



Shakespeare Songs  
No. 15

**Tell me where  
is fancy bred**

**George A. Macfarren  
(1813-1887)**

**Sir George Alexander Macfarren** (1813-1887) was born in London. From early youth, he suffered from poor health and weak eyesight. His eyesight continually deteriorated until he became totally blind in 1860. However, his blindness had little effect on his productivity. Macfarren began to study music when he was fourteen and, at sixteen, entered the Royal Academy of Music. Because of his eyesight, he abandoned performance and concentrated on composition. He later taught at the Academy, eventually becoming a principal. He was also appointed professor of music at Cambridge University in 1875. He was conductor at Covent Garden, London; founder the Handel Society; program note writer for the Philharmonic Society; and editor of *Handel and Purcell*. He wrote 18 operas, 13 oratorios and cantatas, 9 symphonies, and 162 songs. He was active as writer of part-songs, literature for the many amateur choirs appearing throughout the country. He was knighted in 1883 on the same day as Arthur Sullivan and George Grove. His brother Walter Macfarren (1826-1905) was a pianist, composer and professor of the Royal Academy.

Tell me where is Fancy bred,  
Or in the heart or in the head?  
How begot, how nourishèd?  
Reply, reply.  
It is engender'd in the eyes,  
With gazing fed; and Fancy dies  
In the cradle where it lies.  
Let us all ring Fancy's knell:  
I'll begin it,  
Ding, dong, bell.

*Merchant of Venice*  
Act 3, Scene 2  
William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

# Tell me where is fancy bred

G. A. Macfarren

♩ = 84

S  
A  
T  
B

Tell me where is Fan - cy bred, tell me, tell me, Tell mewhere is

Tell me where is Fan - cy bred, tell me, tell me, Tell mewhere is

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

6

S  
A  
T  
B

Fan - cy bred, where? where? Or in the heart or in the

Fan - cy bred, where? where? Or in the heart

*f*

*p*

*cresc.*

## Tell me where is fancy bred

10

S

A

T

B

head? How be-got, how nou - rish-èd? Re - ply, re - ply, re -

or in the head? how be-got, how nou - rish-èd? Re - ply, re - ply, re -

*cresc.* *mf* *p* *cresc.* *f*

15

S

A

T

B

ply, re - ply. Where, where, where?

ply, re - ply. Where, where, where?

It is en - gen-der'd in the eyes, with

It is en - gen-der'd in the eyes, with

*mf* *mf* *p* *mf*

19

S

A

T

B

ga - zing fed; \_\_\_\_\_ It is en - gen-der'd in the eyes with

ga - zing fed; \_\_\_\_\_ It is en - gen-der'd in the eyes with

Where, where, where?

Where, where, where?

*p* *p*

# Tell me where is fancy bred

23 *espress.*  
S ga - - - zing\_ fed; and Fan - cy dies, In the  
A ga - - - zing\_ fed; and Fan - cy dies, In the  
T in the eyes? *mf* dies,  
B in the eyes? *mf* dies,

27 *sf* *p*  
S cra - dle where it\_ lies, dies, dies,  
A cra - dle where it\_ lies, *sf* *p* dies, dies,  
T dies, *p*  
B dies, *p*

31 *rit.* *a tempo* *p*  
S In the cra - dle where it lies; Let us all ring  
A dies, where it lies; *a tempo* *p* Let us all ring  
T Let us all ring *a tempo* *p*  
B

## Tell me where is fancy bred

35

*cresc.* *p*

S Fan - cy's knell, let us all ring Fan - cy's knell;—

A *cresc.* *p*  
Fan - cy's knell, let us all ring Fan - cy's knell;

T *cresc.* *p*  
Fan - cy's knell, let us all ring, let us all ring Fan - cy's

B *p*  
let us all ring Fan - cy's

39

S let us all ring Fan - cy's knell;—

A let us all ring Fan - cy's knell;

T *mf*  
knell, ring Fan - cy's knell; I'll be - gin it,

B knell, ring Fan - cy's knell;

43

*pp*

S Let us all ring Fan - cy's knell, —

A *pp*  
Let us all ring Fan - cy's knell, —

T *pp*  
Ding dong bell, ding dong bell, ding dong bell, ding dong bell,

B *pp*  
Ding dong bell, ding dong bell, ding dong bell, ding ding bell,

# Tell me where is fancy bred

47

S Fan - cy's knell, Let us all *cresc.* ring Fan - cy's knell,

A Fan - cy's knell, Let us all *cresc.* ring Fan - cy's knell,

T ding dong bell, ding dong bell, *cresc.* ding dong bell, ding dong bell,

B ding dong bell, ding dong bell, *cresc.* ding dong bell, ding dong bell,

51

S *dim.* Fan - cy's knell, *p* Ding dong bell, *cresc.* ding dong bell,

A *dim.* Fan - cy's knell, *p* Ding dong bell, *cresc.* ding dong bell,

T *dim.* ding dong bell, *p* ding dong bell, *cresc.* ding dong bell,

B *dim.* ding dong bell, *p* ding dong bell, *cresc.* ding dong bell,

56

S ding ding ding dong bell, *ff* ding dong bell. *pp*

A ding ding ding dong bell, *ff* ding dong bell. *pp*

T dong dong ding ding bell, *ff* ding dong bell. *pp*

B dong dong ding dong bell, *ff* ding dong bell. *pp*

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