

Things That Go Bump in the Night

A hair-raising journey from dusk to dawn



for SSA and piano

I. And the Moon is Listening...

II. There it is again!

III. Things That Go Bump in the Night

Elizabeth Alexander

Seafarer Press

Things That Go Bump in the Night

I. And the moon is listening...

I lie in bed at night and listen.
Doors creak and walls moan,
Faucets drip and the house is settling.
And the moon is listening...

I lie in bed at night and listen.
Mice creep and clocks tick,
Marking time while we are dreaming.
And the moon is listening...

My cats go bumpity-bump all night,
Mischievous happening left and right.
Bumpity-bumpity-bumpity-bump!

I lie in bed at night and listen.
Snow falls and branches sway,
Wind chimes clatter in the breeze.
And the moon is listening...
And I drift to sleep...

II. There it is again!

Cracking lumber
wakes me from my slumber,
And my fear takes hold.
Sky and clouds brawl.
Simple things make my skin crawl.
And the night grows suddenly loud and dark and cold.

I hold my breath and dare not make a peep.
I try to go back to sleep...I can't go back to sleep...
What's that!?

I hear a creaking and a moaning,
Souls in agony are groaning.
There it is again!

It's getting louder, and louder, and louder!
Something's creeping under my bed!
Is it alive or is it dead?
Does it even have a head?

What's that shadow that I see?
Is it a spider bigger than me?
Should I hide or should I flee?
There it is again!

I'm so scared I rattle the sheets!
I'm so scared I start to freeze!
I'm so scared I start to grow a beard!

Footsteps in the hall,
I'm not afraid, not at all.
Still, to be quite certain,
I'll hide behind the curtain,
Standing very still like a statue...

A roar and a rip and then I know it's a...it's a...
And it's coming closer and closer...

Suddenly it's here!
I'm paralyzed by fear!
And it's coming towards me
And I hear this noise:

GET BACK IN BED!

I turn on the light,
Not a shadow in sight.
So I go back to sleep,
And I don't hear a peep.

III. Things That Go Bump in the Night

I pull the covers from my face
And glance around my room.
The light of dawn reveals no trace
Of a hair-raising visit from a creature of doom.

Things that go bump in the night just might
Make us go to the height of fright.
We get so scared
That our minds gets ensnared
By the things that go bump in the night.

Fear is wise to listen to,
But never let it get the best of you!

Lyrics by Elizabeth Alexander
with students from Edward Smith School



Cover Image:
“Halloween Tree”
Created by Lorelyn Medina
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WARNING: This piece is not for a shy choir!

Singers are asked to speak, whisper, shout, moan, click their tongues, rub their hands together, snap their fingers, stomp their feet, and become party cats.

Neither may the pianist be a shrinking violet!

The pianist is asked to play chord clusters with their whole arm, as well as strum the piano's strings. (If you don't have a grand piano, just play a glissando instead!)

Many measures in this piece do not have time signatures, but don't panic!

These measures simply contain special effects and spoken words, and may be given as much time as they need. Small downward arrows in the score indicate that the conductor should simply give a downbeat or other signal, letting everyone know it's time to proceed to the next measure.

Composer's Note: "Things That Go Bump in the Night" was composed with and for students at Edward Smith Elementary School in Syracuse, New York. The students thought up the theme themselves and spent a week writing a wealth of poetry and lyrics. Over the next several months we imagined their words into a multi-movement experience which included a full-fledged ghost story.

After the piece was completed I couldn't believe how many adult choirs wanted to get in on the fun! Several choirs even created adaptations of their own. Eventually conductor Bryson Mortensen commissioned an "official" mixed choir version for the Festival Choir of Madison, allowing the piece to find a new life in concerts for the whole family.

Many thanks to my Edward Smith Elementary School helpers!

