

Patrick Andrew Thompson

# **NIGHT, SLEEP, AND THE STARS**

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for soprano and chamber ensemble

First Performance on December 2, 2018

Griswold Hall, Baltimore MD

Madeline Huss Soprano

### COMPOSER'S NOTE

*Night, Sleep, and the Stars* began in February 2018 as part of a collaboration, led by Kevin Puts and Ah Young Hong, between composers and singers at the Peabody Institute. Working with soprano Madeline Huss, I wrote a piano version of this cycles' eventual third song, "Strain," and immediately felt that it belonged with a larger ensemble as part of a cycle. While exploring texts to pair with Lowell's "Strain," I was constantly drawn towards poems about night, and ultimately selected four poems which share strikingly similar reflections while painting vivid pictures of different scenes at night.

The first poem, attributed - albeit with questionable authenticity - to the ancient Greek poet Sappho, captures in remarkably few words an image of a woman lying alone at night, contemplating the stars and the passage of time. The second, by Sara Teasdale, paints a vivid picture of a woman's night with her lover along the Hudson River in New York City. Amy Lowell's "Strain" then describes a woman lying alone at night, as the first poem, yet with serene contemplation replaced by fear and isolation. Finally, the fourth poem, taken from Walt Whitman's "The Sleepers" in *Leaves of Grass*, describes in a more abstract sense the author's peace in, and even love for, the night.

Musically, each song is largely distinct from the others, attempting foremost to capture its particular moods. Yet there are several recurring musical threads which run through the cycle, echoing the recurring themes shared by the poems themselves. A motif, harmony, rhythm, or texture from one song is recontextualized in ways which sometimes leap off the page and other times hide just under the surface.

The title is adapted from the final line of Whitman's "A Clear Midnight".

- Patrick Andrew Thompson

## **1. Midnight**

attributed to Sappho  
translate by Edward Storer

The moon has set and the Pleiades  
Have gone.  
It is midnight; the hours pass; and I  
Sleep alone.

## **2. Summer Night, Riverside**

by Sara Teasdale

In the wild soft summer darkness  
How many and many a night we two together  
Sat in the park and watched the Hudson  
Wearing her lights like golden spangles  
Glinting on black satin.  
The rail along the curving pathway  
Was low in a happy place to let us cross,  
And down the hill a tree that dripped with bloom  
Sheltered us,  
While your kisses and the flowers,  
Falling, falling,  
Tangled in my hair....

The frail white stars moved slowly over the sky.

And now, far off  
In the fragrant darkness  
The tree is tremulous again with bloom  
For June comes back.

To-night what girl  
Dreamily before her mirror shakes from her hair  
This year's blossoms, clinging to its coils?

## **3. Strain**

by Amy Lowell

IT is late  
And the clock is striking thin hours,  
But sleep has become a terror to me,  
Lest I wake in the night  
Bewildered,  
And stretching out my arms to comfort myself with  
you,  
Clasp instead the cold body of the darkness.  
All night it will hunger over me,  
And push and undulate against me,  
Breathing into my mouth  
And passing long fingers through my drifting hair.  
Only the dawn can loose me from it,  
And the grey streaks of morning melt it from my  
side.

Bring many candles,  
Though they stab my tired brain,  
And hurt it.  
For I am afraid of the twining of the darkness  
And dare not sleep.

## **4. The Sleepers**

From "The Sleepers" by Walt Whitman

I stay a while away O night, but I return to you  
again and love you.

Why should I be afraid to trust myself to you?  
I am not afraid, I have been well brought forward  
by you,  
I love the rich running day, but I do not desert her  
in whom I lay so long,  
I know not how I came of you and I know not  
where I go with you, but  
I know I came well and shall go well.

I will stop only a time with the night, and rise  
betimes,  
I will duly pass the day O my mother, and duly  
return to you

## **INSTRUMENTATION**

Flute

Clarinet in B♭ (doubling Bass Clarinet in B♭)

Violin

Cello

Soprano

Percussion (1 Player)

Vibraphone, Glockenspiel, Bass Drum,  
Suspended Cymbal, Marimba, Crotales

Piano

Duration: ca. 19 minutes

# NIGHT, SLEEP, AND THE STARS

Poem attributed to Sappho  
translated by Edward Storer

## 1. Midnight

Patrick Andrew Thompson  
2018

**Serene, expansive**  $\text{♩} = 72$

Flute

Clarinet in B $\flat$

Violin

Cello

Soprano

Percussion

vibraphone

Piano

(Xo)

13

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S.

The moon has set

glockenspiel

Perc.

(Xo)

Pno.

(Xo)

Musical score for orchestra and piano, page 10, measures 1-10. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Bassoon (B♭ Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Cello (Vc.), Soprano (S), Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The piano part features a bass line with various dynamics and a treble line with sustained notes. The orchestra parts show complex rhythmic patterns and dynamics like *p*, *mp*, and *mf*. Measure 10 concludes with a dynamic of *pp*.

