

Bright Star

for SSATBB choir

Music by Chris Hutchings (b. 1979)

Bright star, would I were steadfast as thou art—
Not in lone splendour hung aloft the night
And watching, with eternal lids apart,
Like nature's patient, sleepless Eremite,
The moving waters at their priestlike task
Of pure ablution round earth's human shores,
Or gazing on the new soft-fallen mask
Of snow upon the mountains and the moors—
No—yet still steadfast, still unchangeable,
Pillow'd upon my fair love's ripening breast,
To feel for ever its soft fall and swell,
Awake for ever in a sweet unrest,
Still, still to hear her tender-taken breath,
And so live ever—or else swoon to death.

John Keats (1795-1821)

This piece was written as part of the ChoralNet Showcase Dare August 2015, in honour of Choralnet founder Dr James D. Feiszli.

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John Keats (1795-1821)

for SSATBB choir

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Lento $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 60$

Soprano 1
star

Soprano 2
Bright star,

Alto
star Bright star,

Tenor
star Bright star,

Bass 1
Bright star,

Bass 2
star

S 1
Bright star,

S 2
Bright star,

A
Bright star,

T
Bright star,

B 1
Bright star,

B 2
Would I were steady fast as thou art, lone in lone not as thou art, would I were steady fast as thou art, (keep bass 2 slightly prominent)

Would I were steady fast as thou art,

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Bright Star

11 *mf*
S 1 And wat-ching, with e-ter-nal

11 *pp* *mp* *p*
S 2 bright star,

11 *pp* *mp* *p*
A bright star,

11 *mp*
T splen-dour hung a-loft the night, wat-ching, wat-ching,

11 *pp* *mp* *p*
B 1 bright star, bright

11 *pp* *mp* *p*
B 2 bright star, bright

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16 *p*
S 1 lids a-part,

16 *mp*
S 2 Like na-ture's pa-tient, sleep-less

16 *mp*
A Like na-ture's pa-tient, sleep-less

16 *mp*
T wat-ching, Like na-ture's pa-tient, sleep-less

16 *mp* *pp* *mp*
B 1 star, mm

16 *mp* *pp*
B 2 star,

Bright Star

4
21

S 1 *mp* The mo - ving wa - ters

S 2 *p* E - re - mite, bright *mp* star,

A *p* E - re - mite, bright *mp* star,

T *mp* E - re - mite, The mo - ving wa - ters at their priest - like

B 1 *p* bright *cresc.* star, *mp*

B 2 *mp* The mo - ving wa - ters at their priest - like task of *f*

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26

S 1 *f* at their priest - like task of pure a - blu - tion round earth's hu - man shores *mp*

S 2 *p* bright star, *mp* bright

A *p* bright star, *mp* bright

T *f* task of pure a - blu - tion round earth's hu - man shores *mp*

B 1 *p* bright *cresc.* star, *mp* *dim.* *p*

B 2 *mp* pure a - blu - tion round earth's hu - man shores, *mp*

poco rit. *a tempo*

Bright Star

31 *mf* *p*

S 1

31 *mf* *p* *mp*

S 2 bright star, fal - len

A *mf* *p* *mp*

A star, on the new soft - fal - len

T *mp*

T or ga - zing on the new soft - fal - len

B 1 *p* *mf* *p*

B 1 bright star,

B 2 *mp*

B 2 the new soft - fal - len

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37 *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *rit.* *mp* *mf*

S 1 mask of snow u - pon the moun - tains and the moors

S 2 *mf* *p* *mp* *p*

S 2 mask of snow u - pon the moun - tains

A *mf* *p* *mp* *p*

A mask of snow u - pon the moun - tains

T *mf* *p* *pp* *mp* *mf*

T mask of snow and the moors

B 1 *mp* *mf* *p* *pp* *mp* *mf*

B 1 mask of snow and the moors

B 2 *mf* *p* *pp* *mp* *mf*

B 2 mask of snow and the moors

Bright Star

6
43

S 1 *p* *mp* *p*
yet still (ll)

S 2 *f* *mp* *p* *mf* *p*

A No *f* *mp* *p* *mf* *p*
stead - fast,

T No *p* *mp* *p*
stead - fast,

B 1 *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*
yet still (ll)
3
(not in lone splen - dour)

B 2 *p* *mp* *p*
stead - fast,
yet still (ll)

47

S 1 *mp* *p* *p*
still (ll) bright

S 2 *mf* *mp* *p* *p*
un - change - a - ble, bright

A *mf* *mp* *p* *p*
un - change - a - ble, bright

T *mp* *p*
still (ll)

B 1 *mf* *mp* *p* *mp*
un - change - a - ble, Pil - low'd u - pon my fair love's

B 2 *mp* *p* *mf*
still (ll) Pil - low'd u - pon my fair love's
3
(keep bass 2 slightly prominent)

Bright Star

51 *mp* *p* *pp*

S 1

51 *mp* *p* *pp*

S 2

51 *mp* *p* *pp*

A

51 *mp* *p* *mf* *mp*

T

8

51 *p* *mp* *mf*

B 1

51 *p* *mp* *mf*

B 2

ripe - ning breast, To feel for e - ver its soft

ripe - ning breast, To feel for

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55 *p* *mp* *pp*

S 1

55 *p* *mp* *pp*

S 2

55 *p* *mp* *pp*

A

55 *mf* *mp* *mp*

T

8

55 *mp* *mf* *mp*

B 1

55 *mf* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp*

B 2

bright star, bright star, fall and swell, A - wake for

its soft fall and swell, A - wake for

e - ver its soft fall and swell, in

Bright Star

8

60

p *mp* *p* *p*

S 1 bright star, still to

60

p *mp* *p* *pp*

S 2 bright star,

60

p *mp* *p* *pp*

A bright star,

60

f *mp* *p*

T e - ver in a sweet un - rest, Still, still to

60

mf *p*

B 1 e - ver in a sweet un - rest,

60

mf *p*

B 2 a sweet un - rest,

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65

mf *p* *mp*

S 1 hear her ten - der - ta - ken breath, And

65

mp *mf* *p* *mp*

S 2 ta - ken breath, And

65

mp *mf* *p* *mp*

A her ten - der - ta - ken breath, And

65

mf *p* *mp*

T hear her ten - der - ta - ken breath, And

65

mf *p* *mp*

B 1 ta - ken breath, And

65

p *mf* *p* *mp*

B 2 hear her ten - der - ta - ken breath, And

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Musical score for voices S1, S2, A, T, B1, B2, measures 70-75. Dynamics include *f*, *(non dim.)*, and *p*. Lyrics: "so live e - ver Or else".

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Musical score for voices S1, S2, A, T, B1, B2, measures 76-81. Dynamics include *mp*, *mf*, *f*, and *pp*. Lyrics: "swoon to death.".