

### Composer's Note

Maranoa Lullaby is one of a number of Aboriginal melodies collected in northern Australia by Dr.H.O.Lethbridge. A piano accompaniment was added by Arthur S.Loam, and it was published in Melbourne, by Allan & Co., in 1937.

Since the early forties, I have had a special fondness for this music; it was inevitable that I should make an arrangement of it. At the risk of seeming fanciful, I believe that Loam, in his harmonization of the melody, was influenced by Percy Grainger's settings of northern European folk songs. It is possible that Loam was exposed to these during Grainger's visit to Australia several years before the arrangement was made.

Duration: 3 minutes

### Text

Ma-ma Wa-ru-no  
Ma-ra Wa-thu-no

Sleep as falls the dark,  
In your bed of bark;  
None shall harm you, dear,  
Mother watches near.

In the published edition, Dr.Lethbridge states that his translation is 'free, but true'. He adds that while the lullaby was sung, the mother 'rocked her baby to sleep in the bark cradle, using her foot to avoid stooping.'