

William Shakespeare

Richard J. S. Stevens, 1782

mf 1 2 3
Ye spot-ted snakes with dou - ble tongue, Thor-ny hedge-hogs be not

4 5 *p* 6 7
seen: Newts and blind worms, newts and blind worms do no

8 *f* 9 10 11
wrong, Come not near our fai - ry queen, Come not near our fai - ry

12 *Dolce* 13 14 15 *Dolce*
queen. Phi - lo - mel with me - lo - dy, — Sing in

16 17 *Cresc.* 18 *mf* 19
your sweet — lul - la - by, sing, sing in your, in your sweet lul - la -

20 *mp* 21 *p* 22 *mf* 23
-by, lul-la, lul-la, lul-la - by, lul-la - by. Ne - ver harm, nor spell, nor

24 25 26 *p* 27 *Dim.*
charm, Come our love - ly la - dy nigh; So good night, so good -

28 29 30 *pp* 31 32
night, so good night, with lul - la - by, lul-la, lul-la, lul-la - by, lul-la - by.

33 *mf* 34 35 36 37 *f*
Weav - ing spi - ders come not here, Weav - ing spi - ders come not here, Hence!

38 *rf* 39 40 41 *p* 42
 hence, ye long-legg'd spin-ners, hence, ye long-legg'd spin-ners, hence! Bee-tles black, ap-proach not

43 44 45 46 *Cresc.* 47 *p*
 near; Worm and snail do no of - fence, worm and snail do

48 49 50 51 52 *Dolce*
 no of - fence. Sing in

53 54 *Cres.* 55 *mf* 56
 your sweet lul - la - by, in your sweet lul - la, lul - la -

57 *p* 58 *pp* 59 60
 -by, lul-la, lul-la, lul-la - by, lul-la, lul-la, lul-la - by. Ne - ver harm, nor spell, nor

61 62 63 *p* 64 *Dim.* 65
 charm, Come our love - ly la - dy nigh; So good night, so good night,so good

66 67 *pp* 68 *Dim.* 69
 night, with lul - la - by, lul - la, lul - la, lul - la - by, lul - la, lul - la, lul - la - by.

Richard John Samuel Stevens (1757-1837) was a contemporary of Thomas Arne (1710-1778), the two being the most recognised of the Georgian composers who produced "Shakespearean Music", the others having sunk into relative obscurity. Arne is world famous, his settings of 'Under the Greenwood Tree', and 'Blow, Blow thou Winter Wind' being almost as well known as 'Rule Britannia'. Stevens, on the other hand produced settings of 15 Shakespearean texts, of which 'Ye Spotted Snakes', first printed in 1782 and the refrain added in 1792, was by far the most popular, being reprinted endless times, 'Sigh no more Ladies', 'Crabbed Age and Youth', 'Blow, Blow', and 'The Cloud-cap't Towers' also following in popularity. With these, and his 'Fairy Glee (To Oberon in Fairyland)', Stevens obtained, and still holds, a somewhat 'fragile claim to immortality'. The usual piano accompaniment has here been removed, as the intention was for this part-song to be performed unaccompanied. The original music is now out of copyright, This transcription for Immanuel's Ground, Warwick, © Shelwin Music, Oxford 2007/2015. Edwin and Sheila Macadam, tel: 01865 865773.