

# NIGHT WINDS

SA, accompanied

Music by  
L. FARNELL

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Range:



Time: Approx. 3:15

\*Difficulty: Moderate

## 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

$\text{♩} = 88$   
*mp legato*

5 (opt. unis.)  
*mp*

S  
A

Slen - der moon, sil - ver sheen,  
sil - ver sheen,

9  
Gold - en stars, blue be - tween,  
blue be - tween,

*slight accel.*

Dream - y sum-mer sky, still the night winds sigh.

*slight accel.*

Dream - y sum-mer sky, still the night winds sigh.

*slight accel.*

♩ = ca. 96

*mf*

Why do the night winds sigh? Oh, why do they sigh?

*mel. mf*

Why do the night winds sigh? Why do they sigh?

*mf*

♩ = ca. 96

*mel.*

Up in the sum - mer sky, Oh, why have they cause to cry? With the

Up in the sum - mer sky, why have they cause to cry? With the

25

sil - ver moon to whis - per to and the gold - en stars to

sil - ver moon to whis - per to and the gold - en stars to

28

kiss a - mid the blue of a sum-mer sky, why do the

kiss a - mid the blue of a sum-mer sky, why do the

32

night winds sigh?

night winds sigh?

*mp*

36 (opt. unis.) *mp*

Drift - ing clouds, gleam - ing

gleam - ing

40

light, hush of eve, cool of

light, cool of

44

night, Dream - y sum-mer sky, still the night winds

night, Dream - y sum-mer sky, still the night winds

48 *slight accel.* **mf**

sigh. *slight accel.* **mel. mf** Why do the night winds sigh? Oh, why do they

sigh. Why do the night winds sigh? Why do they

*slight accel.* **mf**

52

sigh? Up in the sum - mer sky, Oh, why have they

sigh? Up in the sum - mer sky, why have they

56 **mel.**

cause to cry? With the sil - ver moon to whis - per to and the

cause to cry? With the sil - ver moon to whis - per to and the

**f**

8  
59

gold - en stars to kiss a - mid the blue of a sum-mer sky, \_\_\_\_\_

gold - en stars to kiss a - mid the blue of a sum-mer sky, \_\_\_\_\_

(bring out lower RH melody notes in mm. 59-60)

63

♩ = 88

why do the night winds sigh?

why do the night winds sigh?

*mf*

*mp* slowing to the end

67

*p*

Why do the night winds sigh?

*p*

Why do the night winds sigh?

*p*

*ppp*

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