

WATER NIGHT

for S.A.T.B. Chorus, a cappella

Original Spanish text by
Octavio Paz
Translation by
Muriel Rukeyser

Music by
Eric Whitacre

Adagio, sempre legato

S *p*
Night with the eyes of a horse that trem - bles

A *p*
Night with the eyes of a horse that trem - bles

T *p*
Night with the eyes of a horse that trem - bles

B *p*
Night with the eyes of a horse that trem - bles

Piano
For rehearsal only *p*
Adagio, sempre legato

6
in the night, night with eyes of wa - ter in the field a - sleep is

in the night, night with eyes of wa - ter in the field a - sleep is

in the night, night with eyes of wa - ter in the field a - sleep is

in the night, night with eyes of wa - ter in the field a - sleep is

6

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in your eyes, a horse that trem - bles is in your

in your eyes, a horse that trem - bles is in your

in your eyes, a horse that trem - bles is in your

in your eyes, a horse that trem - bles is in your

16 *sub. f*

eyes of se - cret wa - ter Eyes of

eyes of se - cret wa - ter Eyes of

eyes of se - cret wa - ter Eyes

eyes of se - cret wa - ter Eyes

16 *sub. f*

mp

sha - dow - wa - ter, _____ eyes of well - wa - ter, _____

mp

sha - dow - wa - ter, _____ eyes of well - wa - ter, _____

mp

_____ of sha - dow - wa - ter, eyes of well - wa - ter, _____

mp

_____ of sha - dow - wa - ter, eyes of well - wa - ter, _____

mp

p 25

eyes of dream - wa - ter _____ Si - lence and sol - i - tude,

p

eyes of dream - wa - ter _____ Si - lence and sol - i - tude,

p

eyes of dream - wa - ter _____ Si - lence and sol - i - tude,

p

eyes of dream - wa - ter _____ Si - lence and sol - i - tude,

p 25

two lit - tle an - i - mals moon - led drink in your eyes,

two lit - tle an - i - mals moon - led drink in your eyes,

drink in your eyes,

drink in your eyes,

33 drink in those wa - ters If you o - pen your eyes night

33 drink in those wa - ters If you o - pen your eyes night

33 drink in those wa - ters If you o - pen your eyes night

33 drink in those wa - ters If you o - pen your eyes night

38

o - pens doors of musk, the se - cret king-dom of the

o - pens doors of musk, the se - cret king-dom of the

o - pens doors of musk, the se - cret

o - pens doors of musk, the se - cret

38

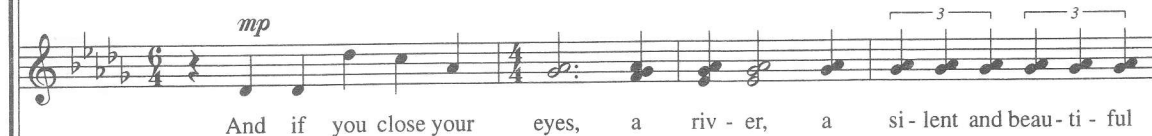
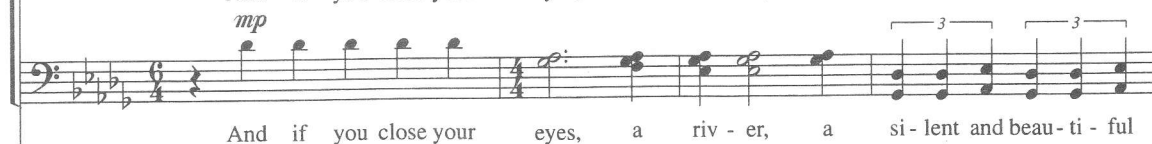
wa - ter o - pens flow-ing from the cen - ter of the night

