

The Silkworm and the Spider

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The musical score is written for two parts: Silkworm and Spider. It is in the key of D major (one sharp) and common time (C). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 84. The score is divided into three systems, each with a Silkworm staff on top and a Spider staff on the bottom. The Silkworm part begins with a whole rest followed by a dotted quarter note, then continues with a melody of eighth and quarter notes. The Spider part begins with a whole rest, then continues with a melody of eighth and quarter notes, often with a bass line of eighth notes. The score concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

After receiving an order for twenty yards of silk from Princess Lioness, the Silkworm sat down at her loom and worked with zeal. A Spider soon came around and began building a web near where the Silkworm was working. The Spider worked so rapidly that in a short time the web was finished. "Just look at it," she said, "and see how grand and delicate it is. You have to admit that I'm a much better worker than you." The Silkworm answered: "Yes, but your webs are designed only as traps. They are destroyed whenever they are seen, and brushed away as useless dirt; while mine are stored away, as ornaments of Royalty."