

N O C T U R N E S

Text and Music by

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Translated into Latin by Edward J. Vodoklys, S.J.

Dedicated to

DAVID CARRIER

in commemoration of his 20th year
as Artistic Director of the Newton Choral Society

and to

THE NEWTON CHORAL SOCIETY

I. INVOCATION

We invoke night,
"Come to us,
Fall upon us like fine rain."

We who were born at the oceans' spring
Call to you,
"Cover us with grace."

Let our feet carry us deeper
Into the night,
As deep into the night as we can go.

II. NYCTEREUTES (Night Hunter)

You lived so long within my breast,
Your heartbeat tripled.
But now, Nyctereutes, you roam free.

Your eyes glow like a nighthawk's;
You move like a shadow;
Creatures are silent as you pass.

Your howl rises and rises,
and then falls over the land.
The oceans roar with you throughout the night.

Wipe away the trail of my tears.
Hold my body against your heart.
Feed me from your mouth.

I will wipe away the trail of your tears.
I will hold your body against my heart.
I will feed you from my mouth.

I. INVOCATIO

Nox, te invocamus
"Veni ad nos
Eveni super nos modo tenuis imbris

Nos, qui nati sumus fonte marium
Vocamus te:
Protege nos cum gratia tua.

Nostri pedes portent nos profundius
In noctem
Quam profunditer ut ire possimus.

VENATOR NOCTIS

Tam diu in meo pectore habitavisti,
Pulsus cordis mei triplicant.
Sed nunc, Nyctereutes, vagaris libere.

Oculi tui, modo accipitris nocterni, ardent
Tu, modo umbrae, moves;
Animalia silent ut tu praeteris/transis.

Ululatus tuus exsurgit crescentiditque
Sed tum super terram decidit.
Oceani tecum per noctem fremunt.

Absterge vestigium lacrimarum mearum.
Tene iuxta tuum cor corpus meum.
Pasce me ab ore tuo.

Abstergam vestigium lacrimarum tuarum.
Teneam iuxta meum cor corpus tuum.
Pascam te ab ore meo.

III. THE MOONCALF'S DANCE

(Brass instrumental)

IV. FOREST GUARDIAN

Watcher,
Kin of shadows,
Guardian of the forest,
Your eyes see all.

Boughs sway, black against black.
Beloved one of darkness,
Our breathing lies
Like a priceless bowl in your hands.

DEFENSOR SILVAE

Custos,
Consanguineus umbrarum,
Defensor silvae,
Oculi tui omnia vident.

Rami agitant, atre contra atrum.
Amatus tenebrae,
Spiritus noster cubat
Quam inaestimabilis poculum in mainbus tuis.

V. MOONFISH

Like a shipwrecked hull,
Grief drifts slowly fathoms deep
Until caught in the sands of the ocean floor,
Cradled and held.

Moonfish, weaving through the ancient ribs,
Your eyes behold without flinching this sorrow,
Softening it with each passing of your silver body,
Until it falls away.

Beneath the sands of the ocean floor
At the very molten core,
A chant, like a great, great gear,
Is sung eternally.

CARINGIDA

Ut naufragium
Dolor sensim fluitat imis ulnis
Donec captus in harenis maris,
Amplectus atque tentus est.

Caringida, se contexens per compagites antiquos,
Oculi tui, aspicientes hunc dolorem,
non refugent emollientes eum quoties corpus argentium tuum transit,
Donec dissolvit

Sub harenis maris
Liquefactissima media
Cantus, modo magni, magni apparatus
Per aeternum cantatitur.

VI. THE MOONCALF'S DITTY

(In English)

La, la, la, lah dee dah
La, la, la, lah dee dah
La la la dum etc.

Jol-ly jolly pretty nighty nighty!
Ful-ly moony bright! bright! bright!
Kitty cattie's kitty cattie's kitty cattie's
Kitty cattie's doggies fight! fight!! fight!!
Figh-ty wighty fighty wighty nighty!
Pret-ty pretty night! night! night!
It's-a jolly jolly jolly jolly jolly jol-ly night!!!

(repeat)

VII. THE SLEEPWALKER

I will meet you at Peniel
In the depths of night,
On the banks of the ancient river.
You, the Angel,
Will fight with me at Peniel all the night
Through the deepest hours.
And when the full time is come,
When the full time is come
May my heartbands be loosened;
May my tears fall like fine rain bathing my face,
Like rain bathing my face,
When the full time has come.

At Peniel at dawn I will see the face of God
I will see the face of God
On the banks of the beautiful river.

VIII. IN PRAISE OF NIGHT

We sing to night,
"You are a promise, a great danger,
An unveiling of beauty, a fulfillment of desire.

"An awakening of the heart,
A mighty storm,
A constant, a repose."

You sing to your beloved,
"Come to me, come to me,
I will cover you with my grace."

SOMNAMBULATOR

Conveniemus in Phanuel
In intempestate nocte,
In ripis antiqui fluminis.
Tu, Angelus
Pugnabis mecum in Phanuel tota nocte
Per imas horas.
Et cum tempus plenum adveniat,
Cum plenum tempus adveniat,
Ligaminaolveant Cordis mei;
Lacrimae meae cadant modo tenuis imbris faciem meam perfundentis,
Modo imbris faciem meam perfundentis,
Cum tempus plenum adventum est.

Phanuel primo luce faciem Dei videbo
faciem Dei videbo
In ripis fluminis amoeni

IN LAUDE NOCTIS

Cantamus ad noctem,
"Tu es fides, magnum periculum,
Patefactio pulchritudinis, cupidinis confectio.

"Excitatio cordis,
Tempesta valida,
Constans, requies."

Tu cantas ad amatam tuam
"Veni ad me, Veni ad me
Cum mea gratia te protegam."