

Evening Song / Sonntag / SSA with Kbd & Opt Fl

Evening Song

DAWN LENORE SONNTAG

SSA Voices with Keyboard and Optional Flute

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Program Notes

Evening Song was composed for the University of Minnesota Women's Chorus and premiered in 2007 with myself conducting. When I discovered the poetry of Sidney Lanier (1842–1881), I was immediately inspired by its passionate and vivid visual imagery. Lanier was not only a teacher, lawyer, and writer who later taught at Johns Hopkins University, but he was also an accomplished flutist, and played the organ, violin, and guitar as well. His inspiration for *Evening Song* arose from his experience as a Civil-War prisoner stationed at an isolated prison camp near Chesapeake Bay, where his evening flute improvisations lifted the morale of his fellow prisoners.

—Dawn Sonntag

About the Composer

Composer, conductor, singer and pianist Dawn Lenore Sonntag (b. 1962) has composed chamber music, songs, choral works, and orchestral music. Sonntag's composition teachers have included Alex Lubet, Claude Baker, Igor Karaca, and Burkhard Kinzler. Her choral works have been performed by college, community, and church choirs in Germany, France, Norway, and across the United States. In addition to her compositional activities, Sonntag has performed nationally and internationally as a soprano soloist and collaborative pianist specializing in German and Norwegian art-song repertoire. A self-taught pianist until the age of 18, Sonntag began formal studies in trumpet and piano performance at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where she also studied voice and choral conducting, completing undergraduate music studies at the University of Texas at El Paso. Sonntag holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Minnesota, a Master of Music degree in choral conducting from Ohio State University, a Master of Arts degree in vocal performance from Antioch University, Tübingen, Germany, and a graduate-level artist's diploma in piano performance from the Hochschule für Kirchenmusik, Heidelberg, Germany, where she was winner of the Inge Pitler Lied competition in both piano and voice. Sonntag has held teaching appointments in music theory at the University of Minnesota and the College of Saint Catherine. Currently, she is Assistant Professor of Music at Hiram College, where she heads the theory and composition department.

Evening Song

for SSA Voices with Keyboard and Optional Flute*

DAWN LENORE SONNTAG

Words by
Sidney Lanier
(1842–1881)

Flute

Flowing ♩ = ca. 100

mf

Keyboard

Flowing ♩ = ca. 100

mp

simile

4

Soprano 1

mp

Look off, dear

Soprano 2

mp

Look off, dear

Alto

mf

*The optional flute part can be found on page 12.

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7

love, a-cross the sal - low sands, and

love, a-cross the sal - low sands, and

mp
a - cross the sal - low sands, and

p *mf*

10

mark yon meet - ing of the sun and the

mark yon meet - ing of the sun and the

mark yon meet - ing of the sun and the

12 *mf*
sea. How long they
mf
sea. How long they
mf
sea. How long they

14
kiss in sight of all the lands,
kiss in sight of all the lands,
kiss in sight of all the

17

long - er, long - er - er

long - er, long - er - er

lands, long - er

mp 3 3 3

19

pp *mf*

we. Now

pp *mf*

we. Now

pp *mf*

we. Now

3 3 3 3 3 3

21

in the sea's red vin - tage melts the sun, As

in the sea's red vin - tage melts the sun, As

in the sea's red vin - tage melts the sun, As

simile

23

E - gypt's pearl dis-solved in ro - sy wine, and

E - gypt's pearl dis-solved in ro - sy wine, and

E - gypt's pearl dis-solved in ro - sy wine, and

tr

31 *mf*

Come forth, sweet stars, _____ and com - fort

mf

Come forth, sweet stars, _____ and com - fort

mp

34 *f*

hea - ven's heart; Glim - mer, ye waves, round

f

hea - ven's heart; Glim - mer ye waves, round

f

Glim - mer ye waves, round

f

37

else un-light - ed sands. O night! di -

else un-light - ed sands, - O night! di -

else un-light - ed sands, O night! di -

tr

ff

f

ff

f

ff

ff

ff

40

-vorce our sun and sky a - part, *pp*

-vorce our sun and sky a - apart *pp*

div. *pp*

-vorce our sun and sky *pp*

tr

p

p

p

43 *mp*

Ne - ver our lips,

mp

Ne - ver our lips,

unis. *mp*

Ne - ver, ne - ver our lips,

mf *p*

46 *pp*

our hands.

div. unis. *pp*

our hands.

pp

our hands.

mp *p*

pp

Flute

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for SSA Voices with Keyboard and Optional Flute

Words by
Sidney Lanier
(1842–1881)

Music by
DAWN LENORE SONNTAG

Flowing ♩ = ca. 100

5

11

17

21

25

29

33

37

41

45



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