

Aurora of the Soul

SSAA, piano

Music by Sheena Phillips

Lyrics based on a poem by Dinah Craik (1826 – 1887)

The *aurora borealis* (also known as the Northern Lights – or, in the southern hemisphere, the Southern Lights) can be seen only in the darkest places on earth: at high latitudes, during winter. This piece, based on words by the 19th century English poet and novelist Dinah Craik, uses unusual vocal harmonies – created by spacing the parts at equal distances from each other – to portray the “strange”, “ghostly”, and “beauteous” light of the aurora. The slightly eery intervals of a minor third and a minor second also thread throughout the music, both in the constantly shifting piano part and in the movement of the vocal lines. For “one bright hour” in the midst of the long, dark winter, we can enjoy and marvel at something beautiful, and our spirits revive.

Duration c. 3:00

Perusal score – not for rehearsal or performance

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Aurora of the Soul

strange soft gleam,
ghostly dawn
that never brightens into day

beauteous light,
light that fills
the whole heav'n like a dream of morn

let us look out beyond the gray

shine, soft gleam!
in our sight
the long night vanishes in light

strange light I know thou will not stay

one bright hour!
shadows roll,
while bursts on unaccustomed eyes
the glad Aurora of the soul!

Lyrics based on the poem *An Aurora Borealis* by Dinah Craik (which can be viewed online at www.blackcatpoems.com/c/an_aurora_borealis.html)

Dinah Craik's original poem is in the public domain.

Aurora of the Soul

SSAA, piano

based on a poem by Dinah Craik

Sheena Phillips

$\bullet = 60$ *leggiero, misterioso*

The musical score is arranged in systems. The first system features a Piano accompaniment with a treble and bass clef, marked *p*. The second system includes vocal parts A1 and A2, and a Piano accompaniment. The vocal parts have lyrics: A1: "strange soft", A2: "strange soft". The piano accompaniment continues. The third system includes vocal parts S1 and S2, and a Piano accompaniment. The vocal parts have lyrics: S1: "ghost - - - ly", S2: "ghost - - - ly". The piano accompaniment continues. The fourth system includes vocal parts A1 and A2, and a Piano accompaniment. The vocal parts have lyrics: A1: "gleam, ghost - - - ly", A2: "gleam, ghost - - - ly". The piano accompaniment continues.

aurora of the soul 2

11 *cresc.* *mf*

S1 dawn that ne-ver bright-ens in - to

S2 dawn that ne-ver bright-ens in - to

A1 dawn that ne-ver bright-ens in - to

A2 dawn that ne-ver bright-ens in - to

Pno. *cresc.* *mf*

14 *p*

S1 day

S2 day

A1 day

A2 day

Pno. *l.h.*

aurora of the soul 3

17 *mf* *mp*

S1 beau - - - - teous light, light that

S2 beau - - - - teous light, light that

A1 beau - - - - teous light, light that

A2 beau - - - - teous light, light that

Pno. *mf* *mp*

20 *f*

S1 fills the whole heav'n like a

S2 fills the whole heav'n like a

A1 fills the whole heav'n like a

A2 fills the whole heav'n like a

Pno. *f*

24

S1
dream of morn

S2
dream of morn

A1
dream of morn

A2
dream of morn

Pno.

p

Moderato ♩ = 90

27

S1

S2

A1
let us look out, let us look out be-yond the gray,

A2
let us look out, let us look

Pno.

p

32

mp *mf*

S1
let us look out, let us look out beyond the gray,

S2
let us look out, let us look out beyond the gray,

A1
mf
let us look out!

A2
mf
out beyond the gray, let us look out!

Pno.
mp *mf*

38

S1

S2
mp
let us look out, let us look out beyond the gray,

A1
mp
let us look out,

A2
mp
let us look out,

Pno.
mp

43 *mf*

S1
let us look out, let us look out be-yond the

S2
let us look out be-yond the gray,

A1
let us look out be-yond the gray,

A2
let us look out be-yond the gray,

Pno. *mf*

48 *f* *p subito* *f* *p*

S1
gray, shine, soft gleam!

S2
let us look out! shine, soft gleam!

A1
let us look out! shine, soft gleam!

A2
let us look out! shine, soft gleam!

Pno. *f* *p*

54 *mp*

S1 in our sight the long night van-ish-es in

S2 in our sight the long night van-ish-es in

A1 in our sight the long night van-ish-es in

A2 in our sight the long night van-ish-es in

Pno. *mp* *p*

60 *f* *f*

S1 light shine,

S2 light shine,

A1 light shine,

A2 light shine,

Pno. *f*

poco rit.

65

S1 *p* close to 'm'

S2 *p* close to 'm'

A1 *mp* *mf*

A2 *mp* *mf*

Pno. *mp*

bright gleam! bright gleam! bright gleam! ghost - ly dawn

72 a tempo

S1

S2 *pp*

A1 *pp*

A2

Pno. *pp*

strange light, I know thou will not stay
strange light, I know thou

77 *p*

S1
strange light, I know thou will not

S2

A1
will not stay

A2
p
(major 3rd below S2 / minor 3rd below A1) strange light, I know thou will not

Pno.

81 *mp*

S1
stay

S2
mp thou will not stay *mp* strange light, I know thou will not

A1
mp thou will not stay

A2
mp stay

Pno.

86

S1 *mf* strange light, I know thou

S2 *mf* stay

A1 *mp* strange light, I know thou will not stay *mf*

A2 *mf* (major 3rd below S2 / minor 3rd below A1) strange light, I know thou

Pno. *mf*

91

S1 *f* will not stay one bright

S2 *f* thou will not stay one bright

A1 *f* thou will not stay one bright

A2 *f* will not stay one bright

Pno. *f*

96

S1 *mf* hour! sha - - dows roll, *mf* while *mp*

S2 *mf* hour! sha - - - dows roll, *mf*

A1 *mf* hour! sha - - - dows roll, *mf*

A2 *mf* hour! sha - - - dows roll, *mf*

Pno. *mf*

102 *poco accel.*

S1 bursts on un - ac - cust - omed eyes the glad Au - ro - ra

S2 *mp* while bursts on un - ac - cust - omed eyes the glad Au -

A1 *mf* while bursts on un - ac - cust - omed eyes the

A2 *mf* while bursts on eyes the

Pno. *mp*

♩ = 96

106 *f*

S1
of the

S2
ro - - - ra of the

A1
glad Au - - - ro - ra of the

A2
glad Au - - - ro - ra of the

Pno.

110 *f sempre*

S1
soul!

S2
soul!

A1
soul!

A2
soul!

Pno.

f sempre

f sempre

f sempre

f sempre

8va - 1