

# 小白菜

xiǎo bái cài

(Little White Cabbage)

Arr. Gaius Lee

SATB, unaccompanied

## Arranger's notes

Xiao Bai Cai (小白菜) is a popular children's folk song in the Hebei province (North China). This song is characterized by a sorrowful and grievous melody, which conveys the anguish of a child who had lost her mother to death. She was then treated badly by her stepfamily, neglected, alone, and mistreated. Different verses of the folk song convey a variety of emotions such as sorrow, fear and perhaps at times, a glimmer of hope. This folk song is usually sung by a female, but a tenor solo was chosen instead to sing from a 'narrator's' perspective. The anguish of the little girl should be carried by the choir.

## Text and Translation

- |         |       |  |
|---------|-------|--|
| 1. 小白菜呀 | 地里黃呀, | Little white cabbage the ground has turned yellow,   |
| 三两岁上    | 没了娘呀。 | mother has passed on when I was a toddler.           |
| 2. 跟着爹爹 | 还好过呀, | Living with my father has been smooth,               |
| 只怕爹爹    | 娶后娘呀。 | my only fear is that he would marry someone else.    |
| 3. 娶了后娘 | 三年半呀, | Three and a half years after remarrying,             |
| 生个弟弟    | 比我强呀。 | my stepmother bore a son who is stronger than me.    |
| 4. 弟弟穿衣 | 绫罗缎呀, | While he wears clothes of silk and satin,            |
| 我要穿衣    | 粗布衣呀。 | I wear clothes of rags.                              |
| 5. 弟弟吃面 | 我喝汤呀, | He eats noodles while I drink only soup,             |
| 端起碗来    | 泪汪汪呀。 | I clasp the bowl with my two hands while tears flow. |
| 6. 亲娘想我 | 谁知道呀, | Who knows if my mother misses me,                    |
| 我想亲娘    | 在梦中呀。 | I only reminisce of her in my dreams.                |
| 7. 桃花开呀 | 杏花落呀, | Peach blossoms bloom and apricot flowers fall,       |
| 想起亲娘    | 一阵风呀。 | the thought of my mother is all but a gust of wind.  |

小自菜

河北民歌 Hebei Folk Song  
Arranged by Gaius Lee

♩=52, In pensive melancholy

rit. - - -

**Tenor Solo**

**Soprano**

**Alto**

**Tenor**

**Bass**

(rit.) - - - - a tempo  
mp a reflective lament

**T. Solo**

**S**

**A**

**T**

**B**



Unauthorised duplication  
of this score is illegal

Copyright © 2021 Gaius Lee  
Published and distributed by Muziksea  
[www.muziksea.com](http://www.muziksea.com)

9

T. Solo 没了娘 - 呀, 跟着爹爹 还好 - 过 - 呀, 只怕爹爹  
mei le niang - ya, gen zhe die die hai hao - guo - ya, zhi pa die die

S pp poco a poco cresc.  
Oo \_\_\_\_\_

A pp poco a poco cresc.  
Oo \_\_\_\_\_

T pp poco a poco cresc.  
没 了 娘 呀, Oo \_\_\_\_\_  
mei le niang ya,

B pp poco a poco cresc.  
没 了 娘 呀, Oo \_\_\_\_\_  
mei le niang ya,

13

T. Solo 娶 后 娘 - 呀, 亲 娘 - 呀 亲 - 娘 - 呀  
qu hou niang - ya, qin niang - ya qin - niang - ya,

S mp sub. pp 亲 娘 呀, 亲 娘 呀, 娶 了 后 娘  
qin niang ya, qin niang ya qu le hou niang

A mp sub. pp 亲 娘 呀, 亲 娘 呀, 娶 了 后 娘  
qin niang ya, qin niang ya qu le hou niang

T mp sub. pp 亲 娘 呀, 亲 娘 呀, 娶 了 后 娘  
qin niang ya, qin niang ya qu le hou niang

B mp sub. pp 亲 娘 呀, 亲 娘 呀, 娶 了 后 娘  
qin niang ya, qin niang ya qu le hou niang

17

S: 三 年 - 半 - 呀, 生 个 弟 弟 比 我 强 - 呀, 弟 弟 穿  
 san nian - ban - ya, sheng ge di di bi wo qiang - ya, di di chuan