Lyricists: Zara Asman, Jessica Barbour, Kyle Bell, Clarence Brennen, Thomas Brown, Brandon Burchand, Nicole Caffy, Zack Clark, Kim Crossway, Nick DeCarlo, Sarah Doucette, Corky Ellison, Joshua Gamage, Mallisa Gasparovic, Max Gerros, Erin Godwin, Caitlin Gucker-Kantor, Anna Guisbond, Gwen Hayward, Jenna Hawkins, Eddie Herron, Kamesha Huddleston, Stacey Karpouzes, Patrick Kelly, Meagan Kennedy, Nikki King, Jennifer Knight, Michael McLaughlin, Meghan Mehan, Sean Moore, Kristen Myrick, Katie Ninno, Claire Pietrzak, Logan Pistello, Josh Pagan, Andrew Post, Kate Price, Chris Resti, Crysten Rushmore, Sulaiman Abdul Sabur, Amy Savage, Sarah Schechter, Lauren Shaw, Ashley Spinks, Katie Steele, Beth Stricker, Maggie Stonecash, Amanda Sullivan, Kent Sutherland, David Swift, Daquan Thomas, Joel Tillman, Eric Uhlig, Porsche Walker, Dorsey Williams, Sierra Williams, Rhiannon Wilson, Jordan Wood, & Katie Wood

Composers: Mikel Ashkin, Sean Bailey, Kirsten Barrett, Kim Crossways, Robert Dougherty, Lisa Eade, Emile Godwin, Jaqual Green, Matt Guisbond, Shatosha McMullen, Ana Riley, Meredith Robson, Katie Scheutzow, Kye Smith, Alexandra Watson, Matt Abbott, Jessica Barbour, Chris Hall, Elizabeth Klemperer, Elisha Maxfield, Brian McCulley, Maggie Stonecash, Kent Sutherland, Joel Tillman, Katie Wood, Ashley Bailey, Kyle Bell, Clarence Brennen, Grace Broadwater, Zach Chase, Sarah Floyd, Tyler McAndrew, Evi Robinson, Daquan Thomas, & Eli Tiffault

Things That Go Bump in the Night

SSA* and piano

I. And the moon is listening

Elizabeth Alexander, with students at
Edward Smith Elementary School

Placidly (♩ = 58-63)
Resonant, like distant bells

Piano

pp
Ped.

7 *pp placidly*
I I lie in bed at night and lis - ten...
II *pp placidly*
I I lie in bed at night and lis - ten,...

Ped. *Ped.*

13
I Doors creak and walls moan, Fau - cets drip and the house is set - tl - ing, -
II

Ped. *Ped.*

* Choir alternates between singing in unison (Tutti), in two parts (I & II) and in three parts (SI, SII & A)

18

I
—(ng) And the moon _____ is

II
And the moon _____ is

Tongue clicks, like a dripping faucet. Form mouth into large and small "O"s

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

24

I *pp*
lis - ten - ing. _____

II *pp*
lis - ten - ing. _____

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

A

30

mp > *pp*

Ped. Ped.

36 *pp*

I I lie in bed at night and lis - ten.

II I lie in bed at night and lis - ten.

pp

Ped.

42

I

II Mice creep and clocks tick, Mark - ing time while we are dream - ing.

*Ped. Ped.

Tongue clicks, like a dripping faucet. Form mouth into large and small "O"s

mechanically

47

I And the moon is

II (ng) And the moon is

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

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**A lot of hard work
and creativity went
into bringing this
music to you...**



**...and some of it
was even mine.**

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Elizabeth Alexander

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65

Cats quickly snap back to being choral singers

A little fountain of giggles from several scheming cats...

I
 mis - chief hap - pen - ing left and right, My

II
 mis - chief hap - pen - ing left and right, Shh! My

sfz

Red. *

68

Again, cats snap back to being choral singers.

I
 cats go bump - i - ty bump all night, mis - chief hap - pen - ing left and right,

II
 cats go bump - i - ty bump all night, mis - chief hap - pen - ing left and right,

Again, cats snap back to being choral singers.

Repeat a few times if desired

Some or all singers become total party cats.
Break out the birthday-type noisemakers, slide whistles and maracas!

I

II

70

My

Ped. *

Once again, the cats become well-behaved choral singers. How innocent they look!

Tutti

72

cats go bump - i - ty bump all night, mis - chief hap - pen - ing left and right,

C

Tutti

74 *ff*

bump - i - ty, bump - i - ty, bump - i - ty, bump - i - ty bump!

ff *pp*

Ped.

79 *pp placidly*

Tutti

I lie in bed at night and

Ped. Ped.

85

Tutti

lis - ten, Snow falls and branch - es sway,

Ped. Ped.

90

Tutti

Wind chimes clat - ter in the breeze, And the

Ped.

94 *pp*

Tutti

moon is lis - ten - ing,

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

100 **meno mosso** *dreamily*

S I
S II
A

And I drift

Ped.

105

S I
S II
A

to sleep.

Ped.

