

1. Nature, the gentlest mother

Music by
AARON COPLAND

Quite slow (♩ = circa 60) *poco rit.*

VOICE

PIANO

mf (crystalline) p mp espress. p poco rit. mp

a tempo

p a tempo p mp mf

mp (freely)

Na-ture the gent-lest mo-ther.... Im-pa-tient

pp p pp

sust. Ped.

moving forward - - - (♩ = 69)

of no child The feeb - lest... or the way-ward-est

poetically
p

* Red. * Red. * Red. * Red.

hold back - - - *mf*

Her ad-mon-i-tion mild In for-est and the hill By

mf

* Red. *

moving forward

trav-ell-er is heard Re - strain - ing ramp - ant

mp

Red. * Red. * Red. *

squir - rel or too im - pet - u - ous

p

Red. * Red. *

Hold back (♩ = 63) - - - - moving forward
(pastoral-like)

bird.

mp - *Faster* (♩ = 92)

How fair her con-ver-sa-tion A summer af-ter-

more brightly *mf*

- noon. Her house-hold, her as-sem-bly

And when the sun goes down Her

voice a - mong the aisles In - cites the tim - id prayer Of

the mi - nu - test crick - et The most un - wor - thy

flower.

molto rit.

As at first ($\text{♩} = 60$) *p* *moving forward* ($\text{♩} = 69$)

When all the chil - dren sleep, She turns as long a - way, As will suf -

hold back - - - - *mp* *moving forward* - -

- fice to light her lamps..... Then, bend - ing from the sky, With

* Ped. *

(♩ = 69)

in - fi - nite af - fec - tion And in - fi - ni - ter

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

gradually slower *p a tempo* (♩ = 69)

care Her gold - en fin - ger on her lip Wills si - lence

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped.

pp

ev - 'ry - where, Wills si - lence ev - 'ry - where.

(no Ped.) Ped. * Ped. Ped. ppp

a tempo (♩ = 112)

mp

passed On a

ff marc. *dim.* *mp*

Red. * *Red.* * *Red.* * *Red. sim.*

strange mob of pant - ing trees and fen - ces fled a - way.

(♩ = 104)

mf

And riv - ers where the

mp (blurred)

Sba *Red.*

hous - es ran the liv - ing looked that day,

ff *Sva* *Sva*

ff (clangorous)

* *Red.* * *Red.* *

f

The bell... with - in... the stee - ple wild... The

8va *8va* *8va* *8va* *8va* *8va*

Red. simile

As at first

fly - ing ti - dings whirled

rit. - - - Broadly f with emphasis

How much can come And

Red. * 7

ff

much can go And yet a - bide the world.....

* *Red.* * *8va* *Red.* (Duration 1 min 30 sec)