



LONE MOOSE MUSIC

NRK-C130

Strange is the Night

SATB choir unaccompanied

Music by
Nicholas Ryan Kelly

nicholasryankelly.com

Performance Note

To facilitate performance in a virtual choir setting, all **breaths** have been marked. Wherever breaths are marked with a comma, the previous note should be **shortened by an eighth note**. This includes breath marks that precede a rest: since some voices don't have rests at these points, the breath marks ensure that the whole choir breathes together.

These breath marks do not effect the tempo.

Cassilda's Song (text source for Strange is the Night) by Robert W. Chambers

Along the shore the cloud waves break,
The twin suns sink behind the lake,
The shadows lengthen
In Carcosa.

Strange is the night where black stars rise,
And strange moons circle through the skies
But stranger still is
Lost Carcosa.

Songs that the Hyades shall sing,
Where flap the tatters of the King,
Must die unheard in
Dim Carcosa.

Song of my soul, my voice is dead;
Die thou, unsung, as tears unshed
Shall dry and die in
Lost Carcosa.

From *The King in Yellow* (1895)

This text comes from a play that doesn't exist: a book-within-a-book alluded *The King in Yellow*, a collection of horror tales by Robert W. Chambers (1865-1933). The words to "Cassilda's Song" are deliberately cryptic: Chambers wrote them to provide a small glimpse into the world of this fictional play, which drives his characters to psychosis when they read the whole thing. (Don't worry, though: it's only Act 2 of the play that provokes this reaction, but "Cassilda's Song" is from Act 1!)

Since the meaning of this text is deliberately vague (and/or nonexistent), it serves here as a vehicle for musical exploration. Chambers never needed to flesh out the location of Carcosa, the identity of Cassilda, or any of the other fantastical entities alluded to in this poem--but this music explores what they could be like.

Strange is the Night

words:
Robert W. Chambers

music:
Nicholas Ryan Kelly

Darkly majestic ♩ = 72

SOPRANO
Mm, oh, A - long the shore the cloud - waves

ALTO
Mm, oh, A - long the shore the cloud - waves

TENOR
Mm A - long the shore the cloud - waves

BASS
Mm Oh, the cloud - waves

8

Soprano: break. The twin suns sink behind the lake. The shadows leng - then in Car- A

Alto: break. The twin suns sink behind the lake. The shadows leng - then in Car-

Tenor: break. The twin suns sink behind the lake. The shadows leng - then in Car-

Bass: break. The twin - suns sink behind the lake, the lake. Shad - ows leng - then in Car-

This sheet music may only be used for learning and recording your part to the Hallowe'en Virtual Choir. For any other use, please contact the composer at nicholasryankelly@gmail.com.

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Strange is the Night

14 *p* *mf* *mp*

- co - sa. Oh, oh, oh,

p *mf* *mp*

- co - sa. Oh, oh, oh,

p *mf* *mp*

- co - sa. Oh,

p *mf* *p*

- co - sa. Oh,

B 20 *p* *mf*

Strange is the night where black stars rise, and strange moons cir - cle through the

p *mf*

Strange is the night where black stars rise, and strange moons cir - cle through the

p *mf*

Strange is the night where black stars rise, and strange moons cir - cle through the

p *mf*

where black stars rise, and strange moons

26 *p* *p* *f* *poco rit.*

skies, but stranger still is lost Car - co - sa. Oh,

p *p* *f*

skies, but stranger still is lost Car - co...

p *p* *f*

skies, but stranger still is lost Car - co - sa. Oh,

p *p* *f*

cir - cle through the skies, stran - ger still is lost Car - co - sa. Oh,

Strange is the Night

C **Faster** ♩ = 88
pp sub.

31

Songs _____ that the Hy - a - des _____ shall sing _____ where flap the tat - ters of the

Songs that the Hy - a - des _____ shall sing _____ where flap the tat - ters of the

Songs _____ that the Hy - a - des shall sing _____ where flap the tat - ters of the

shall sing, _____ where flap the tat - ters of the

D

37

king _____ must die un - heard, must die _____ un - heard, must

king _____ must die un - heard, must die un - - heard, must

king, of the king must die un - heard, must die un - heard, must

king, the king must die un - heard must die un - heard,

(stagger breathe)

rit.....

E **Tempo I**

43

die _____ un - heard in dim Car - co - sa. Song of my soul, my

die un - heard in _____ dim Car - co - sa. Song of my soul, my

die un - heard in _____ dim Car - co - sa. Song of my soul, my

must die un - heard in dim Car - co - sa. Song of my soul, my

Strange is the Night

F Pochiss. piu Mosso

50 *pp* *mp* *p*

voice is dead. Die thou un - heard as tears un - shed shall dry and die, shall

voice is dead. Die thou un - heard as tears un - shed shall dry and die, shall

voice is dead. Die thou un - heard as tears un - shed shall dry and die, shall

voice is dead. Die thou un - heard as tears un - shed, un - shed shall dry and die,

58 *f* *rit.* *p*

dry and die, shall dry and die in lost Car - co - sa, oh,

dry and die, shall dry and die in lost Car - co - sa, oh,

dry and die, shall dry and die in lost Car - co - sa, oh,

shall dry and die, shall dry and die in lost Car - co - sa, oh,

63 *Freely pp* (*stagger breathe*) *mf* *Tempo I pp sub.* *rit.*

in lost Car - co - sa. Strange is the night, oh

oh, in lost Car - co - sa. Strange is the night, oh

oh, in lost... strange is the night, oh

oh, strange is the night, oh

div. (if you have the lower note, sing it!)