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Dear Little Boy of Mine

Ernest R. Ball

J Keirn Brennan

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Dear Little Boy Of Mine

Oft when I'm lonely my memory swings
Back to your baby days,
Feeling the joys that a baby brings
Out of God's wondrous ways;
Seeming to hear the first pray'r that you said,
Longing to tuck you in bed—
There's no one knows how I long for you now,
Here with my arms outspread.

Boy of mine, Boy of mine,
Altho' my heart was aching,
I seemed to know you'd want to go,
Pride in your manhood waking.
I'll be here, waiting, dear,
Till at a glad dawn's breaking,
I'll hear you say you're home to stay,
Dear little boy of mine,
Dear little boy of mine.

Out of the mist of those wonderful years,
I see your baby smile,
Days when I kissed you and dried your tears
Seem such a little while;
Hearing the words mother taught you to say,
Watch you at your childish play,
For always in dreams, you're with me it seems,
Just as you'll be some day.

J. Keirn Brennan

DEAR LITTLE BOY OF MINE

Lyric by
J. KEIRN BRENNAN

Music by
ERNEST R. BALL

Moderately with expression

The piano introduction is in 8/8 time, marked 'Moderately with expression'. It begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The right hand features a series of chords and arpeggiated figures, while the left hand provides a steady bass line with some triplet patterns. The piece concludes with a *rit.* (ritardando) and a *tr.* (trill) on the final note.

The first vocal entry is in 8/8 time, marked *p* (piano). The melody is simple and sweet, with lyrics: "Oft when I'm lone-ly my mem-o-ry swings Back to your ba-by days, / Out of the mist of those won-der-ful years, I see your ba-by smile,". The piano accompaniment consists of chords and arpeggiated figures in both hands.

The second vocal entry continues the melody in 8/8 time. The lyrics are: "Feel-ing the joys that a ba-by brings Out of God's won-drous ways / Days when I kissed you and dried your tears Seem such a lit-tle while—". The piano accompaniment continues with chords and arpeggiated figures.

Seem-ing to hear the first pray'r that you said, Long-ing to tuck you in bed — There's
Hear-ing the words moth-er taught you to say, Watch you at your child-ish play — For

no one knows how I long for you now, Here with my arms out spread. —
al-ways in dreams you're with me, it seems, Just as you'll be some day. —

rit.

Tenderly with much expression

Boy of mine, Boy of mine, Al - tho' my heart was

ach - ing — I seemed to know you'd want to go,

8 *accel.*

Pride in your man - hood wak - ing I'll be here,

a tempo *rit.* *a tempo*

wait - ing, dear, Till at a glad dawn's break - ing I'll

8

hear you say you're home to stay, Dear lit - tle boy of

mine Dear lit - tle boy of mine mine.

1. 2. *rit.* *h.*