

Christopher Beardsley

Night
for SSAATB choir

NIGHT begins with a setting of my own words, which are influenced by brief quotations (or, more generally, misquotations) from many sources. This has the effect of hearing the words as if in a dream. For instance, the opening words “Now, Welcome Night” are taken from Spenser’s “Epithalamion” and “Star desirous flutter-down moth” can be attributed to Shelley in his *To —, One Word is Too Often Profaned*.

*“The desire of the moth for the star
Of the night for the morrow”*

The second section is a setting of Gerard Manley Hopkins’ poem “The Starlight Night”.

Night

“Now welcome, night.”
Profound, distant, rich, jewel-hung night
Spearing stars, glinting, glistening.

Hide-and-peek moon;
Full. – Glaring, blaring on harvest home,
Icy pond; shadow, half-shadow.

Chimney-moan wind.
Pitter, pattering roof-top rain
Rhythmed sleep-forgotten music.

Night borrowers.
Star desirous flutter-down moth,
Silent winged, owl-hoot darkness.

Darkness falling, falling to
Silence.

© *The composer*

The Starlight Night

Look at the stars! look, look up at the skies!
O look at all the fire-folk sitting in the air!
The bright boroughs, the circle-citadels there!
Down in dim woods the diamond delves! the elves’-eyes!
The grey lawns cold where gold, where quickgold lies!
Wind-beat whitebeam! airy abeles set on a flare!
Flake-doves sent floating forth at a farmyard scare! —
Ah well! it is all a purchase, all is prize.

Buy then! bid then! — What? — Prayer, patience, alms, vows.
Look, look: a May-mess, like on orchard boughs!
Look! March-bloom, like on mealed-with-yellow shallows!
These are indeed the barn; withindoors house
The shocks. This piece-bright paling shuts the spouse
Christ home, Christ and his Mother and all his hallows.

Gerard Manley Hopkins

Duration: approximately 7 minutes

Night

1. Night

Christopher Beardsley

4

Slow, with rubato ($\text{♩} = c48$)

f warmly *div.* *f unis.*

Soprano
"Now wel - come, night." — wel - come, wel - come,

Alto
"Now wel - come, night." — wel - come, wel - come,

Tenor
"Now wel - come, night." — wel - come, wel - come,

Bass
"Now wel - come, night." — wel - come, wel - come,

Piano
(for rehearsal only)
f warmly

Detailed description: This system contains the first two measures of the vocal and piano parts. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) are in 4/4 time and feature a melodic line with lyrics. The piano accompaniment is in 4/4 time and provides harmonic support. Performance markings include 'f warmly', 'div.', and 'f unis.'.

5 *div.* *unis. p* *div. f*

night. — Pro - found, rich, jewel - hung

night. — Pro - found, rich, jewel - hung

night. — dis - tant; rich, jewel -

night. — Pro - found, rich, jewel - hung

p *p* *f*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 5 through 8. The vocal parts continue with lyrics and melodic lines. The piano accompaniment continues with harmonic support. Performance markings include 'div.', 'unis. p', 'div. f', and dynamic markings 'p' and 'f'. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 2/4 and back to 4/4.

9

unis. night. night. div. night.

unis. night. night.

8 hung night. night.

night. night. night.

Brisk (♩=c120)

12 unis. *mf* flowing

Spear - - - ing stars,

mf flowing

Spear - - - ing stars,

mf flowing

Spear - - - ing stars,

mf flowing

Spear - - - ing stars,

mf flowing

Brisk (♩=c120)

15

glin - ting, glist - en - ing. Hide- seek

glin - ting, glist-en - ing. and- seek

glin - ting, glis - ten - ing. Hide- seek

glin - ting, glis-ten- ing. Hide- seek

19

poco rit. -----> *a tempo* (♩=c120)

div. *f* — *p* — *f* unis. *p* — *f* — *p*

moon, Full. — Glar - ing, blar - ar - ing

moon, Full. — Glar - ing, blar - ar - ing

moon, Full. — Glar - ing, blar - ar - ing

moon; Full. — Glar - ing, blar - ar - ing

poco rit. -----> *a tempo* (♩=c120)

22 *mf* flowing

on har - - - - - vest home,

on har - - - - - vest home,

on har - - - - - vest home,

on har - - - - - vest home,

mf flowing

25 *f* *gliss.* *>* *mf* *Slower* (♩=84) ----- *A tempo* (♩=c120)

I - cy pond; sha - - - - - dow,

I cy pond; sha - dow, half - sha - dow.

