

# *Pieces of Night*



*For SSA chorus and cello*

*Text by Sara Teasdale*

# Jonathan Kolm

*For three-part women's chorus (SSA) and cello*

**Duration: 9'**

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*Program Notes*

*Pieces of Night* is a collection of five poems by Sara Teasdale, a very gifted American poet who wrote in New York City in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century winning the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1918. *May Night* is for single voice, a gentle and optimistic breath of a spring night. *At Night* is a love poem sent out through the nocturnal air across the city streets. *Moonlight* is the poet's thoughts on beauty and aging in their relationship to love. One of Teasdale's better known poems, *Peace* combines imagery of the starry night and the ocean to convey thoughts of both inner and outer peace. *Tonight* is a blissful observation of the beauty of things both large and small being made for one another.

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## I. MAY NIGHT

The spring is fresh and fearless  
And every leaf is new,  
The world is brimmed with moonlight,  
The lilac brimmed with dew.

Here in the moving shadows  
I catch my breath and sing--  
My heart is fresh and fearless  
And over-brimmed with spring.

## II. AT NIGHT

We are apart; the city grows quiet between us,  
She hushes herself, for midnight makes heavy her eyes,  
The tangle of traffic is ended, the cars are empty,  
Five streets divide us, and on them the moonlight lies.

Oh are you asleep, or lying awake, my lover?  
Open your dreams to my love and your heart to my words.  
I send you my thoughts--the air between us is laden,  
My thoughts fly in at your window, a flock of wild birds.

## III. MOONLIGHT

It will not hurt me when I am old,  
A running tide where moonlight burned  
Will not sting me like silver snakes;  
The years will make me sad and cold,  
It is the happy heart that breaks.

The heart asks more than life can give,  
When that is learned, then all is learned;  
The waves break fold on jewelled fold,  
But beauty itself is fugitive,  
It will not hurt me when I am old.

#### IV. PEACE

Peace flows into me  
As the tide to the pool by the shore;  
It is mine forevermore,  
It ebbs not back like the sea.

I am the pool of blue  
That worships the vivid sky;  
My hopes were heaven-high,  
They are all fulfilled in you.

I am the pool of gold  
When sunset burns and dies, --  
You are my deepening skies,  
Give me your stars to hold.

#### V. TONIGHT

The moon is a curving flower of gold,  
The sky is still and blue;  
The moon was made for the sky to hold,  
And I for you;

The moon is a flower without a stem,  
The sky is luminous;  
Eternity was made for them,  
To-night for us.

# I. May Night

Jonathan Kolm (2008)

**Joyful** ♩ = 112

*mp solo*

SOPRANO 1

SOPRANO 2

ALTO

Violoncello

*mp*

6

fear less And eve-ry leaf is new,

*mf*

11

*mp*

The world is\_ brimmed with moon light, The li - lacbrimmed with

16

dew.

*cresc. poco a poco*

21

*mf*

Here in the mov-ing shad ows\_ I catch my breath and\_

*f*

*mf*

25

sing My heart is fresh and

28

fear - less And o - verbrimmed with spring.

*poco rit.*

## II. At Night

With Longing  $\text{♩} = 56$

(*tutti*) *p*

We are a - part; the cit-y grows qui-et be tween us, She hush-es her-self, for

We are a - part; the cit-y grows qui-et be tween us, She hush-es her-self, for

We are a - part; the cit-y grows qui-et be tween us, She hush-es her-self, for

6

mid night makes heav-y her eyes, her eyes, The tan-gle of traf-fic is end ed, is end ed,

mid night makes heav-y her eyes, her eyes, The tan-gle of traf-fic is end ed, is end ed,

mid night makes heav-y her eyes, her eyes, The tan-gle of traf-fic is end ed,

11

the cars are emp-ty, are emp ty, Five streets di - vide us, and on them the moon-light

the cars are emp-ty, are emp ty, Five streets di - vide us, and on them the moon-light

the cars are emp-ty, are emp ty, Five streets di - vide us, and on them the moon-light

18

lies. the moon-light lies. Oh are you a

lies. the moon-light lies. Oh are you a

lies. the moon-light lies. Oh are you a

*espress.*

*mf* *f* *mp*

24

sleep, or ly-ing a- wake, my\_ lov- er? O-pen your dreams

sleep, or ly-ing a- wake, my\_ lov- er? O-pen your dreams

sleep, or ly-ing a- wake, my\_ lov- er? O-pen your dreams

28

to my love and your heart to my words. *f* I send you my thoughts — I

to my love and your heart to my words. *f* I send you my thoughts — I

to my love and your heart to my words. I send you I send you my thoughts

*mf*

32

send you my thoughts the air be-tween us is lad-en, is lad-en, My

send you my thoughts the air be-tween us is lad-en, is lad-en, My

— I send you my thoughts the air be-tween us is lad-en, is lad-en, My

*f*

*p*

36

thoughts fly in at your win-dow, a flock of wild birds. *pp* *morendo*

thoughts fly in at your win-dow, a flock of wild birds. *pp* *morendo*

thoughts fly in at your win-dow, a flock of wild birds. *pp* *morendo*

*p*



## III. Moonlight

Reflective ♩ = 76

*mp*  
It will not hurt me when

*mp*  
It will not hurt me when

*flowing 3*  
*p*

7

I am old, A runn - ing tide where moon - light burned Will not

I am old, A runn - ing tide where moon - light burned Will not

13

sting me like sil - ver snakes; The years will make me sad and

sting me like sil - ver snakes; The years will make me sad and

19

cold, It is the happy heart that breaks. heart that breaks.

cold, It is the happy heart that breaks.