Musical score for orchestra and piano, page 22. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Bassoon Clarinet (B♭ CL.), Violin (Vln.), Cello (Vc.), Soprano (S.), Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The piano part is in a treble clef section. The score features various dynamics (pp, mp, mf, p) and time signatures (2/4, 3/4, 5/4, 6/8). The vocal line includes lyrics: "the Plei-a-des Have gone." The piano part includes markings like "vibes", "bass drum", and "8va". Measure numbers 22 through 26 are indicated at the top.

26

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S

Perc.

Pno.

29

$\text{♩} = \text{♪}$  (♩ = 96) Eternal

p

p

p

sul tasto

pp

sul tasto

pp

glock.

p

(8<sup>va</sup>), p

8<sup>va</sup> - pp

31

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S

Perc.

Pno.

p

mp

It \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_

37

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S

Perc.

Pno.

*mp*

*pp*

*p*

mid - - night; the

glock.

*p*

*p*

*Reo.*

42

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S

Perc.

Pno.

hours pass the hours

suspended cymbal

*ppp* *p* *ppp*

*ppp* *p* *ppp*

*Reo.*

47

Fl. *p* — 3 — *mp*

B♭ Cl. *p*

Vln. *p*

Vc. *p*

S *mf* — *mp* — *p*  
pass;

Perc. *vibes* *ppp* — *mp* — *ppp* — *p*  
*Reo*

Pno. *ppp* — *mp* — *ppp* — *p*  
*Reo*

rall.

52

Fl. *ppp*

B♭ Cl. *ppp*

Vln. *ppp*

Vc. *ppp*

S *mp* — 3 — 3 — *pp*  
and — I — Sleep —

Perc. *ppp*

Pno. *ppp*

57 Tempo I,  $\text{♩} = 72$

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S.

Perc.

Pno.

*p* 7:6

5

ord.

*8va*

*pp*

*a - lone.*

*glock.*

*vibes*

*Ric.*

*p* 10

*pp*

*ppp*

*8va*

*Ric.*

## 2. Summer Night, Riverside

Poem by Sara Teasdale

**Joyful, tremulous** ♩ = 100

In the wild soft summer dark - ness

Fl.

Bb Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S.

marimba

Perc.

Pno.

How ma - ny and ma - ny a night we two to - ge - ther

we two to - ge - ther

15

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S.

Perc.

Pno.

Sat in the park and watched the Hudson

p

20

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S.

Perc.

Pno.

Wear - ing her lights like golden spa - bowed vibes

$\text{8va}$

23

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S.

Perc.

Pno.

ngles Glin - ting — on black sa - tin.

(8<sup>me</sup>)

*Rd.*

28

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S.

Perc.

Pno.

The rail — a - long the cur - ving

marimba

*Rd.*

31

Fl. *mp* *mf* *pp*

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S path - way *mf* Was low in a

Perc. *p* *mp* *p*

Pno. *p* *mp* *p* *p*

*Reo.*

35

Fl. *p* *mp*

B♭ Cl. *mp* *mf* *pp* *p* *mp*

Vln.

Vc.

S hap - py place *3* to let us cross, *3*

Perc. *p*

Pno. *p*

39

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S.

Perc.

Pno.

And down the hill the tree \_\_\_\_\_ that dripped with

Musical score for orchestra and piano, page 47. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Bassoon (B♭ Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Cello (Vc.), Soprano (S), Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The piano part is shown with two staves. The vocal line for soprano S includes lyrics: "Fa - lling, fa - - - ling," with a three-measure repeat sign above the first "fa". The score features dynamic markings such as *p*, *pp*, *mf*, *f*, *ff*, and *mp*. Measure numbers 47 and 48 are indicated at the top left.

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S

Perc.

Pno.

Tan - gled in my hair...

Musical score for orchestra and piano, page 54. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Bassoon (B♭ Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Cello (Vc.), Soprano (S), Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The piano part features a dynamic marking of *p* at the end of a melodic line. The score is set against a background of vertical bar lines indicating measure boundaries.

Musical score for orchestra and piano, page 58-62. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Bassoon Clarinet (B♭ Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Cello (Vc.), Soprano (S), Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The piano part features a dynamic marking of *p* and a tempo of 5:6. The score shows various rhythmic patterns and dynamics, including *pp*, *crotales*, and *pp*. Measure 62 concludes with a repeat sign (Re).

64

Fl. B♭ Cl. Vln. Vc. S. Perc. Pno.

*p*

The frail white stars moved slowly over the sky. And now, far off

marimba

*pp*

73

Fl. *p*

B♭ Cl. *p*

Vln. *p*

Vc. *p*

S In the fra - gent dark-ness The tree \_\_\_\_\_ is tre \_\_\_\_\_ mu-lous a gain \_\_\_\_\_ with bloom  
ripple roll

Perc. *p*

Pno. *p*

78

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S.

