

A Song of Night / Farnell / SATB with Kbd

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, 5
 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, 10
 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. 15

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

A Song of Night

Based on a poem by
Hildegard Hawthorne

for SATB Voices with Keyboard

LAURA FARNELL

Keyboard

$\text{♩} = 92$

p

5 *p*

Sing to me a gen - tle song of night Be - fore the

9 *p*

moon has reached its lof - ty height

Sing to me

p

p

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13

cresc.

a song of star's de - light, Re - leased to shine a - bove, *cresc.*

cresc.

17

mf 3

free from the day so bright. And when this song has reached its

mf 3

mf 3

21

end, Bend your head to me Whis - per the words that were

3

3

25

born far a-bove, ere the moon had swayed the sea, ere the bright-est

29

star did shine: Old-est of words, e-ven old-er than time, and this

32

heart of mine will stop to hear your song.

unis.

p

p Sing to me _____ a sweet, low

p

40

mel - o - dy That drifts on dark - ened breeze in -

43

vis - i - bly Sing to me _____ a song of

p

47

cresc.

shad - owed trees that bids my heart re - joice at all its

cresc.

cresc.

51

mf

mys - te - ries And when this song has reached its end,

mf

mf

55

Bend your head to me Whis - per the words that were

58

born far a - bove, ere the moon had swayed the sea, ere the bright - est

62

star did shine: Old - est of words, e - ven old - er than time, and this heart of mine will

66

unis.
stop to hear your song.

Dark - ness frees the stars to shine;

70 *mf*

So may your song of night Re - lease this *mf*

73 *cresc.* *rit.* *f* 3

heart of mine to hear your song. And when this

cresc. *rit.* *f* 3

76 *a tempo*

song has reached its end, Bend your head to me

a tempo

The musical score is for a song, spanning measures 70 to 76. It is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features a consistent eighth-note bass line throughout. The vocal line includes lyrics in English. Dynamics are marked as *mf* (mezzo-forte) at the beginning, *cresc.* (crescendo) in measures 73-75, *rit.* (ritardando) in measures 73-75, and *f* (forte) in measures 73-75. There are triplets of eighth notes in measures 73-75. The tempo is marked *a tempo* at the beginning and end of the section. The score is watermarked 'For Screen Use Only'.

Whis-per the words that were born far a-bove, ere the moon hadswayed the sea, ____

ere the bright-est star did shine: Old-est of words, e-ven old-er than time, and this

heart of mine will stop to hearyour song

p *rit.* *p* *rit.*

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