

① - Midwife

Animato, con brio.

$\text{♩} = 76-80$

'It's time', one of us breathes into the phone - but she

knows, she's already here putting down her bag of mysteries

5 mp (a few voices)

(oxygen mask? forceps?) 'It's time' nimh

and the chief performer, first vio-lin, the star

—, takes her position; as for the rest of us - well, we know.

maestro, we know a maestro when we see one -

② - Ruth's Drawing

Molto legato, sovramente
♩ = 66

5

* 2 soli on each note of the tie - the rest tacet *

No 2 pt Song of Birth and Daughters
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③ Piano Practice

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 66$ Andante

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 aah aah aah aah
 piano practice piano practice piano practice piano practice

5 mp

mp
 Child, creature —, little anxious girl, your whole body fawn, your
 piano practice piano practice piano practice piano practice
 aah aah aah aah

10 f

f
 clambering hands grapple mountains —. The rocky crickets mass above you
 piano practice mountains. aah aah
 aah mountains. piano practice piano practice
 No 3 p1 Songs of Birds and Daughters © Dorothy Buchanan 1994

$\text{♩} = 60$, non legato, poco marcato ④ - Tempo

In the first month I think it's a drop in a spider web's necklace of dew

necklace of dew at the second a hazel nut; hazel nut;

after - a slim Black-eyed Susan demurely for-ded a -

sleep on a cloudy day a - sleep on a cloudy day -

then a bud-baby silent as sap in a jacaranda tree -

- , but blinking with mischief blinking with mischief at

$d. = \downarrow$ (Tempo I)

five months it's an almost-caught flounder almost caught flounder *fla* — *pping*

20

back to the glo-ri-ous water water, Six, it's a song with a

3 soli mp A chorus of *basses* *Tutti f*

chorus of bass — es — — — — — seven five grapefruit *ina*

25

mesh bag that bounces on the hip on a hot morning down at the shops

3 soli mp *tutti mf legato, espressivo*

five grapefruit. A wa-ter melon next, green oval of pink flesh and

30

black seeds ripe waiting to be split by the knife, a