

The Pole Star

♦ ♦ ♦
Joseph Eidson
(2012)

♦ ♦ ♦
SATB Choir, a cappella

Duration: ca. 3 minutes

Program Notes

The writings of H.P. Lovecraft (1890-1937) contain vivid images of alien worlds, mythical creatures, and a fascination with the occult. The short story “Polaris” was published in 1920 and describes a man overlooking the golden city of Olathoë. The Pole Star watches over the city “from the same place in the black vault, winking hideously like an insane watching eye which strives to convey some strange message...” As the man observes a battle, the star lulls him to sleep with a whispered song, and eventually he becomes lost as to which world is real and which is a dream.

The text for this work is the poem that Polaris sings to the man near the end of the story. My setting attempts to capture both the quality of a soothing lullaby and the strange, ethereal presence of the Pole Star. The energy of the work is meant to evoke the star slowly rising over the horizon, peaking in the middle and then fading into the distance.

Text

Slumber, watcher, till the spheres Other stars anon shall rise
Six and twenty thousand years To the axis of the skies;
Have revolv'd, and I return Stars that soothe and stars that bless
To the spot where now I burn. With a sweet forgetfulness:

Only when my round is o'er
Shall the past disturb thy door.

About the Composer

Joseph Eidson (b.1981) holds degrees in composition from the University of Kansas (DMA, BM) and the University of Texas (MM). His music contains rhythmic drive, crisp harmonies, and a preference for lyrical melodies. For more information please visit his website at www.josepheidson.com.

The Pole Star

Poetry by
H.P. Lovecraft (1890-1937)

Joseph Eidson
(ASCAP)

Ethereal, hushed (♩ = 80)

Soprano *p*
Slum - ber, watch - er. Slum - ber, watch - er.

Alto *p*
Slum - ber, watch - er. Slum - ber, watch - er,

Tenor *p*
Slum - ber, watch - er.

Bass *p*
Slum - ber, watch - er.

For Rehearsal Only

10

7 *mf* *f* *mp*
S. Slum - ber watch - er slum - ber watch - er. Slum - ber, watch - er, till the

mf *f* *mp*
A. Slum - ber, watch - er. Slum - ber, watch - er, till the

mf *f* *mp*
T. Slum - ber, watch - er. Slum - ber, watch - er, till the

mf *f* *mp*
B. Slum - ber, watch - er. Slum - ber, watch - er, till the

12

S. *mf* spheres; six and twen-ty thou - sand years have re - volv'd and *mp*

A. *mf* spheres; six and twen-ty thou - sand years have re - volv'd and *mp*

T. *mf* spheres; six and twen-ty thou - sand years have re - volv'd and *mp*

B. *mf* spheres; six and twen-ty thou - sand years have re - volv'd and *mp*

16 (2+3)

S. *mf* I re - turn to the spot where now I burn. *p*

A. *mf* I re - turn to the spot where now I burn. *p*

T. *mf* I re - turn to the spot where now I burn. *p*

B. *mf* I re - turn to the spot where now I burn. *p*

(2+3)

S. *mp* Oth - er stars a - non shall rise. Oth - er stars a - non shall rise.

A. *mp* Oth - er stars a - non shall rise. Oth - er stars a - non shall rise.

T. *mp* Oth - er stars a - non shall rise. Oth - er stars a - non shall rise.

B. *mp* Oth - er stars a - non shall rise. Oth - er stars a - non shall rise.



24

(2+3)

S. *mf* Oth - er stars a - non shall rise to the ax - is of the

A. *mf* Oth - er stars a - non shall rise to the ax - is of the

T. *mf* Oth - er stars a - non shall rise to the ax - is of the

B. *mf* Oth - er stars a - non shall rise to the ax - is of the

30

28

S. *f* *ff* *mf*
 skies, the skies. Stars that soothe and stars that bless

A. *f* *ff* *mf*
 skies, the skies. Stars that soothe and stars that bless

T. *f* *ff* *mf*
 skies, the skies. Stars that soothe and stars that bless

B. *f* *ff* *mf*
 skies, the skies. Stars that soothe and stars that bless

36

33

S. *mp* *p*
 with a sweet for - get - ful - ness. Slum - ber, watch - er.

A. *mp* *p*
 with a sweet for - get - ful - ness. Slum - ber, watch - er.

T. *mp* *p*
 with a sweet for - get - ful - ness. Slum - ber, watch - er. _____

B. *mp* *p*
 with a sweet for - get - ful - ness. Slum - ber, watch - er. _____

39

S. *f*
Slum - ber, watch - er, slum - ber, watch - er. Slum - ber.

A. *f*
Slum - ber, watch - er. Slum - ber.

T. *f*
Slum - ber, watch - er. Slum - ber.

B. *f*
Slum - - - ber. Slum - ber.



43

S. *mp* *mf*
On - ly when my round is o'er shall the

A. *mp* *mf*
On - ly when my round is o'er shall the

T. *mp* *mf*
On - ly when my round is o'er shall the

B. *mp* *mf*
On - ly when my round is o'er shall the

51 Freely - poco rit. al fine

48

S. *mp* past dis - turb thy door. Slum - ber, watch - er. *p* Slum - ber...

A. *mp* *p* *mp* *p* past dis - turb thy door. mm. mm. Slum - ber...

T. *mp* *p* *mp* *p* past dis - turb thy door. mm. mm. Slum - ber...

B. *mp* *p* *mp* *p* past dis - turb thy door. mm. mm. Slum - ber...