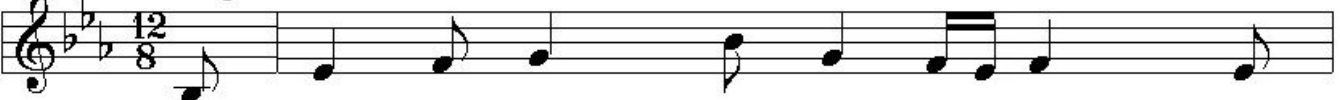


A Song of the Lamps

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Based on "Of the Beginning of Days"
from The Silmarillion by J.R.R. Tolkien


Rubato grazioso




Be- fore the light of Sun or_ Moon or



sil- ver star- shine gleamed on_ high, Be-



fore the First- Born chil- dren woke, And



ere the eld- est of them_ spoke, Two



Lamps did grace the_ sky. _____

1. Before the light of Sun or Moon
Or silver star-shine gleamed on high,
Before the First-Born children woke,
And ere the eldest of them spoke,
Two Lamps did grace the sky.
 2. The ancient Smith put forth his craft
To fashion orbs of wondrous sight
That She who lit the Stars would bless
And take their crystal comeliness
To fill with radiant light.
 3. Two pillars tall the Smith then raised
Amid the deep and boundless Sea
So that the Lamps, once settled there,
Would shine throughout the lofty air
Upon the world still free.
 4. The Elder King spoke clear the words
To hallow both ere they were placed.
Thus lifted high upon the stone
Both Illuin and Ormal shone
And all of Arda graced.
 5. Yet as the springtime blossomed bright,
Not all who saw the Lamps were gay.
The anger of the Dark One grew;
His heart burned hot, until he knew:
That light he must betray.
 6. Then from the shadows where he hid,
He crept forth so to bend his might
To topple both the pillars high,
To hurl the Lamps down from the sky,
To quench their sacred light.
 7. Thus came the Spring of Arda's end,
As darkness swallowed all the land.
The broken orbs lay shattered, still,
Their beauty marred by Evil's will.
The Lamps no more would stand.
 8. Yet in the shadow hope survived,
In greater works yet to be made.
In time, the Kindler stood on high
To cast her blossoms o'er the sky;
New netted stars she laid.
 9. And when the First-Born stirred at last,
They saw not darkness, but the glow
Of brightest stars. Their light did fall
Upon the Eldar, fair and tall;
Such beauty did they know.
 10. Now in these days of Sun and Moon,
The mem'ries of that time we keep
When lamps we kindle in the night
To guide us home with gentle light,
To guard us as we sleep.
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