25

*f* warm  
The heart asks more than life can give,

*f* warm  
The heart asks more than life can give,

*f* warm  
The heart asks more than life can give,

*f*

32

When that is learned, then all is learned; The waves break fold on jew-eled fold,

When that is learned, then all is learned; The waves break fold on jew-eled fold,

When that is learned, then all is learned; The waves break fold on jew-eled fold,

40

*mf* But beau-ty it - self is fu-gi - tive, *p* It

*mf* But beau-ty it - self is fu-gi - tive, *p* It

*mf* But beau-ty it - self is fu-gi - tive, *p* It

*mp* *p*

48

*mp* will not hurt me It will not hurt me *mf* It will not hurt

*mp* will not hurt me It will not hurt me *mf* It will not hurt

*mp* will not hurt me It will not hurt me *mf* It will not hurt

*mp* *mf*

53

me when I am old, *f*

me when I am old, *f*

me when I am old, *f*

*f* *poco rit.*

## IV. Peace

Tranquil ♩ = 96

*p* Peace flows in - to me. As the

*p* Peace flows in - to me. As the

*p* Peace flows in - to me. As the

*sotto voce*

*p* *mf*

4

tide to the pool by the shore; It is

tide to the pool by the shore; It is

tide to the pool by the shore; It is

*p* *mf*

7

*mf* mine for - e - ver - more, for - e - ver - more, It ebbs not

*mf* mine for - e - ver - more, for - e - ver - more, It ebbs not

*mf* mine for - e - ver - more, for - e - ver - more, It ebbs not

11

back like the sea. like the sea.

back like the sea. like the sea.

back like the sea. like the sea.

14

*f radiant*

I am the pool of blue That wor - ships the viv - id

*f radiant*

I am the pool of blue That wor - ships the viv - id

*f radiant*

I am the pool of blue That wor - ships the viv - id

*f*

17

sky; I am the pool of blue That wor - ships the

sky; I am the pool of blue That wor - ships the

sky; I am the pool of blue That wor - ships the

21

viv - id sky; My hopes were hea - ven

viv - id - sky; viv - id sky; My hopes were hea - ven

viv - id sky; My hopes were hea - ven

24

*mf*

high, They are all ful-filled in you.

high, They are all ful-filled in you.

high, They are all ful-filled in you.

27

I am the pool of gold When sun - set burns and

I am the pool of gold When sun - set burns and

I am the pool of gold When sun - set burns and

30 *f* dies, You are my deep-en-ing skies, — *f* *ff*

*f* dies — and dies, — *f* You are my deep-en-ing skies, — *ff*

*f* dies — and dies, You are my deep-en-ing skies, — *ff*

*f* *ff*

34

*espress.*

*mf* *p*

38 **Slower** *mp* ♩. = 76

*mp* Give me your stars — Give me your

*mp* Give me your stars — Give me your

*mp* Give me your stars — Give me your

41

stars to hold.

stars to hold.

stars to hold.

### V. Tonight

Jubilant ♩ = 138

*f*

The moon is a curv-ing flower of gold, The

*f*

The moon is a curv-ing flower of gold, The

*f*

The moon is a curv-ing flower of gold, The

*mp* *f*

4

sky is still and blue; is still and blue; The moon was made for the

sky is still and blue; is still and blue; The moon was made for the

sky is still and blue; is still and blue; The moon was made for the



7 *poco rit.* **Slower** ♩ = 92 *solo*

sky to hold, was made And I for

sky to hold, was made for the sky to hold, to

sky to hold, was made for the sky to hold, to

*pizz.* *poco rit.* *arco*

*p*

10 *tutti (div) cantabile*

you; And I for you; And I for you; I for you;

hold, for you; And I for you; I for you;

hold, for you; And I for you; I for you;

*cantabile*

*cantabile*

13 **Tempo I** ♩ = 138

*p* *f*

The moon is a flower with-out a

*p* *f*

The moon is a flower with-out a

*p* *f*

The moon is a flower with-out a

*p* *mp* *f*

16

stem, The sky is lu - mi - nous is lu - mi - nous; E -  
 stem, The sky is lu - mi - nous is lu - mi - nous; E -  
 stem, The sky is lu - mi - nous is lu - mi - nous; E -

19 *cantabile*  
*div*

ter - ni - ty was made for them, for them, To - night for  
*cantabile*  
 ter - ni - ty was made for them, To - night for  
*cantabile*  
 ter - ni - ty was made for them, To - night for

21

us. *p* E - ter - ni - ty was made *mf* for them, *mf* To - night for us. *f*  
 us. *p* E - ter - ni - ty was made *mf* for them, *mf* To - night for us. *f*  
 us. *p* E - ter - ni - ty was made *mf* for them, *mf* To - night for us. *f*  
 us. E - ter - ni - ty was made for them, To - night for us.

*ff* *p* *f*