

We are such little men when the stars come out,  
So small under the open maw of the night,  
That we must shout and pound the table and drive wild,  
And gather dollars and madly dance and drink deep,  
And send the great birds flying, and drop death.  
When the stars come out we are such little men  
That we must arm ourselves in glare and thunder,  
Or cave in on our own dry littleness.

We are such little men when the stars come out!  
Ah, God behind the stars, touch with your finger  
This mite of meaningless dust and give it substance.  
I am so little, under the frown of the night!  
Be you my body, you my eyes, my lips,  
My hands, my feet, my heart-beat and my hunger,  
That I may face the infinite spaces, and live;  
And stand in quietness, when the stars come out.

--Hermann Hagedorn, 1882 -- 1964

### **Performance Notes**

Prepare three good-quality wine glasses by filling them with water to precisely achieve the notated pitch when the rim is rubbed with a moistened finger.

The entrances in measure one are approximate; it may take a few seconds to initiate the sound on the wine glasses. The chord in m. 39 should be held long enough for the glass pitches to get started.

For the Des Moines Diversity Chorus  
Julie Murphy, Director  
Commissioned by Clayton Murphy in celebration of  
the 25th anniversary of their wedding

# Starry Night

Mixed Chorus (SATB) a cappella

Hermann Hagedorn (Alt.)

Tim Blickhan

Wind Chimes

Soprano

Piano

*Freely* ♩ = 72  
*mp* Solo or a few voices

We are such lit-tle men when the stars come out,

*For rehearsal only*

W.C.

S

A

Pno

*Tutti*  
*mp*

We are such lit-tle men when the stars come out, So

We are such lit-tle men when the stars come out, So

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W.C.

S

A

Pno

6

3

3

3

6

3

3

3

small un - der the o - pen maw of the night,

small un - der the o - pen maw of the night,

W.C.

S

A

T

B

Pno

**Allegro** ♩ = 120

8

8

*f* > > >

*f* > > >

*f* > > >

*f* > > >

8

8

That we must shout and pound the

That we must shout and pound the

That we must shout and pound the tab - le

That we must shout and pound the tab - le

8

8

10

S  
tab - le and drive wild, And ga - ther dol - lars and

A  
tab - le and drive wild, And ga - ther dol - lars and

T  
8  
and drive wild And ga - ther dol - lars and

B  
and drive wild And ga - ther dol - lars and

Pno  
10

12

S  
mad - - - ly dance and drink deep and

A  
mad - - - ly dance and drink deep and

T  
8  
mad - - - ly dance and drink deep and

B  
mad - - - ly dance and drink deep and

Pno  
12

14

S  
send the great birds fly - ing and drop death, drop death,  
*ff* *mf*

A  
send the great birds fly - ing and drop death, drop death,  
*ff* *mf*

T  
8  
send the great birds fly - ing and drop death, drop death,  
*ff* *mf*

B  
send the great birds fly - ing and drop death, drop death,  
*ff* *mf*

Pno

17

S  
drop death. When the stars come out we are such  
*mp* ♩ = 72

A  
drop death. When the stars come out we are such  
*mp*

T  
8  
drop death. When the stars come out we are such  
*mp*

B  
drop death. When the stars come out we are such  
*mp*

Pno

19 *mf*

S lit-tle men That we must arm our - selves in glare and thun-der, Or

A lit-tle men That we must arm in thun-der, Or

T *mf* lit-tle men That we must arm our - selves in glare and thun-der, Or

B lit-tle men That we must arm in thun-der, Or

Pno

22

S cave in on our own dry lit - tle - ness \_\_\_\_\_

A cave in on our own dry lit - tle - ness \_\_\_\_\_

T *mf* cave in on our own dry lit - tle - ness \_\_\_\_\_

B cave in on our own dry lit - tle - ness \_\_\_\_\_

Pno

25

S

A

T

B

Pno

*Solo or a few voices*  
*mp*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf* *Tutti*

We are such lit-tle men when the stars come out, Ah,

Ah,

Ah,

3

3

**Expressively** ♩ = 60

27

S

A

T

B

Pno

God be-hind the stars, touch with your fin-ger this mite of dust and give it

God be-hind the stars, touch with your fin - ger this mite of dust and give it

God \_\_\_ with your fin - ger dust and give it

God \_\_\_ with your fin - ger dust and give it

27

30

S  
sub-stance. I am so lit - tle un - der the frown of the night. *mp*

A  
sub - stance. So lit - tle un - der night *mp*

T  
sub - stance. The night. *mp*

B  
sub-stance.

Pno

33

S

A  
*mf* My lips my hands

T  
*mf* Be you my eyes

B  
*mf* Be you my bod - y

Pno

33



35 *mf* *mf*

S My heart-beat and my hun - ger — That I may

A hands, my feet — That I may

T That I may

B That I may

Pno

38

W.C.

38 *Slower mp*

S face the in-fin-ite spa-ces and live; And stand in qui-et-ness,

A face the in-fin-ite spa-ces and live; And stand in qui-et-ness,

T face the in-fin-ite spa-ces and live; And stand in qui-et-ness,

B face the in-fin-ite spa-ces and live; And stand in qui-et-ness,

Pno

41

W.C.

41

S

when the stars come out. When the stars come out.

*p*

A

when the stars come out. When the stars come out.

T

when the stars come out. When the stars come out.

B

when the stars come out. When the stars come out.

41

Pno

DeKalb, Illinois  
September, 2009