

Little Birch Tree

Russian Folk Song

for unison chorus and piano

**BAY
BRIDGE
CHORAL
SERIES**



Arr. Kenji Higashihama & Mark Growden

MARK  GROWDEN

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Little Birch Tree

for unison chorus and piano

Standing in the field little birch tree,
Standing in the field curly birch tree,
Lyuli-lyu, little birch tree,
Lyuli-lyu, little birch tree.

Who will bend you down, little birch tree?
Who will bend you down, curly birch tree?
Lyuli-lyu, little birch tree,
Lyuli-lyu, little birch tree.

I will go to you, little birch tree,
I will bend you down, little birch tree,
Lyuli-lyu, little birch tree,
Lyuli-lyu, little birch tree.

I will cut three twigs of the birch tree,
I will make myself three gudochka,
Lyuli-lyu, three gudochka,
Lyuli-lyu, three gudochka.

Now I will make a balalaika,
Now I will make a balalaika,
Lyuli-lyu, balalaika
Lyuli-lyu, balalaika

When I play my new balalaika,
I will think of you my lovely birch tree,
Lyuli-lyu, little birch tree,
Lyuli-lyu, little birch tree.

Standing in the field little birch tree,
Standing in the field curly birch tree,
Lyuli-lyu, little birch tree,
Lyuli-lyu, little birch tree.

Catalog No. MGM-019

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Cover photo by Mark Growden

Mark Growden is an American composer, multi-instrumentalist, singer, music educator, conductor, songwriter/poet, visual artist, and mental health advocate/activist. He is the founder and Artistic Director of The Calling All Choir, The Chromatic Community Music Center, SF SingFest, and The SF Jaw Harp Choir in San Francisco, CA. He was the founding Artistic Director of the Marigny Opera House in New Orleans and is the co-founder of the New Orleans Dance Festival. He is mentored by Vance George, Director Emeritus San Francisco Symphony Chorus; is an Alice Parker Composers Workshop Fellow; and has also studied with Michael Kaulkin, Joseph Stillwell, and Remy Charlip. He has released several critically acclaimed albums and has toured internationally. He has composed original musical scores for dozens of dance and theater companies and scored several films. He also has an online, private musicianship studio and often has room for more students. Growden has devoted his life to making music for other people and to helping other people make music for themselves. For more information please visit markgrowden.org.

Kenji Higashihama is a pianist, music director, and music educator. His career in music began in church, playing piano for services and arranging for vocal ensembles. This experience eventually led to his work in musical theatre as a music director and keyboard programmer. Here in California, he has been fortunate to work with many performing arts organizations such as Leshner Center for the Arts, Berkeley Rep, La Jolla Playhouse, and Piedmont Children's Choirs.

Kenji and Mark met at The Renaissance International School in Oakland, CA, where Mark directed a children's choir with Kenji as their accompanist. Wanting a challenge, they decided to use only original arrangements and compositions for the chorus. *Little Birch Tree* is one of the works that we adapted for those singers.

The **Bay Bridge Choral Series** features works arranged or composed by Mark Growden in collaboration with other San Francisco Bay Area Musicians. It's a study in bridge building.

