

NIGHT BLOSSOMS

Vocal Quartet (SATB)

Haiku by Yofu

Recording: Innova 233

Duration: ca. 2 minutes

Haiku by Yofu from "Cage of Fireflies"
translated by Lucien Stryk
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Commissioned by Kiitos



MARY JANE LEACH

Ariadne Press 01035

The image shows a musical score for four voices: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The music is in 3/4 time and consists of a single melodic line for each voice. The Soprano part starts on a whole note G4. The Alto part starts on a whole note F4. The Tenor part starts on a whole note E4 with a sharp sign (#). The Bass part starts on a whole note D3 with a sharp sign (#). All parts end with a half note on the next scale degree: A4 for Soprano, G4 for Alto, F4 for Tenor, and E3 for Bass. The notes are connected by a slur, indicating a single melodic phrase.

Night Blossoms

Night cherry blossoms tinted by the bonfire, tinted by the bonfire.

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Lyrics by
Yofu

NIGHT BLOSSOMS

Music by
Mary Jane Leach
(2001)

Tempo: ♩ = 88

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

7

S

A

T

B

13

S

A

T

B

19

S

A

T

B

25

S

A

T

B

Night cher-ry blos - soms tint - ed by the bon - fire,

31

S

A

T

B

tint - ed by the bon - fire. _____

37

S

A

T

B

Everybody should sing using the same vowel, either “u” or “o” (Italian vowels), whichever is most comfortable. When you sing the grace notes, think of a shakuhachi flute. Start it just before the beat so that the note it leads to starts on the beat. Start the glissandos at the beginning of the note and finish them by the downbeat of the next quarter note. As far as dynamics go, the entire piece should be the same level, one that’s comfortable, although the tenor solo can be expressive and should be sung gently. Don’t sneak in entries; they’re there in most cases for the rhythm, as much as for the tone. Try to hold the note values for their entirety - I’ve tried to write in enough rests, except for the soprano part and the alto part near the end (sneak breaths in when you can).