II. There It Is Again!

Elizabeth Alexander, with students at
Edward Smith Elementary School

Mysteriously
Senza misura

110 *mp* Rub hands together

Exhale, making wind sounds

p

Pat lowest strings with palm

p *p*

And.

(♩ = 60-66)

Spoken

114 *p*

mf *gliss.* *p*

Crack-ing lum-ber wakes me from my slum-ber and my fear takes

Glissando on middle strings with fingernail

mp *p* *mp* *f*

120

hold.

Snap fingers rapidly

mp

Exhale, making wind sounds

p

p *p* *mp*

♩ = 60

Spoken

124

p

Tutti

Sky and clouds brawl. Sim-ple things make my skin crawl, and the

gliss.

mp *p* *mp*

128

p

Tutti

night grows sud-den-ly loud and dark and cold.

Glissando on middle strings with fingernail

f *p*

Red. Red.

133

pp

Tutti

I hold my breath and dare not make a peep,

pp

Red. Red. Red. Red. Red.

138

p

I

p

II

Glissando on middle strings with fingernail

p

Red. Red. Red.

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154 ↓

Whispered repeatedly, randomly

mp

Scratch, Scrunchity, Scritch

Shouted

f

WHAT'S THAT?

mf

*

157

pp

I hear a creak-ing and a moan - ing (ng) _____

Such a

pp

Souls in a - gon - y are groan - ing, (ng) _____

Glissando on middle strings with fingernail

pp

Ped.

163

p

creak-ing and a moan - ing (ng) _____

Such a creak - ing and moan - ing and

Souls in a - gon - y are groan - ing, _____

and

p

Ped.

169 Low groan

I *f* *port.*

squeak-ing and groan-ing, and creak-ing and moan-ing and squeak-ing and groan - ing(ng)...

II *f* *port.* Low groan

squeak-ing and groan-ing, and creak-ing and moan-ing and squeak-ing and groan - ing(ng)...

f

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.* *

E Senza misura

175

I *mf* *port.* Moaned (higher) Oooooh

II *mf* *port.* Moaned (lower) Oooooh Shouted *mf*

THERE IT IS AGAIN!

p *Ped.* *mf* *Ped.*

178

I *mp* Whispered repeatedly, randomly Scratch, Scrunchity, Scritch

II Solo: *mf* Shouted WHO'S THERE?

SUDDEN CUT-OFF!

*

180

pp *p*

I It's get- ting loud - er, It's get- ting

II It's get- ting loud - er,

Glissando on middle strings with fingernail

pp

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

188

mp *p* *mp* **molto accel.**

I loud - er, It's get- ting loud - er, and loud - er, and

II It's get- ting loud - er, and

Ped. Ped. Ped.

194

f *f* *f*

I loud - er, and loud - er and loud - er, and loud - er, and loud - er, and loud - er,

II loud - er, and loud - er and loud - er, and loud - er, and loud - er, and loud - er,

Ped. Ped. Ped.

F Senza misura

Solo: Spoken *mp*

♩ = 60 *mp*

Tutti 200

Something's peeking in my window! Some-thing's creep - ing un - der my - bed.

sfz

mp

Ped. *Ped.*

Tutti 203

Is it a - live or is it dead? Does it e - ven have a head?

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.*

Senza misura

Solo: Spoken *mf*

mf

Tutti 207

If I close my eyes maybe it won't be able to see me! What's that sha - dow that I see?

mf

mf

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.*

210

Tutti

Is it a spi - der big - ger than me? Should I hide or should I flee?

Led.

Senza misura

214

Solo: **Shouted**
f
THERE IT IS AGAIN!

Tutti

Whispered repeatedly, randomly
mp
Scratch, scrunchity, scritch...

f

Led.

216

Solo: **Spoken**
mp I feel my house shaking..... shaking..... shaking.....
f No, YOU'RE shaking!

Tutti

Spoken by the previous speaker's neighbor

Led.

217 **G**

Solo: **Spoken**
mp

I'm so scared I rat-tle the sheets!

Tutti: **Spoken.** *P* **Stomp foot** **Stomp foot**

I'm... I'm... I'm...

Dampen strings with right hand

f+ *Ped.*

222

Solo: **Spoken**
mf

I'm so scared I start to freeze!

Tutti: **Stomp foot** **Stomp foot**

I'm... I'm...

Ped.

226

Solo: **Spoken**
mf

I'm so scared I start to ⁴grow a beard!

Tutti: **Stomp foot** **Stomp foot**

I'm... I'm...