Little Birch Tree

Traditional Russian Folk Song
Translated by Irina Varshavsky

Arr. Kenji Higashihama
& Mark Growden

Adagio ♩ = 66

Voice

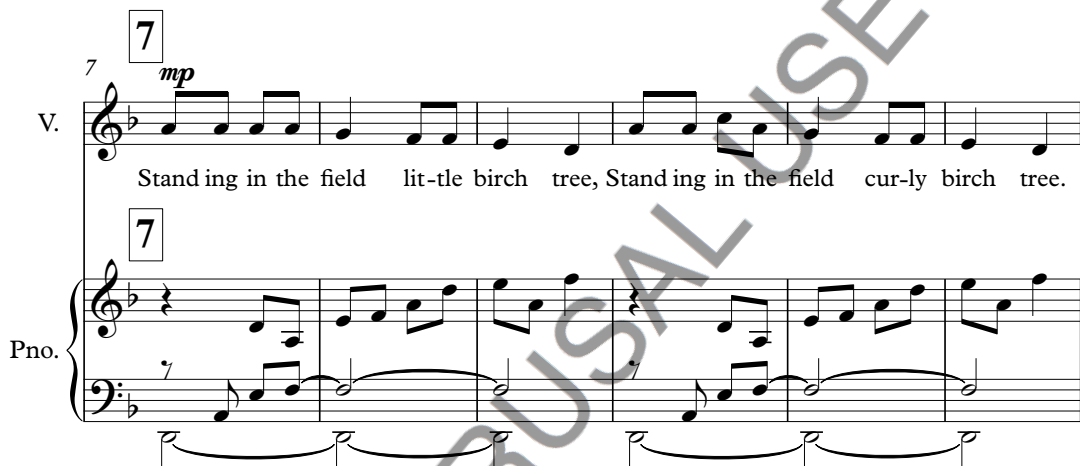


Piano

Adagio ♩ = 66

p

V. 7

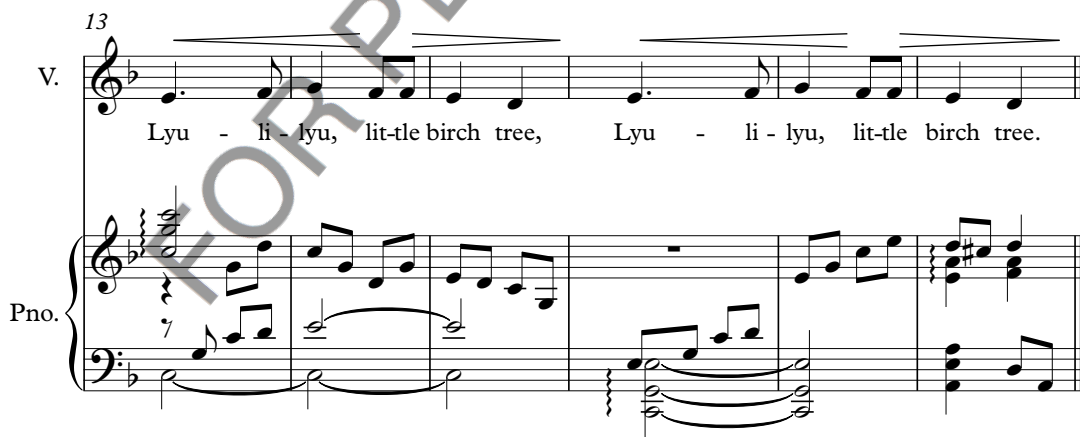


mp

Stand ing in the field lit-tle birch tree, Stand ing in the field cur-ly birch tree.

Pno. 7

V. 13



Lyu - li - lyu, lit-tle birch tree, Lyu - li - lyu, lit-tle birch tree.

Pno.

19

Small group 1

19

mp

V.



Who will bend you down, lit tle birch tree? Who will bend you down, lit tle birch tree?

19

Pno.

25

Tutti

V.



Lyu - li - lyu, lit-tle birch tree, Lyu - li - lyu, lit-tle birch tree.

Pno.

31

Small group 2

31

mf

V.



I will go to you, lit-tle birch tree. I will bend you down, lit-tle birch tree.

31

Pno.

37

Tutti

V.



Lyu - li - lyu, lit-tle birch tree. Lyu - li - lyu, lit-tle birch tree.

Pno.

43

43

Pno.

49

Small group 3

49 *mp*

V. I will cut three twigs of the birch tree. I will make my-self three gu-doch - ka.

Pno.

49

49

V. *Tutti*

Lyu - li - lyu, three gu-doch - ka, Lyu - li - lyu, three gu-doch - ka.

Pno.

61


Small group 4


61 *mf*

V. Now I will make a ba-la - lai - ka, Now I will make a ba-la - lai - ka.


Pno. *mf*


67 **Tutti**

V.  Lyu - li - lyu, ba-la - lai - ka, Lyu - li - lyu, ba-la - lai - ka.


Pno.  *p*


73 **Small group 5**

V.  *f* When I play my new ba-la - lai - ka, I will think of you my love-ly birch tree.

Pno.  *mf*

79 **Tutti**

V.  Lyu - li - lyu, lit-tle birch tree, Lyu - li - lyu, lit-tle birch tree.

Pno. 

85 **85** *rall.*

Pno. 

91 **A tempo**

V. *ff*

Stand ing in the field lit - tle birch tree, Stand ing in the

Pno. *f*

95

V.

field cur-ly birch tree, Lyu - li - lyu, lit - tle

Pno.

99

V.

birch tree, Lyu - li - lyu, lit - tle birch tree.

Pno. *rit.*

rit.

rit.

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More choral works by Mark Growden

- ***Saguaro*** - a cappella SATB chorus - A lush and moving tribute to all those involved in the Tucson Tragedy shootings all the other mass shootings we've endured. **Winner of the California Choral Directors Association's *George Heussenstamm Choral Composition Contest, 2018.***
- ***The Rain Song*** - SATB, SSAA, & TTBB with body percussion - Growden's most-popular piece. Accessible four-part polyphony. Fun and Funky.
- ***The Patience of Ordinary Things*** - SATB a cappella - A setting of Pat Schneider's lovely poem.
- ***Noah's Dove*** - SATB chorus (with divisi) - A setting of a canon from an unknown source.
- ***Reunion*** - SATB a cappella choral arrangement with body percussion. A setting of Bobbie Gentry's classic song. Upbeat and lots of fun.
- ***Sing it to the Ocean*** - a cappella SSATTB - Accessible song with a gospel feel. Can be adapted for unison or two-part singing.
- ***Floatin' Down the River*** - SAATB chorus and upright bass - Downtempo, swampy blues. Can be adapted for developing singers groups.
- ***Sally*** - SATB chorus, piano, and B flat trumpet - A celebratory setting of the English nursery rhyme.
- ***I Will Wait for You*** - a cappella SATB chorus (with divisi) - Soft, slow, pretty, and rich.
- ***As the River Runs*** - SATB chorus and drum - Exotic melodies and harmonies carry this meditative text.
- ***Grandmother Daydreams*** - a cappella SATB chorus - You might call this poetic tribute to Growden's grandmothers "post-modern berbershop". Lots of close harmony and lush seventh chords.
- ***Stillness*** - for a cappella SATB chorus (with divisi) - A pandiatonic piece celebrating quiet and stillness.
- ***Little Bird*** - for a cappella SATB chorus - A cheerful jaunt with a clever love poem. Can be adapted for developing singers.

Available at SwirlyMusic.com



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