A Song of Night

LAURA FARNELL

SATB Voices with Keyboard



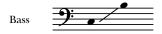
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Performance Notes

SING me a sweet, low song of night
Before the moon is risen,
A song that tells of the stars' delight
Escaped from day's bright prison,
A song that croons with the cricket's voice,
That sleeps with the shadowed trees,
A song that shall bid my heart rejoice
At its tender mysteries!

And then when the song is ended, love,
Bend down your head unto me,
Whisper the word that was born above
Ere the moon had swayed the sea;
Ere the oldest star began to shine,
Or the farthest sun to burn,—
The oldest of words, O heart of mine,
Yet newest, and sweet to learn.

In "Song of Night", based on a poem by poet Hildegard Hawthorne, the writer asks for the beauty of nightfall to inspire a song of love that will in turn encourage the singer to whisper the "oldest of words" - the words of love.

Singing "Song of Night" with a smooth, legato style will help depict the serenity of twilight described in the poetry. The legato singing will also provide contrast between the harmonic dissonances (two or more notes that clash and provide tension or excitement in the music) and their resolutions.

Strive to build and relax each phrase by performing the dynamics notated. Take special care to either crescendo or decrescendo on each of the long, sustained notes as marked. Finally, as you sing, keep the meaning and beauty of the words in your heart and mind so that both you and your audience can savor this lovely text.

—Laura Farnell

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Based on a poem by Hildegarde Hawthorne for SATB Voices with Keyboard

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