

# My Precious Sleep

Poem by the composer

for Mezzo-soprano and Contralto, Soloists or Chorus  
*dedicated to my aunt, Catherine Barbra Oliva (1948-2015)*

John Manuel Pacheco  
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*Allegretto*  
*mp*

Mez. My pre-cious sleep why do you e - vade\_ me when soon the morn - ing star

Alt. My sleep e - vades me when soon the morn-ing

6 *mf*  
will bright-ly shine in the east? My pre-cious sleep you must come back to me

star will shine in the east My pre - cious sleep you must come

12 *p*  
if on - ly for\_ a while\_ I\_ in-deed must sleep A soft pil - low

back to me if on - ly for a while\_ I must sleep pil - low

19 *mp*  
with heav-y eyes I have yet sleep is far be - yond my mind's de- mands\_

I have yet far\_ be - yond my mind's de- mands

25 *mf*  
but rath - er thoughts fade in and out\_ for - e - ver rath-er thoughts fade

thoughts fade in and out for - e - ver thoughts fade

30

*f*

in and out for - e - ver\_ rath - er thoughts fade in and

*f*

in out rath-er thoughts fade in and out\_ rath-er thoughts fade

34

*p* *mp*

out\_ for - e - ver like the chang-ing o-cean tides\_

*p* *mp*

in and out\_ for - e - ver\_ the chang - ing o - cean\_ tides

39

*mf* *f* *mp*

move and stir\_ move and stir\_ move and stir sleep e -

*mf* *f* *mp*

move and stir move and stir move and stir My pre-cious sleep why do you e-

45

vades me soon the morn-ing star will shine in the east

vade\_ me when soon the morn - ing star will bright-ly shine in the east?

51

*mf*

My pre - cious sleep you must come back to me if on - ly

*mf*

My pre-cious sleep you must come back to me if on - ly for\_ a while\_

56 *mf* 3  
 for a while\_ I must sleep The dark - ness of the night\_\_\_\_\_ does\_  
 I\_ in-deed must sleep\_\_\_\_\_ dark-ness of the night

63 *mp*  
 co - ver\_\_\_\_\_ co-ver all\_\_\_\_\_ veil that soft -  
 co - ver all\_\_\_\_\_ A\_ tran - quil veil that soft - ens\_

70 *mf*  
 ens soft - ens wall eve - ry wall not a  
 veil that soft - ens\_ eve-ry wall\_ eve - ry wall\_

77 *f*  
 howl nor\_ peep can be heard can be heard to-night Si-lence sings her song\_  
*mf* not a howl\_ *f* nor\_ peep can be heard to - night\_ Si-lence sings her

83 *ff*  
 Si-lence sings her song\_ sings her song\_ sooth - ing - ly I\_ sigh\_  
 song\_ Si-lence sings her song her song\_ sooth - ing - ly I\_ sigh

4 88 *p* *mp*  
 I sigh My pre-cious sleep why do you e - vade me  
 I sigh I sigh  
 94 *mf*  
 when soon the morn-ing star will bright-ly shine in the east? My pre-cious  
*mp*  
 morn - (ing) star will shine in the east  
 100  
 sleep you must come back to me if on - ly  
*mf*  
 My pre - cious sleep you must come back to me  
 103  
 for a while I in - deed must sleep *pp*  
 if on - ly for a while I must sleep *pp*

My precious sleep why do you evade me  
 When soon the morning star will brightly shine in the east?  
 My precious sleep you must come back to me  
 If only for a while I indeed must sleep  
 A soft pillow with heavy eyes I have  
 Yet sleep is far beyond my mind's demands  
 Rather thoughts fade in and out forever  
 Like the changing ocean tides move and stir  
 The darkness of the night does cover all  
 A tranquil veil that softens every wall  
 Not a howl nor peep can be heard tonight  
 Silence sings her song soothingly, I sigh