I - cy pond; sha - dow, sha - dow, sha - dow,

I - cy pond; sha - - - - - dow, half - sha - dow.

f *gliss.* *>* *mf* *Slower* (♩=84) ----- *A tempo* (♩=c120)

half- - - sha - - - dow. Chim - - - ney-
 Chim -
 half- - - sha - - - dow. Chim - - -
 Chim -

31
 moan
 - ney- moan
 - ney- moan
 - ney- moan
 wi - i* - i - i - i - i - ind. wi -
 wi - i* - wi - i - ind.
 wi - i* - i - i - i - wind. wi -
 wi - i* - i - i - i - ind.
 * pronounced "hi" as in "hill"

41 ($\leftarrow \text{♩} = \text{♩} \rightarrow$) ($\leftarrow \text{♩} = \text{♩} \rightarrow$)

unis. *mf*

rhy - hy - hy - hy - hy-hy - hy - hy - hy - hy - thmed sleep

mf

rhy-hy - hy - hy - hy - hy - hy - hy - hy - hy - thmed

mf

rhy - hy - hy - hy - hy-hy - hy - hy - hy - thmed sleep

mf

rhy - hy - hy - hy - hy - hy - hy - hy - thmed sleep

44 *poco rit.* *A tempo* (♩=c120) *f*

for - got - ten mu - sic. Night

f div.

sleep for - got - ten mu - sic. Night

f

for - got - ten mu - sic. Night

f

for - got - ten mu - sic. Night

poco rit. *A tempo* (♩=c120) *f*

48

p *mf*

Night bor - row - ers. Star de - si - rous

p *mf*

Night bor - row - ers. Star de - si - rous

p *mf*

Night bor - row - ers. Star de - si - rous

p

Night bor - row - ers. Star de - si -

p *mf*

51

rit.

Flu - tter - down moth,

Flu - tter - down moth,

Flu - tter - down moth,

- rous Flu - tter - down moth,

rit.

54

Almost a tempo, but slightly slower.

pp Si - - - - - lent winged

pp Si - - - - - lent winged

pp Si - - - - - lent winged

pp Si - - - - - lent winged

Almost a tempo, but slightly slower.

57

Molto rit.

Slow (♩=c48)

Brisk (♩=c120)

f dark - dark - dark - ness. *mf* unis. Dark - ness fall -

p spoken owl- hoot *div. f* dark - ness *p* unis. *mf* Dark - ness

f dark - ness *p* dark - ness. *mf* Dark - ness

f dark - ness *p* dark - ness. *mf* 3 Dark - ness

Molto rit. Slow (♩=c48) Brisk (♩=c120)

p spoken *f* *p* *mf*

62

ing, Dark - ness fall fall - ing, fall fall - ing *gliss.*

fall - ing, Dark - ness fall - ing, fall fall - ing

fall - ing, Dark - ness fall - ing, fall - ing, fall fall - ing

fall - ing, fall - ing, fall - ing, fall fall - ing

66 **Slow** (♩=c48)

div. p sustained Si - lence. *p unis.* Si - lence.

p sustained Si - lence. *p* Si - lence.

p sustained Si - lence. *p* Si -

p sustained to Si - - - lence. *p* Si -

Slow (♩=c48) *p sustained*

80 *mf* > < *mf* *f* *poco accel.* ----->

stars! stars! stars! stars! stars! stars!

83 **Quicker** (♩=c80)

pp whispered
Look at the stars! Look at the stars! Look at the stars! Look at the

Quicker (♩=c80)

pp whispered

84

p Look up at the skies! *mp* Look up at the skies! *mf* Look up at the skies!

Look up at the skies! Look up at the skies! Look up at the stars! Look at the stars! Look at the stars! Look at the stars!

p Look up at the skies! *mp* Look up at the skies! *mf* Look up at the skies!

Look up at the skies! Look up at the skies! Look up at the stars! Look at the stars! Look at the stars! Look at the stars!

p Look up at the skies! *mf* Look up at the skies!

86 **Joyous** (♩=c144) *f* slightly prominent unis.

O look O look O look O look

f dancing O look O look O look O look

f dancing O look O look O look O look

Joyous (♩=c144) *f* slightly prominent *f* dancing

89

at all the

look at look at all look at all the

look at look at all look at all the

look at look at all look at all the

92

f dancing

fire - folk fire - folk fire - folk fire - folk

fire - fire - folk fire - folk fire - folk fire -

fire - folk fire - folk fire - folk fire - folk

f slightly prominent

fire - - - folk si - tting in the

96

mf slightly prominent *cresc.*

fire- folk si-tting in the air! The bright

folk si-tting in the air! *mf* The bright *cresc.* The bright

fire--folk si-tting in the air! *mf* The bright *cresc.* The bright

air! *mf* The bright *cresc.* The

100

bo - - - roughs,

The bright The bright bo-roughs, The bright bo-roughs,

The bright The bright_ bo-roughs, bright bo-roughs,

bright The bright The bright_ bo-roughs, bright bo-roughs,

103

f the cir - cle - cit - a - dels there! *mp*

f the cir - cle - cit - a - dels there! *mp*

f the cir - cle - cit - a - dels there! *mp*

f the cir - cle - cit - a - dels there! *mp*

f *mp*

107

p Down in dim woods di - a - mond *p div.*

p dim woods di - a - mond *p*

p Down in dim woods di - a - mond delves! the *p slightly prominent*

the

p *p*

110

di - a - mond di - a - mond di - a - mond

di - a - mond di - a - mond di - a - mond

di - a - mond delves! the di - a - mond - delves! the di - a - mond delves! the

di - - - a - - - mond delves!