Ped.

230 Tutti **Stomp foot** **Stomp foot**

I'm... I'm...

(8) * Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

236 *mp*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

240 **H** *p*

I Foot - steps in the hall, I'm not a - fraid at all,

II Foot - steps in the hall, I'm not a - fraid at all,

p Ped. Ped. * Ped. Ped. *

244 *mp*

I Still, to be quite cer - tain, I'll hide be - hind the cur - tain,

II Still, to be quite cer - tain, I'll hide be - hind the cur - tain,

mp Ped. Ped. * Ped. Ped. *

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262 Spoken *mf*

Tutti

Sud - den - ly it's here! I'm pa - ra-lyzed by fear! And it's com-ing

This may be a choir member if you wish, although the composer's favorite option is to have a parent in the audience deliver this line!

266

Solo Shouted *f*

GET BACK IN BED!

Tutti

towards me, and I hear this noise... I hear this noise:

ff

(keep pedal depressed)

J 272 Dreamily (♩ = 92-100)

I *p* I turn out the light, not a

II *p* I turn out the light, not a

pp

Ped.

278

I
sha - dow in sight. So I go back to sleep, and I

II
sha - dow in sight. So I go back to sleep, and I

Ped. Ped.

284

I
don't hear a peep._____

II
don't hear a peep._____

Ped. Sforz.

III. Things That Go Bump in the Night

Elizabeth Alexander, with students at
Edward Smith Elementary School

Placidly (♩ = 58-63)

Resonant, like distant bells

292

pp

Ped. Ped.

298

pp placidly

Tutti

I pull the cov-ers from my face and glance a-round my

Ped. Ped.

304

Tutti

room. The light of dawn re - veals no

pp

Ped. Ped.

310 *ponderously*

I trace _____ of a hair - rais - ing vis - it from a crea - ture of

II trace _____ of a hair - rais - ing vis - it from a crea - ture of

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.*

K

(♩. = 58-63)

317 *p*

I doom. _____

II doom. _____

p

*

325

Tutti

Things that go bump in the night just might

5 5 5

329

Tutti

make us go to the height of fright.

333

Tutti

We get _____ so scared _____ that our minds get _____ en -

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

339

Tutti

- snared _____ by the things that go bump in the night.

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. * Ped.

345

pp

*

L Choir divides into three parts

353 *pp*

S I

Things that go bump in the night just might make us go to the height of fright,

pp

357

S I

Things that go bump in the night just might make us go to the height of fright,

S II

pp

Things that go bump in the night just might make us go to the height of fright,

pp

361

S I

Things that go bump in the night just might make us go to the height of fright,

S II

Things that go bump in the night just might make us go to the height of fright,

A

pp

Things that go bump in the night just might make us go to the height of fright,

pp

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**A lot of hard work
and creativity went
into bringing this
music to you...**



**...and some of it
was even mine.**

**This page has been intentionally omitted.
(You know why.) A complete perusal score may be
purchased through any music store or dealer.**

Elizabeth Alexander

Seafarer Press

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**This optional repeat may repeated ad lib.
depending on how you plan to stage this final movement.
Adjust dynamics accordingly.**

M

373 *mp*

S I Things that go bump in the night just might make us go to the height of fright.

S II *mp*
minds get _____ en - snared _____ by the

A *mp*
We get _____ so scared _____ that our

377

S I We get _____ so scared _____ that our

S II Things that go bump in the night just might make us go to the height of fright.

A minds get _____ en - snared _____ by the

381

S I
minds get _____ en - snared _____ by the

S II
We get _____ so scared _____ that our

A
Things that go bump in the night just might make us go to the height of fright.

385 *mf*

S I
Things that go bump in the night just might make us go to the height of fright.

S II
mf
minds get _____ en - snared _____ by the

A
mf
We get _____ so scared _____ that our

389

S I Things that go bump, Things that go bump, Things that go bump, Things that go bump,

S II Things that go bump, Things that go bump, Things that go bump, Things that go bump,

A minds get en - snared by the

*

393 *ff* Stomp with opposite feet Stand very still!

Tutti Things that go bump in the night!

ff

ff

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

N Choir returns to two parts

397 *mp solemnly*

I Fears are wise to lis - ten to,

II Fears are wise to lis - ten to,

mp solemnly

mp solemnly

mp solemnly

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

406 *f*

I
But nev - er let them get the best of

II
But nev - er let them get the best of

f

Ped. Ped. *

411

I
you!

