

dedicated to Gabriella Lovas,
and the FMK Female Ensemble

Ladybird

for SSAA choir (or quartet) *a cappella*
on a poem by *Christina Rossetti*

I caught a little ladybird
That flies far away;
I caught a little lady wife
That is both staid and gay.

Come back, my scarlet ladybird,
Back from far away;
I weary of my dolly wife,
My wife that cannot play.

She's such a senseless wooden thing
She stares the livelong day;
Her wig of gold is stiff and cold
And cannot change to grey.

Allegretto ♩ = 84

Tamás Beischer-Matyó

The musical score is written for four voices: Soprano 1 (S. 1), Soprano 2 (S. 2), Alto 1 (A. 1), and Alto 2 (A. 2). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Allegretto' with a quarter note equal to 84 beats per minute. The score begins with a forte (f) dynamic. S. 1 and S. 2 enter with the lyrics 'That flies far a-way;'. A. 1 and A. 2 enter with the lyrics 'I caught a lit-tle la - dy-bird'. The music features various musical notations including slurs, ties, and dynamic markings. A section marked with a '3' over a treble clef staff indicates a triplet. Dynamics include mp (mezzo-piano) and pp (pianissimo). The lyrics are written below the corresponding staves.

S. 1 *f* That flies far a-way;

S. 2 *f* That flies far a-way, far a - way,

A. 1 *f* I caught a lit-tle la - dy-bird That flies far a-way, far a - way,

A. 2 *f* I caught a lit-tle la - dy-bird That flies far a-way, far a - way,

3

mp that flies far a - - way *pp*

mp that flies far a - - way *p* I caught a lit-tle la - dy wife

mp that flies far a - - way *p* I caught a lit-tle la - dy wife

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5 *p* That is both staid and gay. *f* I caught a lit-tle la - la - la - dy-bird

p That is both staid and gay, staid and gay, *f* I caught a lit-tle la - la - la - dy-bird

f That is both staid and gay, staid and gay, I caught a lit - tle la - dy-bird

f That is both staid and gay, staid and gay, I caught a lit - tle la - dy-bird

7 *p* That flies___ far, far, far a-way; *f* I___ caught a lit-tle la - dy wife,-

p That flies___ far, far, far a-way; *f* I___ caught a lit-tle la - dy wife,-

p That flies far a - way, far a - way; *f* I___ caught a lit-tle la - dy wife,-

p That flies far a - way, far a - way; *f* I___ caught a lit-tle la - dy wife,-

9 *ff* la - - dy wife That is both staid and_ gay._____

ff la - - dy wife That is both staid and_ gay._____

ff la - - dy wife That is both staid and_ gay._____

ff la - - dy wife That is both staid and_ gay._____

11 *p*

Come back, come back, come back, come back, come back, come

p

Come back, come back, come back, come back, come back,

p

Come back, come back, come back, come back, come back, come

mf dolce

Come back, my scar - - let

12

back, come back, come back, come back, come back, come

come back, come back, come back, come back, come back, come

back, come back, come back, come back, come back,

la - - - - - dy - - bird,

13

back, come back, come back, come back, come back,

back, come back, come back, come back, come back, come back,

come back, come back, come back, come back, come back, come back,

Back from far a -

14 *f* Back from far a-way;— *p* I wae-ry, I wae-ry, I wae-ry, wae-ry, wae-ry,
f Back from far a-way;— *mf dolce* I wea - - - ry of
f Back from far a-way;— *p* I wae-ry, I wae-ry, I wae-ry, wae-ry, wae-ry,
p - way;— I, I wae-ry, I wae-ry, wae-ry, wae-ry, I

16 I wae - ry, I wae - ry, I wae - ry, wae - ry, wae - ry,
 my dol - - ly wife,
 I wae - ry, I wae - ry, I wae - ry, wae - ry, wae - ry,
 wae - ry, I wae - ry, I wae - ry, wae - ry, wae - ry, I

17 I wae-ry, I wae-ry, I wae-ry, wae-ry, wae-ry, *f* My wife that can-not play.
 My wife that can - not play.
 I wae-ry, I wae-ry, I wae-ry, wae-ry, wae-ry, *f* My wife that can-not play.
 wae-ry, I wae-ry, I wae-ry, wae-ry, wae-ry, *f* My wife that can-not play.

19 *mf dolce*

She's _____ such _____ a sense - less

p

She's a sense - less wood - en thing, a wood - en thing, such a

p

She's a sense - less wood - en thing, wood - en thing, wood - en

p

She's a sense - less wood - en thing, such a sense - less

20

wood - - en thing (ng)

sense - less wood - en thing, sense - less wood - en thing, sense - less wood - en

thing, wood - en thing, wood - en thing, wood - en thing,

wood - en thing, wood - en thing, wood - en thing, wood - en thing,

21

She stares the live - long day, she stares the live - long day,

mp

thing, live - long day, live - long day, live - long day, live - long

mf dolce

She stares the _____

mp

live - long day, live - long day, live - long day, live - long day,

22 *mf*

live-long day, live-long day, day, Her wig of gold is stiff and

mf

day, live-long day, live-long day, Her wig of gold is

mf

live - long day; Her wig of gold is

mf

live-long day, live-long day, day, Her wig of gold is

rall. molto *a tempo*

24 *pp*

cold And can-not change to grey.

pp

stiff and cold change to grey.

pp *f*

stiff and cold change to grey. I caught a lit-tle la-dy-bird

pp *f*

stiff and cold change to grey. I caught a lit-tle la-dy-bird

27 *f*

That flies far a-way;

f *mp* *pp*

That flies far a-way, far a - way, that flies far a - - way

mp

That flies far a-way, far a - way, that flies far a - - way

mp

That flies far a-way, far a - way, that flies far a - - way

29

p That is both staid and gay.

p That is both staid and gay, staid and gay,

p I caught a lit-tle la - dy wife That is both staid and gay, staid and gay,

p I caught a lit-tle la - dy wife That is both staid and gay, staid and gay,

31

f I caught a lit-tle la - la - la - dy-bird That flies far, far, far a-way;

f I caught a lit-tle la - la - la - dy-bird That flies far, far, far a-way;

f I caught a lit - tle la - dy - bird That flies far a - way, far a - way;

f I caught a lit - tle la - dy - bird That flies far a - way, far a - way;

33

f I caught a lit-tle la-dy wife, la - dy wife That is both staid and gay.— *ff*

f I caught a lit-tle la-dy wife, la - dy wife That is both staid and gay.— *ff*

f I caught a lit-tle la-dy wife, la - dy wife That is both staid and gay.— *ff*

f I caught a lit-tle la-dy wife, la - dy wife That is both staid and gay.— *ff*