Perc.

Pno.

For June comes

*p*

*mf*

*ff*

*mp*

*tr*

*tr*

*tr*

*tr*

81

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S.

Perc.

Pno.

back.

*f*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*tr*

*pp*

*tr*

*pp*

*tr*

*tr*

*tr*

*tr*

## 87 Slightly Slower, nostalgicly ♩ = 92

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S.

Perc.

Pno.

To-night what girl \_\_\_\_\_  
Drea mi-ly be - fore her mir-ror \_\_\_\_\_

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S.

Perc.

Pno.

shakes from her hair \_\_\_\_\_  
This year's blos - soms,

Musical score for orchestra and piano, page 99. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Bassoon Clarinet (B♭ Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Cello (Vc.), Soprano (S), Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The score shows various musical staves with corresponding dynamics and performance instructions like "pizz." and "non. dim.". The vocal part includes lyrics: "clin-ging to its coils?". The piano part features dynamic markings  $p \rightarrow pp$  and  $\text{5.6}$ .

Poem by Amy Lowell

## 3. Strain

**Solitary, fearful**  $\text{♩} = 84$

Fl.

Bass Clarinet

Vln.

Vc.

S.

Perc.

vibes

Pno.

pp  
con  $\text{Rit.}$   $\rightarrow$

pp  
con  $\text{Rit.}$   $\rightarrow$

10

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S.

Perc.

Pno.

Musical score for orchestra and piano, page 17. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Bassoon (B. Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Cello (Vc.), Soprano (S), Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The score consists of six systems of music. The first system shows the Flute and Bassoon playing sustained notes in 4/4 time. The second system shows the Bassoon playing a sustained note in 3/4 time. The third system shows the Violin and Cello playing eighth-note patterns in 4/4 time. The fourth system shows the Violin and Cello playing eighth-note patterns in 5/4 time. The fifth system shows the Violin and Cello playing eighth-note patterns in 4/4 time. The sixth system shows the Violin and Cello playing eighth-note patterns in 5/4 time. The piano part features sustained notes and dynamic markings such as *p*, *ppp*, and *crotales*. The score is written on five-line staves with various time signatures (4/4, 3/4, 5/4) and key changes.

23

Fl.

B. Cl. *mp* *p* *p* *mp*

Vln. *mp* *p* *p* *mp*

Vc. *mp* *p* *p* *mp*

S. *p*  
IT is late. And the clock is striking thin hours,

Perc.

Pno. *mp* *p* *p*

30

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S.

Perc.

Pno.

But sleep has become a terror to me,

crotales

8va-

36

39

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S.

Perc.

Pno.

Lest I wake in the night Be-wil-dered, And

bass drum

(8va)

8vb

44

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S

BD

Pno.

stre-tching out my arms \_\_\_\_\_ to com-fort my self \_\_\_\_\_ with you, \_\_\_\_\_ Clasp in - stead \_\_\_\_\_ the

(8vb)-----

50

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S

Perc.

Pno.

trill from A

cold \_\_\_\_\_ bo - dy \_\_\_\_\_ of the dark - ness.

vibes

crotalles

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S

Perc.

vibes

Pno.

This section of the score covers measures 56 through 68. It includes parts for Flute, Bassoon, Violin, Cello, Soprano, Percussion, Vibraphone, and Piano. Measure 56 starts with a melodic line in the flute. Measures 57-58 show the bassoon and violin playing eighth-note patterns. Measures 59-60 feature the violin and cello. Measures 61-62 show the flute and bassoon again. Measures 63-64 show the violin and cello. Measures 65-66 show the flute and bassoon. Measures 67-68 show the piano. Various dynamics like *mf*, *mp*, and *p* are indicated throughout.

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S

Perc.

68

poco sul pont

ord.

p

Pno.

This section of the score covers measures 63 through 68. It includes parts for Flute, Bassoon, Violin, Cello, Soprano, Percussion, Vibraphone, and Piano. Measure 63 shows the flute and bassoon. Measures 64-65 show the violin and cello. Measures 66-67 show the flute and bassoon. Measure 68 shows the piano. Dynamic markings include *mp*, *p*, *ppp*, *poco sul pont*, *ord.*, and *p*. Measure 68 is marked with a box containing the number 68.

71

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S

Perc.

Pno.

All night it will hun - ger ov-er me, \_\_\_\_\_  
and push and un - du late a-against me, \_\_\_\_\_

76

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S

Perc.

Pno.

