

A Dance for David
piano duet

PROGRAMME NOTES

My musical colleague and friend Helen Kasztelan requested a piano duet that she could eventually play with her recently-born son David. She also asked if some Latvian folksong could be woven into the musical tapestry, reflecting the rich Latvian culture passed to them both through Helen's mother.

With this in mind, the more virtuosic lines of the prima part are composed for an adult to play with a simpler seconda part in the middle to lower register of the piano for a child's smaller hands.

Musically, the piece centres on the life of the baby David. To the opening rhythm of the heart is added the first prima part entry, the dancing of the blood. David's heritage is represented by two Latvian folk melodies. The first, at bar 31, is a variation on a christening song; the second, at bar 56, is a cradle song whose accompaniment suggests the stars and David's celestial origins. Finally the child falls asleep, peaceful and reassured.

Thanks to Jana Grinberga for kindly providing information on Latvian folk sources.