

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 performance style 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 melodic line in the treble and accompaniment in the bass, 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 image shows a musical score for a piece titled "This Little Light of Mine". It is arranged for a two-part mixed choir (Soprano and Baritone), a flute, and piano. The score is in 5/4 time and features a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The piece begins at measure 65. The flute part starts with a melodic line, followed by the vocalists. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *dim.* (diminuendo), as well as tempo markings like "rit." (ritardando) and "A tempo". The lyrics are "shine, Let it shine." and are repeated for both vocal parts. The score concludes at measure 68 with a final piano 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.