

THE MYSTERY OF LIGHT



from *Coronach* for Two Off-Stage Sopranos
and Mixed Choir (SATB)

Phillip A. Cooke

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(2019)

PERFORMANCE NOTES

- The *mmm* sound is a resonant humming sound, perhaps with a slightly open mouth if necessary, to create a fuller sound
- The off-stage sopranos should be distant and half-heard and should ideally be placed in a gallery or away from the main performance space
- All breath marks have been left to the discretion of the conductor

For Sam Paul and the University of Aberdeen Chamber Choir

First performed by The University of Aberdeen Chamber Choir conducted by Sam Paul at Elphinstone Hall, Aberdeen on the 14 January 2020 in a special honorary graduation for HRH The Princess Royal. The first public performance was given by the same performers at King's College Chapel, the University of Aberdeen on the 12 March 2020.

Duration: 4 minutes

Cover photograph: www.blog.visitcairnngorms.com

For more information: www.phillipcooke.com

TEXT

'It is the eye that discovers the mystery of light, not only the moon and the stars and the vast splendours of the Aurora, but the endless changes the earth undergoes under changing lights.'

Nan Shepherd (1893 – 1981)

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NAN SHEPHERD (1893-1981)

PHILLIP A. COOKE (2019)

Adagio misterioso (♩ = c.52)

Off-stage soprano soli

It is the eye, _____

It is the eye, _____

It is the eye _____ that dis-cov-ers, _____

Soprano

It is the eye, _____

Alto

It is the eye _____ that dis-cov-ers, _____

It is the eye _____

It is the eye, _____

It is the eye, _____

that dis-cov-ers, _____

It is the eye _____ that dis-cov-ers, _____

11 *mf* *molto*

dis - cov - ers the mys - te - ry of ...light,

pp cresc. *mf* *molto*

It is the eye that dis - cov - ers the mys - te - ry of light,

mf *molto*

...light,

mf *molto*

...light,

14

Soprano I *p espress*

Not on - ly the moon, Not on - ly the stars,

Soprano II *p espress*

Not on - ly the moon, Not on - ly the stars,

pp sempre

* mmm

pp sempre

* mmm

pp sempre

* mmm

* Breathe independently to create smooth, unchanging sound

Soprano I & II

18 *pp* *f cresc.*

...splen - dours of the Aur - or - a, _____ of the Aur - or - a, _____ of the Aur -

f cresc.

and the vast splen - dours of the Aur - or - a, _____ of the Aur - or - a, _____ of the Aur -

f cresc.

Aur - or - a, _____ of the Aur - or - a, _____ of the Aur -

f cresc.

Aur - or - a, _____ of the Aur - or - a, _____ of the Aur -

Rapsodico (a tempo)

21 *ff brillante* *dim.*

or - a, _____ and the end - less chan-ges that the earth, end - less chan-ges that the

ff brillante *dim.*

or - a, _____ and the end - less chan-ges that the, end - less chan-ges that the earth,

ff brillante *dim.*

or - a, _____ and the end - less chan-ges that the, end - less chan-ges that the, end - less chan-ges that the,

ff brillante *dim.*

or - a, _____ and the end - less chan-ges that the, end - less chan-ges that the, end - less chan-ges that the,

poco rit.

25 *p*

earth, that the earth un - der - goes un - der chang - ing lights.

p

end - less chan - ges that the earth un - der - goes un - der chang - ing lights.

p

end - less chan - ges that the earth un - der - goes un - der chang - ing lights.

p

end - less chan - ges that the earth un - der - goes un - der chang - ing lights.



Adagio misterioso (♩ = c.52)

29 *pp*

pp *poco lontano*

It is the eye that dis - cov ers, the mys - te - ry of

pp

pp

Off-stage soprano soli

rit.

33 *pp* *lontano* *poco a poco decrec. a fine*

It is the eye _____ It is the eye _____

pp
light.

pp
light.

pp
light.

pp
light.



37 *ppp* *lontanissimo*

_____ It is the eye _____ It is the eye _____