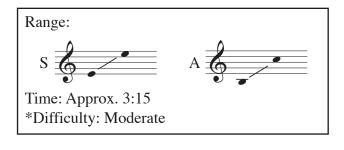
Srilee Music

NIGHT WINDS

SA, accompanied

Music by L. FARNELL





Performance Notes

Joseph Cotter, Jr., (1895-1919) was born and raised in Kentucky and was the son of a self-taught educator, poet, and playwright. His grandmother, African American slave Martha Vaughn, was noted for her natural story-telling ability and was sent away from the plantation where she worked because her owners feared that her vivid stories would disrupt discipline among the other slaves.

Cotter, Jr. followed in his father's footsteps and became a poet, but died of tuberculosis at age 23 after only four short years of writing poetry. However, within his short lifetime and despite his illness, he established himself as a poet of genuine promise and achievement. Cotter's poetry covered a number of subjects from nature to the racial situation of African Americans in his time. He is considered to be one of the predecessors of the 1920s African American cultural renaissance in which African-American artists and intellectuals embraced black dignity and creativity in their art.

The poem "Night Winds" is from the collection Poems published after Cotter's death. The night winds have been characterized in many literary works, including this poem of Cotter's, as having a sad, longing, melancholy quality. However, in this text, Cotter asks how the wind can be sad or lonely with such beautiful companions as the stars and moon in the summer sky.

Using lots of air, a hushed tone, and a very legato style in this piece will help depict the dreamy scene described in the poem. Also, work to sustain the first vowel (the ah vowel) as long as possible on words with diphthongs, such as "why", "night", and "sigh".

NIGHT WINDS

SA, accompanied

Words by JOSEPH COTTER, Jr., alt. and L.F.

Music by L. FARNELL

