113

mf the elves' - eyes! *f* The grey

div. *mf* the elves' - eyes! *f* eyes! *p* The grey

mf the elves' - eyes! *f* eyes! *p* The grey

mf the elves' - eyes! *f* eyes! *p* The

mf elves' - eyes! *f* eyes! *p whispered* The greylawns cold The greylawns cold

116

lawns cold gold, where quick - gold lies!

lawns cold gold, where quick - gold

grey lawns cold gold, where

The grey lawns cold The grey lawns cold where gold,

mf unis. *p*

p unis.

p

p slightly prominent

118

gold, where quick - gold lies! gold, where quick - gold lies!

lies! gold, where quick - gold lies! gold, where quick - gold

quick - gold lies! gold, where quick - gold lies! gold, where

where quick - - - - gold

mf *p*

120

gold, where quick-gold lies! Wind-beat white-beam!

lies! gold, quick-gold lies! Wind-beat white-beam!

quick-gold lies gold lies! Wind-beat white-

lies! Wind-beat white-beam!

mp cresc. mp cresc. mp cresc. mp cresc. mp cresc. mp cresc. mp cresc. mp cresc.

123

air - y a - beles set on a flare! Flake - doves

air - y a - beles set on a flare! Flake - doves

beam! air - y a - beles on a flare! Flake - doves

air - y a - beles set on a flare! Flake - doves

f p light f p light f p light f p light

127

sent float - - - ting forth a farm -

sent float - - - ting forth farm -

sent float - - - ting forth at a farm - -

sent float - - - ting forth a

f div.

f

sub f

f

sub f

130

- yardscare! - Ah well! it is all a

- yardscare! - Ah well! Ah well! Ah well!

- yardscare! - Ah well! well! Ah well! Ah

farm-yardscare! - Ah well! it is all a

mf unis.

poco marcato

mf

mf

poco marcato

mf

poco marcato

134 *f* *poco rit.* ----->

pur-chase all is prize.

Ah well! Ah it is all a prize.

well! Ah well! it is all a prize.

pur-chase all is prize.

138 *A tempo* ($\leftarrow \text{♩} = \text{♩} \rightarrow$) *Slower* ($\leftarrow \text{♩} = \text{♩} \rightarrow$ approximately) *rit.* ----->

mf *spoken* *mf* *dim.* *p*

Buy then! bid then! — What?— pa-tience, —

mf *spoken* *mp* *p*

Buy then! bid then! — What?— alms, —

mf *spoken* *mf* *dim.* *p*

Buy then! bid then! — What?— Prayer, —

mf *spoken* *p*

Buy then! bid then! — What?— vows. —

A tempo ($\leftarrow \text{♩} = \text{♩} \rightarrow$) *Slower* ($\leftarrow \text{♩} = \text{♩} \rightarrow$ approximately) *rit.* ----->

mf *spoken* *mf* *dim.* *p*

Tempo primo (♩=144)

144

f *mf* slightly prominent

Look, look, look: a

f *mf*

Look, look, look: look: look: look: a May-

f *mf*

Look, look, look, look: look: look: look: a May-

f *mf*

Look, look, look: look: look: look: a

Tempo primo (♩=144)

f *mf*

147

May- - - mess, like on or - chard

— mess, May- mess, May- mess, like on or - chard

mess, May- mess, May- mess, like on or - chard

May- mess, May- mess, May- mess, like on or - chard

156 (←-♪=♪-→)

(←-♪=♪-→)

mealed- with- yel - low sal - lows! These are in - -

mealed- with- yel - low sal - lows! These are in -

mealed- with- yel - low sal - low! These are in -

mealed- with- yel - low sal - lows! These are in - deed the

159

deed the barn; with - - -

deed the barn; the barn; barn; with -

deed the barn; the barn; barn; with -

barn; are in - deed the barn; barn;

162

in - - - doors house The
 - in - doors in - doors house in - doors
 - in - doors in - doors house in - doors
 with - - - in - doors house in -

165

shocks. This_ piece- piece- bright
 _ house_ The shocks. This_ piece- piece-
 house_ The_ shocks. This_ This_ piece- piece- bright
 - doors - house_ shocks. This piece- - -

sub mp *cresc.*
mp *cresc.*
sub mp *cresc.*
sub mp *slightly prominent* *cresc.*
sub mp *cresc.*

168

bright pal-ing pal-ing shuts_ the_ spouse_ Christ

bright bright pa-ling shuts_ the spouse_ Christ

bright pa-ling pa-ling shuts_ the spouse_ Christ

bright pa - ling shuts the spouse_ Christ

171 *f flowing*

f flowing
Christ home, Christ

f flowing
Christ home, Christ

f flowing
Christ home, Christ

f flowing
Christ home, Christ

175

and his Mother and all his

and his Mother and all all his

and his Mother and all his

and his Mother and all all his

178

ha - - - - - llows.

ha - - - - - llows.

ha - - - - - llows.

ha - - - - - llows.