dynamic markings of piano (*p*) and mezzo-piano (*mp*).

15

How can our paths ev - er be straight, be straight?

*mf*

20

In light there is al - ways dark - ness

*p* *mp*

25

but in dark-ness al - ways speck and star and sheen.

*mf* *p cresc.*

Ma-ny