

Breathe It Softly to My Loved Ones

Words by
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Music by
John Rogers Thomas

Andante

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It begins with a piano introduction in E-flat major, 4/4 time, marked 'Andante'. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand and a melody in the right hand. The voice enters at measure 5 with three verses. The lyrics are: 1. Com - rades there are dear ones gath - ered In our cot - tage home to - 2. There is one a - mong those loved ones, Dear - er far than all the 3. Tell my fa - ther, sis - ter, broth - er, That their ab - sent one was night, rest; slain, Think - ing of the ab - sent sol - dier, Tell her we shall meet in heav - en, 'Neath the ban - ner of his coun - try, The score includes three systems of music. The first system is the piano introduction. The second system contains the first three verses of the song. The third system continues the song, including the lyrics 'night, rest; slain, Think - ing of the ab - sent sol - dier, Tell her we shall meet in heav - en, 'Neath the ban - ner of his coun - try,'. The piano part continues with a consistent accompaniment throughout.

5

1. Com - rades there are dear ones gath - ered In our cot - tage home to -
2. There is one a - mong those loved ones, Dear - er far than all the
3. Tell my fa - ther, sis - ter, broth - er, That their ab - sent one was

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night, rest; slain, Think - ing of the ab - sent sol - dier,
Tell her we shall meet in heav - en,
'Neath the ban - ner of his coun - try,

Breathe It Softly to My Loved Ones

11

Cm A^b E^b/B^b B^b7 E^b B^b7 E^b B^b7

And I see their fac - es bright, To those loved ones best and
 In the man-sions of the blest. Breathe it soft - ly to that
 On the gor - y bat - tle plain. Breathe it soft - ly Oh, my

14

E^b sus E^b F7/C F7(omit 5) B^b A^{dim} C D dim

dear - est, Gen - tly boys the sto - ry tell,
 Moth - er, Who has prayed for me through all,
 Com - rades, With a broth - er's kind - ly breath,

17

E^b A^b/E^b E^b Cm B^b7 E^b N.C.

Breathe it soft - ly, Oh! so soft - ly, How the sol - dier fought and fell.
 That I fought as sol - diers should fight, That I fell as he - roes fall.
 That the flag in life a - bove me, Was my wind - ing sheet in death.

3

E_b

21

pp

cresc.

Breathe it soft - ly!

Breathe it soft - ly!

Breathe it

cresc.

pp

pp

cresc.

Breathe it soft - ly!

Breathe it soft - ly! Breathe it

cresc.

pp

cresc.

pp

24

E♭
B♭

E_b A dim7

Bb

Bb7

pp

soft - ly to the loved ones near and dear. _____ Breathe it soft - ly! Oh so

Breathe it soft - ly!

Oh so

pp

dear, near and dear.

pp

soft - ly to the loved ones near and dear, near and dear.

Breathe it soft - ly!

pp

pp

27

E♭ *E♭/G* *E♭* *B♭7* *E♭* *N.C.*

p *p* *cresc.* *cresc.* *p* *p* *cresc.* *p*

soft - ly! That a strang - er can - not, can - not hear.

Oh so soft - ly! That a strang - er can - not, can - not hear.

30