

Commissioned by the Chesapeake Chorale
Paul Rardin, Artistic Director
Premiere Performance May 12, 2001
Bowie, Maryland

Harlem Songs

for SATB Chorus and Piano

Langston Hughes

Gwyneth Walker

2. Harlem Night Song

Slowly, gently, nocturnal ♩. = 60

Piano

p

Ped. Ped.

Detailed description: This block contains the piano introduction for the piece. It features a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The music is in 3/4 time and B-flat major. The tempo is 'Slowly, gently, nocturnal' with a quarter note equal to 60 beats per minute. The piece begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The bass line features a series of eighth notes with a descending contour, while the treble line has a more melodic line. Pedal markings are present at the beginning and end of the first phrase.

7

A *p* as in the distance

mm

T *p* as in the distance

mm

B *p* as in the distance

mm

(Ped.)

Detailed description: This block contains the vocal and piano parts for the chorus. It includes staves for Soprano (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B), along with a grand staff for the piano. The vocal parts enter at measure 7 with the instruction '*p* as in the distance' and a mezzo-forte (*mm*) dynamic. The piano accompaniment continues from the previous section. The piano part features a complex texture with a tremolo effect in the treble clef and a steady bass line. A '(Ped.)' marking is shown at the end of the piano part.

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4

non-pitched vocal sounds

13

S *p* *pp*

A *p*

T *p*

B *p*

mm

mm

mm

mm

Red.

19

p *pp*

ss

mm

mm

mm

mm

sim.

25

p

ss

31

pp

mm

mm

mm

mm

mm

mm

37

p *pp*

ss

43

49 (♩. = 60)

p

S
Come, Let us roam the night to - geth - - -

A
Come, Let us roam the night to - geth - - -

(♩. = 60)

(*p*)

Ped. Ped.

55

S
er...

A
er...

T
...Sing - - - ing.

B
...Sing - - - ing.

p

p

sim.

Ped.

61

p playfully I love you. *mf passionately* I love you.

p playfully I love you. *mf passionately* I love you.

p playfully I love you.

p playfully I love you.

mf

Ped.

67

mf passionately
I love you. _____

mf passionately
I love you. _____

sim.

73

S
cross The Har - lem roof - tops _____ Moon is _____

A
cross The Har - lem roof - tops _____ Moon is _____

p

Red.

79

S shi - ning.

A shi - ning.

T *p* Night sky is

B *p* Night sky is

85

mf Stars are great drops Of

mf Stars are great drops Of

mf blue.

mf blue.

mf

Ped.

91

gold - en dew. I love

gold - en dew. I love

mf ...gold - en dew. p

mf ...gold - en dew. p

p sustained

p sustained

p

p

97

you, I love you, I love you, I love you.

you, I love you, I love you, I love you.

p sustained

p sustained

I love you, I love you, I love

I love you, I love you, I love

103

T
8
you, I love you.

B
you, I love you.

mf

Red. | *sim.*

109

8
ah

ah

p

mf

115

S
ah

A
ah

p

rit. -----

rit. -----

p

Red. -----

121 **Swing rhythm** ♩ = 160

T *f* Down the

B *f* Down the

Tutti: finger snaps

Swing rhythm ♩ = 160

f (walking bass)

125 *swung eighths*
(with piano) *f*

S ya ba

A *swung eighths*
(with piano) *f* ya ba

T street A band is play - ing,

B street A band is play - ing,

Tutti: finger snaps

129

da ba da da da ba da ba da da ba da play - ing. *f* Down the

da ba da da da ba da ba da da ba da play - ing. *f* Down the

...play - ing.

...play - ing.

133

street, street, street A band is play - ing.

street, street, street A band is play -

mf *swung eighths*
ya ba da ba ya ba da ba ya ba da ba ba da ba

mf *swung eighths*
ya ba da ba ya ba da ba ya ba da ba ba da ba

136

f playfully

I love you, I love you, I love you, I love you.

f playfully

I love you, I love you, I love you, I love you.

f playfully

ya ba da ba I love you,

f playfully

ya ba da ba I love you,

139

T

I love you, I love you, I love you.

B

I love you, I love you, I love you.

141 $\text{♩} = 80$

f cantabile

Come, Let us roam the night to - geth - er

Come, Let us roam the night to - geth - er

Come, Let us roam the night to - geth - er

Come, Let us roam the night to - geth - er

(f)

Red. sim.

145

rit. *a tempo* $\text{♩} = 160$

Sing - ing.

Sing - ing.

Sing - ing.

Sing - ing.

p *mf*

cymbal-like sounds

149

Musical score for measures 149-152. It features four staves for percussion (snare, tom, cymbal, and bass drum) and a grand staff for piano accompaniment. The percussion parts consist of rhythmic patterns of eighth notes with accents, marked *mf* and labeled "swung eighths". The piano accompaniment includes triplets and other rhythmic figures. The key signature has three flats and the time signature is 4/4.

153

Musical score for measures 153-156. It features four staves for percussion and a grand staff for piano accompaniment. The percussion parts continue with rhythmic patterns of eighth notes with accents, marked *mf*. The piano accompaniment includes triplets and other rhythmic figures, with a dynamic marking of *f* in measure 155. The key signature has three flats and the time signature is 6/4.

Red.

157 *poco rit.*

p *mf* *p*

(Ped.) Ped.

160

voices enter separately at random speeds die out to only a few voices

mf *p*

I love you, I love you, (etc.)

voices enter separately at random speeds die out to only a few voices

mf

I love you, I love you, (etc.)

(Ped.)

161

(die out to only a few voices) *p*

voices enter separately at random speeds *mf* die out to only a few voices *p*

I love you, I love you, (etc.)

voices enter separately at random speeds die out to only a few voices *mf* *p*

I love you, I love you, (etc.)

(p)

(p)

Ped.

162

swung eighths *p* (same tempo, no rit.) *pp*

ch t t ch

swung eighths *p* *pp*

ch t t ch

swung eighths *p* *pp*

ch t t ch

swung eighths *p* *pp*

ch t t ch

(same tempo, no rit.)

p

Ped.