II
you!

f

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

HERE YOU GO: ONE FINAL STOMP!*

415

Tutti

ff

ff

Ped. Ped. *8va* *

* In the original version of this piece, I wrote "Bring Down the House!" on the last measure. However, it was quickly pointed out to me by more seasoned minds that a mighty collective stomp might actually bring down the *risers*. That was not not exactly what I was going for.

For this reason, singers standing directly on the floor or stage may feel free to deliver a good old whompin' stomp. Singers on the risers may wish to show a little restraint. -E.A.

Selected Choral Music by Elizabeth Alexander

- A Palette To Paint Us As We Are** (Gerald Rich)
SATB, piano • SSA, piano
- Beware the Winter Settlin' In** (Elizabeth Alexander)
SATB, Celtic band, opt. unison children's choir
- Blessed Be the Flower That Triumphs** (Michael Boblett)
SATB a cappella • SATB, orchestra
- Cherish Your Doubt** (Elizabeth Alexander)
SATB, piano • SSAA, piano
- Die Gedanken Sind Frei** (German protest song, arr.)
SATB, piano • vocal duet, piano
- Do Not Leave Your Cares at the Door** (Norman Naylor)
SATB a cappella • TTBB a cappella
- Even a Fist Was Once an Open Palm** (Yehuda Amichai)
SATB a cappella
- Faith Is the bird that feels the light** (Rabindranath Tagore)
SSA a cappella • SATB a cappella
- Fighting Over What We Believe** (Elizabeth Alexander)
SATB, soloists, piano • SSA, soloists, piano
- Finally On My Way To Yes** (Pesha Gertler)
SSATB, piano
- Folks, I'm Telling You** (Langston Hughes)
SSATB, piano
- Get Curious** (Elizabeth Alexander)
SSAA a cappella
- Glen Song** (Scott Bates)
SSATB, piano
- Grace** (Elizabeth Alexander)
SATB, piano • SSA, piano
- Handles** (Elizabeth Alexander)
SSA, piano
- How To Sing Like a Planet** (Elizabeth Alexander)
SATB, piano • TBB, piano
- If You Can Walk You Can Dance** (Zimbabwean Proverb)
SAB, piano, claves • TBB, piano, claves
SSA, piano, claves • SATB, piano, claves
- Immortal Love** (John Greenleaf Whittier)
SATB a cappella
- Infant Holy, Infant Lowly** (Polish carol, arr.)
SSA a cappella
- Jump!** (Ray Bradbury)
SSA, piano • SSA, string quartet
- Kindling** (Elizabeth Alexander)
SATB, piano • SATB, chamber ensemble
- Let it Matter** (Elizabeth Alexander)
SSA, piano • SATB, piano
- Like a Leaf** (Wendell Berry)
SATB, piano
- No Other People's Children** (Elizabeth Alexander)
1-4 part choir, soloist, piano
- ...or a musician** (Philip Dacey)
SATB, orchestra
- A Palette To Paint Us As We Are** (Gerald Rich)
SA, piano • SATB, piano
- Praise Wet Snow Falling Early** (Denise Levertov)
SATB, piano
- Reasons for the Perpetuation of Slavery** (Alexander)
SSAA a cappella
- Same Birds** (David Allen Evans)
SATB a cappella
- Sing Me Awake** (Gregory Orr)
SATB, piano, string quartet • SATB, piano, string orchestra
- Song of Kabir** (Kabir)
SATB a cappella
- The Gate is Open** (Sister Peronne Marie Thibert)
SATB a cappella
- They Have Freckles Everywhere** (Elizabeth Alexander)
SSAA, piano
- To Make a Prairie** (Emily Dickinson)
SSA, piano
- We Give Thanks for Being** (Traditional)
1-4 part choir, piano
- We Lift Up Our Hearts** (Richard Fewkes)
Unison children's choir, SATB, piano
- We Remember Them** (Sylvan Kamens, Jack Riemer)
SATB, piano
- Where there Is Light in the Soul** (Chinese proverb)
SAB a cappella • SATB a cappella
SSA a cappella • TBB a cappella
- When the Song of the Angels Is Stilled** (Howard Thurman)
SATB a cappella • TTBB a cappella
SSAA a cappella • SATB, flute
- Why I Pity the Woman Who Never Spills** (Joan Prefontaine)
SSAA a cappella

For information about Elizabeth Alexander's other choral titles, visit www.seafarerpress.com