



Christopher Beardsley
Stars in a Dark Night
for piano solo

Stars in a Dark Night was first performed by John McCabe
at the British Music Centre, London
on 9th December 1997
and, subsequently,
at the Royal Northern College of Music
on 11th December 1997

Duration: approximately 10 minutes

Diptych

1. Stars in a dark night

Quite slow and relaxed (♩=c60)

Poco rit.

Musical notation for measures 1-3. The piece begins in 5/8 time with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a 'gently' instruction. The melody features a series of eighth notes in the right hand, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines. The tempo is marked as 'Quite slow and relaxed' with a quarter note equal to 60 beats per minute. The section concludes with a 'Poco rit.' (slightly ritardando) marking.

A tempo (♩=c60)

Musical notation for measures 4-5. The tempo returns to 'A tempo' (♩=c60). The melody continues with eighth notes, and the left hand accompaniment remains consistent. The dynamic is *p* and the instruction is 'gently'.

Musical notation for measures 6-7. The melody features a series of eighth notes with a crescendo leading to a mezzo-forte (*mp*) dynamic. The left hand accompaniment includes some rests and eighth notes. The dynamic for the final measure is *p*.

Musical notation for measures 8-10. The melody continues with eighth notes, marked with a mezzo-forte (*mp*) dynamic that transitions to piano (*p*). The instruction 'lazily' is present. The left hand accompaniment includes some rests and eighth notes.

Poco accel. -----> A tempo (♩=c60)

Musical notation for measures 11-13. The tempo is marked 'Poco accel.' (slightly accelerating) which then returns to 'A tempo' (♩=c60). The dynamic is *sub p* (sub-piano). The instruction 'poco scherzando' (slightly playful) is present. The left hand accompaniment includes some rests and eighth notes.

Musical notation for measures 14-15. The tempo is 'A tempo' (♩=c60). The melody continues with eighth notes, marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic and the instruction 'gently'. The left hand accompaniment includes some rests and eighth notes.

17 A little slower

, Quicker (♩=c104)

poco cresc.

Musical score for measures 17-19. Measure 17 starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 7/8 time signature. The bass line has a 3/8 time signature. Dynamics include *p* and *warmly*. Measure 18 changes to a 4/8 time signature. Measure 19 continues in 4/8 with dynamics *p* and *flowing*.

20

(← ♩ → *sempre*)

Musical score for measures 20-22. Measure 20 continues in 4/8. Measure 21 changes to a 2/8 time signature with a *mf* dynamic. Measure 22 changes to a 12/32 time signature with a *p* dynamic and the instruction *light and dancing*.

23

Musical score for measures 23-25. Measure 23 changes to a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb) and a 4/8 time signature. Measures 24 and 25 continue in 4/8.

26

p flowing

Musical score for measures 26-28. Measure 26 changes to a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 6/32 time signature. Measure 27 continues in 6/32. Measure 28 changes to a 4/8 time signature with a *p* dynamic and the instruction *flowing*.

29

p light and flowing

Musical score for measures 29-31. Measure 29 continues in 4/8. Measure 30 changes to a 12/32 time signature. Measure 31 continues in 12/32 with a *p* dynamic and the instruction *light and flowing*.

32

6/32

35

f *p*

6/32 4/8 12/32 6/8

38

f *p* *mf*

3/8 12/32 4/8 12/32

41

f

12/32 3/8 4/8 12/32

44

ff *p*

6/8 4/8

Tempo primo (♩=c60)

46 *p* fluid and light

47

49 ($\leftarrow \text{♪} = \text{♪} \rightarrow$, sempre) *mp*

51 *sub p* *mp*

53 *sub p*

55 *p*

56

Measures 56-58. Measure 56: Treble clef, 12/32 time signature, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measure 57: Bass clef, 8/8 time signature, key signature of one flat (Bb). Measure 58: Treble clef, 6/32 time signature, key signature of one sharp (F#). Dynamics: *mp* in measure 57, *mf* in measure 58. Includes triplets and slurs.

59

Measures 59-60. Measure 59: Treble clef, 12/32 time signature, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measure 60: Bass clef, 4/8 time signature, key signature of one flat (Bb). Dynamics: *sempre p*. Includes triplets and slurs.

61

Measures 61-63. Measure 61: Treble clef, 12/32 time signature, key signature of one flat (Bb). Measure 62: Bass clef, 3/8 time signature, key signature of one flat (Bb). Measure 63: Treble clef, 12/32 time signature, key signature of one sharp (F#). Includes triplets and slurs.

64

rit. -----> A tempo (♩=c60)

Measures 64-67. Measure 64: Treble clef, 12/32 time signature, key signature of one flat (Bb). Measure 65: Bass clef, 3/8 time signature, key signature of one flat (Bb). Measure 66: Treble clef, 12/32 time signature, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measure 67: Bass clef, 3/8 time signature, key signature of one flat (Bb). Dynamics: *mf* to *p* in measure 64, *mf* to *p* in measure 67. Includes triplets and slurs.

A tempo (♩=c60)

68

Measures 68-70. Measure 68: Bass clef, 3/8 time signature, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measure 69: Treble clef, 4/8 time signature, key signature of one flat (Bb). Measure 70: Bass clef, 3/8 time signature, key signature of one flat (Bb). Dynamics: *f*. Includes triplets and slurs.

8

Accelerando

71

3 3 3 3 3 3

73

ff *ff*

Quasi cadenza

8^{va}

78

p rapid and fluid

(loco)

sempre p *p*

3 3 3

Rit.

85

p *p*

3 3 3

A tempo

p rapid, fleeting *pp*

3

Very slow (♩=c48)

8va

79

pp distant *p*

(loco)

SONOROUS

Ped.

86

p mp *p p* *p distant*

Ped. *Ped.*

94

p mp *pp* *p*

sonorous

Ped.

100

p mp *mp p* *mp p* *mp*

106 A little quicker (♩=c60)

p *poco* *poco* *mp*

112 Very slow (♩=c48)

mf *p* *p distant*

Ped.

118

p *p* *mp*

122 A little quicker (♩=c60)

p *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *p*

127 A tempo (♩=c60)

Poco accel.

mf

Poco a poco accel.

132

138

A tempo (♩=c60)

ff

ff marcato and very intense

bell-like

141

ff

Becoming less intense

144

f

mf

147

mp

p warmly

152 **Quicker** (♩=c104) *poco cresc.*
p flowing

154 (*← ♩ = ♩ → sempre*)
mf *p light and dancing*

157 *mf*

160 *p flowing* *poco cresc.*

163 *mf* *mf*

166 *f*

169

Molto rit. → Quite slow (♩=c60)

ff *molto* *p* gently

173

177

mp *p* *mf* *p* *p* *p lazily*

181

p warmly *mf*

186

p *p* *p* *p* *pp*