Brea - thing in to my mouth \_\_\_\_\_  
And pass - ing long fin - gers \_\_\_\_\_

79

Fl. *mp*

B. Cl.

Vln. *mp*

Vc. *f*

S. *mf* *f*  
— through my drift - ing hair. — On - ly the dawn — can

Perc. *f*

Pno. *f*

82

Fl. *p* *mf* *5* *7* *p*

B. Cl. *mf*

Vln. *4* *4* *8:* *mf* *8:*

Vc. *5* *5* *5* *mf*

S. *loose me from it, — And the gray streaks of morn - ing — melt it from my side. —*

Perc. *mf*

Pno. *7* *7* *7* *mf*

87

rall. A Tempo ( $\text{♩} = 84$ )

Fl.  $mf^3$

B. Cl.

Vln. sul tasto

Vc. sul tasto

S.  $mp$

Perc.  $pp$

Pno.  $pp$

$8^{vb}-$

ord.

94

Fl.  $mf$

B. Cl.  $mf$

Vln.  $mf$

Vc.  $mf$

S.  $mf$

Perc.  $mf$

Pno.  $mf$

$8^{vb}-$

Slightly Slower  $\text{♩} = 76$

$p$  gradually more fearful and speech-like

stab my ti-red brain \_\_\_\_\_ And hurt it. \_\_\_\_\_ For I am a-fraid of the twi-ning

$p$

102                            103

Slower Still ♩ = 69                            ♩ = 63                            rall. -----

Fl.

B. Cl. *pp*

Vln. *pp*

Vc. *pp*

S of the dark - ness — And dare — not — sleep.

Perc. *pp* crotales      *p*      vibes      *ppp* crotales

Pno. *p*

## 4. The Sleepers

Poem by Walt Whitman

**Peaceful, contemplative** ♩ = 80

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S.

Perc.

Pno.

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S.

Perc.

piano

marimba

p

Pno.

17 With momentum  $\text{♩} = 116$ 

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S.

Perc.

Pno.

bring top note out always  
 $p$   
 $\frac{8}{8}$   $\text{♩} = 116$   
 con  $\frac{120}{8}$ .

24

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S.

Perc.

Pno.

stay a while a - way O night,  
 but I re - turn to you

30

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S.

Perc.

Pno.

a - gain  
and \_ love .  
you .

36

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S.

Perc.

Pno.

Why should I \_ be a - fraid \_ to trust my - self \_ with you?

42

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S.

Perc.

Pno.

I am not a-fraid  
I have been well brought for-ward by you

49

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S.

Perc.

Pno.

I love the rich running

Re.

52

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S.

Perc.

Pno.

*day, but I do*

*Re.*

56

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S.

Perc.

Pno.

*not de - sert her in whom I lay so*

*Re.*

*Re.*

Musical score for orchestra and piano, page 59. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Bassoon Clarinet (B♭ Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Cello (Vc.), Soprano (S.), Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The piano part is shown with a brace under the two staves. The score consists of six systems of music. The first system starts with a dynamic of *p*. The second system begins with a dynamic of *p*. The third system starts with a dynamic of *mf*, followed by *dim.* The fourth system starts with a dynamic of *mp*, followed by *dim.*. The fifth system starts with a dynamic of *p*. The sixth system ends with a dynamic of *pp*.

**68** Slightly Slower, Ethereal ♩ = 108

Musical score for orchestra and piano, page 168, measures 66-67.

Flute and Bassoon Clarinet play eighth-note patterns at *pp*. Violin and Cello play sustained notes at *p*, with dynamic *pp* indicated. Soprano vocal line starts with a rest, followed by "I \_\_\_\_\_ know not how I came of \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_". Percussion includes stem down vibraphone and stem up crotales. Piano plays eighth-note patterns at *pp*.

76

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S.

Perc.

Pno.

and \_\_\_\_\_ I know not where I go \_\_\_\_\_ with you but I

*ppp* *p*

*pp leggiero*

con *R&B*.

85

A Tempo, Assured ( $\text{♩} = 108$ )

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S.

Perc.

Pno.

know I came \_\_\_\_\_ well \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ shall go \_\_\_\_\_ well.

*poco rall.*

*p*

*p*

*mp*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

88

Fl. B♭ Cl. Vln. Vc. S. Perc. Pno.

*p*

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

*p*

*cresc.*

*mp*

I will stop on - ly a time with the night, and rise be - times,

vibes

*p cresc.*

*con  $\ddot{\text{X}}\text{do}$ .*

*cresc.*

$8^{\text{vb}}$

94

Fl. B♭ Cl. Vln. Vc. S. Perc. Pno.

rall.

*mf*

I will du ly pass the day O my mo - ther,

*ff*

$5$

$8^{\text{vb-1}}$

$8^{\text{vb-1}}$

$8^{\text{vb-1}}$

99  $\text{♩} = 60$

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S.

Perc.

Pno.

and du - ly re - turn to you.

106

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

S.

Perc.

Pno.

rall.