

Flame and Shadow

music for SATB choir

Winner of the Six Degree Singers' 2015 Young Composers Competition

Rachel Carlson, director

David Archer

Stars

Alone in the night on a dark hill
With pines around me spicy and still,

And a heaven full of stars over my head
White and topaz and misty red;

Myriads with beating hearts of fire
That aeons cannot vex or tire;

Up the dome of heaven like a great hill
I watch them marching, stately and still,

And I know that I am honored to be
Witness of so much majesty.

Sara Teasdale (1884-1933)



Première by Six Degree Singers
Rachel Carlson, director
May 30, 2015
Bethesda, Maryland

Program Notes

On a clear night, the stars are a spectacle, shining down on us with permanent, vast riches. However, looking into the giant universe can also feed our feelings of insignificance. To me, the night sky is a reminder of both peace and pain.

While writing this music, I imagined myself out in the wilderness, on a dark hill, away from the cares of the world, but alone with my thoughts. The voices weave a tapestry of contemplation over the words “Alone in the night...”. They eventually build, evoking “beating hearts of fire” in all their majesty, celebrating the infinite skyscape. Maybe we aren’t as alone as we thought?

Duration: ~ 5' 30"

See, hear, purchase, and read about more choral music at www.davidarcher.net. You can contact me at david@soundstone.ca. I'd love to hear from you!

Flame and Shadow

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

rehearsal only

6

S

A

T

B

SAMPLE COPY Flame and Shadow

12

S night, a - lone in the night on a dark hill

A hill, a - lone in the night on a dark hill, on a dark

T hill, a - lone, a - lone on a dark hill, on a dark

B a - lone in the night on a dark hill

18

S with pines a - round me spi-cy and still. And a

A hill, with pines a - round me spi-cy and still. And a

T with pines a - round me spi-cy and still. And a

B spi-cy and still.

B

S
heav - en full of stars, and a heav - en full of stars,

A
heav - en full of stars, and a heav - en full of stars,

T
heav - en full of stars, Oh, heav - en full of stars,

B
O - ver my head. O - ver my

mp

C

S
white and to - paz and mist - y red. My - ri - ads with

A
white and to - paz and mist - y red. My - ri -

T
Oh, white and to - paz and mist - y red. My - ri - ads with

B
head, white and to - paz and mist - y red. My - ri -

mf *f*

SAMPLE COPY Flame and Shadow

32

S
beat - ing hearts, beat - ing hearts of fire,

A
ads with beat - ing hearts, beat - ing hearts of fire,

T
beat - ing, beat - ing hearts, beat - ing hearts of fire,

B
ads with beat - ing hearts, beat - ing hearts of fire,

35

S
mp beat - ing hearts of fire, *f* beat - ing hearts of fire, *mp* that

A
mp beat - ing hearts of fire, *f* beat - ing hearts of fire, *mp* that

T
mp beat - ing hearts of fire, *f* beat - ing hearts of fire, *mp* that ae - ons can - not

B
mp beat - ing hearts of fire, *f* beat - ing hearts of fire, *mp* that ae - ons can - not

38 D

S ae-ons can-not vex or tire. Oh

A ae-ons can-not vex or tire. Oh

T vex or tire. Up the dome of heav-en like a

B vex or tire.

44 E

S Up the dome, up the

A up the dome of heav-en like a

T great hill, up the dome of heav-en like a great hill, like a

B Up the dome, up the

SAMPLE COPY Flame and Shadow

50

S dome of heav-en like a great hill, I watch them

A great hill, like a great hill, like a great hill, I watch them

T great hill, like a great hill, like a great I watch them

B dome, heav-en like a great hill,

56

S march-ing state-ly and still And I

A march - ing state-ly and still And I

T march - ing state-ly and still. And I know that I am

B state-ly and still. And I know that I am

F

61

S know that I am hon-ored to be, hon-ored to be, and I

A know that I am hon-ored to be, — hon-ored to be, and I

T hon-ored to be, and I know that I am hon-ored to be, and I

B hon-ored to be, and I know that I am hon-ored to be, hon - ored to be, — and I

66

S know that I am hon-ored to be wit-ness of so much ma - je -

A know that I am — hon-ored to be — wit-ness of so much ma - je -

T know that I am — hon-ored to be wit-ness of so much ma - je - sty.

B know — that I am hon-ored to be — wit-ness of so much ma - je -

G

f

S
sty, beat - ing hearts, beat - ing hearts of fire,

A
sty, beat - ing hearts, beat - ing hearts, beat - ing hearts of fire,

T
My - ri - ads with beat - ing, beat - ing hearts, beat - ing hearts of fire,

B
sty, My - ri - ads with beat - ing hearts, beat - ing hearts of fire,

H

S
mp beat - ing hearts of fire, beat - ing hearts of fire, *f* ma - je - sty, *mf* ma -

A
mp beat - ing hearts of fire, beat - ing hearts of fire, *mf* ma - je - sty, ma -

T
mp beat - ing hearts of fire, beat - ing hearts of fire, *f* ma - je - sty, *mf* ma - je - sty, ma -

B
mp beat - ing hearts of fire, beat - ing hearts of fire, *f* ma - je - sty, *mf* ma - je - sty, ma -

78 *f* *mf* *mp* *p*

S - - je - sty, ma - je - sty, ma - je - sty.

A - - je - sty, ma - je - sty, ma - je - sty.

T - - je - sty, ma - je - sty, ma - je - sty.

B - - je - sty, ma - je - sty, ma - je - sty.

84 **I** *p*

S A - lone in the night on a dark — hill,

A *pp* Oh on a

T *p* A - lone in the night on a dark — hill, A - lone in the night on a

B *pp* a few basses Oh

12 Flame and Shadow

SAMPLE COPY

97

S Oh _____ A -

A dark hill, a lone in the night on a dark hill. Oh _____

T dark hill, a lone _____ A lone in the

B Oh _____ A lone in the night on a dark _____

98

S lone in the night on a dark hill. A lone in the night.

A lone in the night.

T night on a dark hill. A lone in the night.

B hill, rit. in the night.