A: 三 年 半 呀, 生 个 弟 弟 比 我 强 呀, 弟 弟 穿  
 san nian ban ya, sheng ge di di bi wo qiang ya, di di chuan

T: 8 三 年 半 呀, 生 个 弟 - 弟 比 我 强, 弟 弟 穿 衣  
 san nian ban ya, sheng ge di - di bi wo qiang, di di chuan yi

B: 三 年 半 呀 生 个 弟 弟 比 我 强, 弟 弟 穿 衣  
 san nian ban ya sheng ge di di bi wo qiang, di di chuan yi

21

S: 衣 绫罗 - 缎 - 呀, 我 要 穿 衣 粗 布 衣 - 呀, 亲 娘 -  
 yi ling luo - duan - ya, wo yao chuan yi cu bu yi - ya, qin niang -

A: 衣 绫罗 - 缎 呀, 我 要 穿 衣 粗 布 衣 呀, 亲 娘 -  
 yi ling luo - duan ya, wo yao chuan yi cu bu yi ya, qin niang -

T: 8 衣 绫罗 - 缎 - 呀, 我 要 穿 衣 粗 布 衣 - 呀, 亲 娘 - 呀,  
 yi ling luo - duan ya, wo yao chuan yi cu bu yi - ya, qin niang - ya,

B: 衣 绫罗 - 缎 呀 生 个 弟 弟 比 我 强, 亲 娘 - 呀,  
 yi ling luo - duan ya, sheng ge di di bi wo qiang, qin niang ya,

This page is intentionally left blank.

To purchase the score, please visit  
**[www.muziksea.com](http://www.muziksea.com)**

**MUZIKSEA**

Broadly, tempo giusto

33

Soprano (S) vocal line with lyrics in Chinese and Pinyin. The vocal line consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. Measure 33 starts with a dynamic of *f* div.

A (Alto) vocal line with lyrics in Chinese and Pinyin. The vocal line consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. Measure 33 starts with a dynamic of *f* div.

Tenor (T) vocal line with lyrics in Chinese and Pinyin. The vocal line consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. Measure 33 starts with a dynamic of *f*.

Bass (B) vocal line with lyrics in Chinese and Pinyin. The vocal line consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. Measure 33 starts with a dynamic of *f*.

36

rit.  
mf

Soprano (S) vocal line with lyrics in Chinese and Pinyin. The vocal line consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. Measure 36 starts with a dynamic of *mf*. The section ends with a dynamic of *p* followed by *pp*.

Alto (A) vocal line with lyrics in Chinese and Pinyin. The vocal line consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. Measure 36 starts with a dynamic of *mf*. The section ends with a dynamic of *p* followed by *pp*.

Tenor (T) vocal line with lyrics in Chinese and Pinyin. The vocal line consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. Measure 36 starts with a dynamic of *mf*. The section ends with a dynamic of *p* followed by *pp*.

Bass (B) vocal line with lyrics in Chinese and Pinyin. The vocal line consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. Measure 36 starts with a dynamic of *mf*. The section ends with a dynamic of *p* followed by *pp*.

40

T. Solo rit. - - - - a tempo  
 $\text{mp}$   
 桃花开呀  
 tao hua kai ya

S pp mp f  
 呀, 亲娘呀, 亲娘 ya, qin niang ya, qin niang ya, qin niang ya, Oo  
 staggered breathing (3 only)  $\text{pp}$

A p pp mp f  
 亲娘呀, 亲娘呀, 亲娘呀, 亲娘呀, qin niang ya, qin niang ya, qin niang ya, Oo  
 staggered breathing (3 only)  $\text{pp}$

T mf f pp  
 亲娘 亲娘 亲娘呀, qin niang qin niang qin niang ya, Oo

B pp  
 亲娘呀, qin niang ya, Oo

rit.

44

T. Solo 杏花落呀, 想起亲娘 一阵风呀, 亲娘呀,  
 xing hua - luo - ya, xiang qi qin niang yi zhen feng - ya, qin niang - ya,  $\text{pp}$   
 S  
 A

(rit.)  $\text{J}=40$

T. Solo 亲娘呀  
 qin niang - ya,  $\text{tutti pp}$   
 S 亲娘呀, 亲娘呀, qin niang - ya, qin niang - ya,  $\text{2 only}$   
 A  $\text{tutti pp}$