wa - ter o - pens flow-ing from the cen - ter of the night

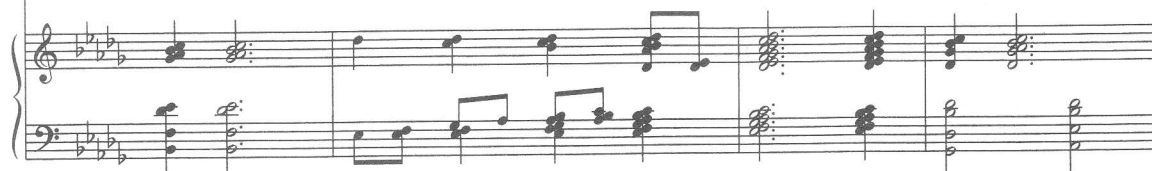
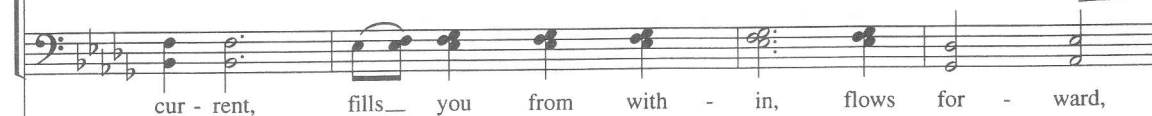
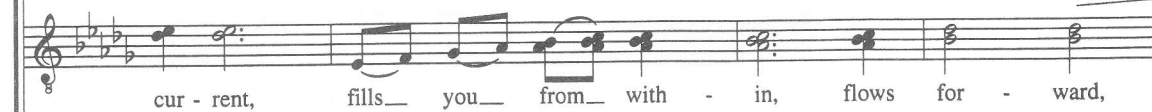
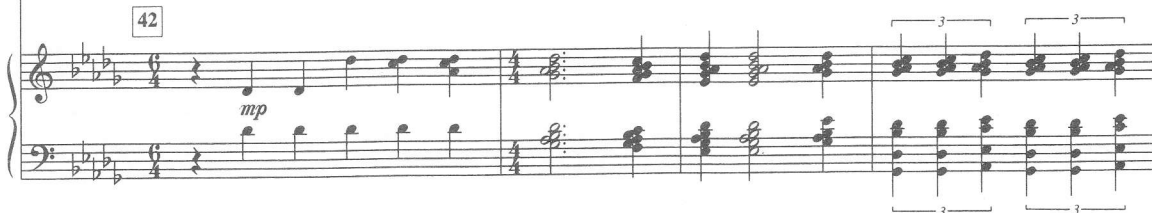
king-dom of the wa - ter o - pens flow-ing from the cen - ter of the night

king-dom of the wa - ter o - pens flow-ing from the cen - ter of the night

42

mp*mp**mp**mp*

42

mp

53 *p*

for - ward, dark - ens you Night brings its wet - ness to

for - ward, dark - ens you Night brings its wet - ness to

for - ward, dark - ens you Night brings its wet - ness to

for - ward, dark - ens you Night brings its wet - ness to

53 *p*

beach - es in your soul

beach - es in your soul

beach - es in your soul

beach - es in your soul

PROGRAM NOTES

The poetry of Octavio Paz is a composer's dream. The music seems to set itself (without the usual struggle that invariably accompanies this task) and the process feels more like cleaning the oils from an ancient canvas to reveal the hidden music than composing. *Water Night* was no exception, and the tight harmonies and patient unfolding seemed to pour from the poetry from the first reading, singing its magic even after the English translation. *Water Night* is simply the natural musical expression of this beautiful poem, and is dedicated with my greatest sincerity to my friend and confidant Dr. Bruce Mayhall.

GENERAL PERFORMANCE NOTE

In all three or four-part women's or men's divisi sections, there should be a division of voices resulting in a balanced sound.

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Born in 1970, Eric Whitacre is an accomplished composer, conductor, and clinician, and has received performances of his choral and instrumental works throughout the United States, Canada and Japan.

AGUA NOCTURNA

Le noche de ojos de caballo que tiemblan en la noche,
la noche de ojos de agua en el campo dormido,
está en tus ojos de caballo que tiembla,
está en tus ojos de agua secreta.

Ojos de agua de sombra,
ojos de agua de pozo,
ojos de agua de sueño.

El silencio y la soledad,
como dos pequeños animales a quienes guía la luna,
behen en esos ojos,
behen en esas aguas.

Si abres los ojos,
se abre la noche de puertas de musgo,
se abre el reino secreto del agua
que mana del centro de la noche.

Y si los cierras,
un río inunda por dentro,
avanza, te hace oscura:
la noche moja riberas en tu alma

WATER NIGHT

*Night with the eyes of a horse that trembles in the night,
night with eyes of water in the field asleep
is in your eyes, a horse that trembles,
is in your eyes of secret water.*

*Eyes of shadow-water,
eyes of well-water,
eyes of dream-water.*

*Silence and solitude,
two little animals moon-led,
drink in your eyes,
drink in those waters.*

*If you open your eyes,
night opens, doors of musk,
the secret kingdom of the water opens
flowing from the center of night.*

*And if you close your eyes,
a river fills you from within,
flows forward, darkens you:
night brings its wetness to beaches in your soul.*

Octavio Paz
(adapted by Eric Whitacre)

(translation: Muriel Rukeyser)

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