

Calme des Nuits
SSAA a cappella
CANTUS-007.2

arr. Chris Foss

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CALME DES NUITS

SSAA a cappella

Camille Saint-Saëns, arr. Chris Foss

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Text and Translation

Calme des nuits, fraîcheur des soirs,	<i>Calm of the night, cool of the evening,</i>
Vaste scintillement des mondes,	<i>Vast shimmering of the spheres,</i>
Grand silence des antres noirs	<i>Great silence of black vaults</i>
Vous charmez les âmes profondes.	<i>Deep thinkers delight in you.</i>
L'éclat du soleil, la gaité,	<i>The bright sun, merriment,</i>
Le bruit plaisent aux plus futiles;	<i>And noise amuse the more frivolous;</i>
Le poète seul est hanté	<i>Only the poet is possessed</i>
Par l'amour des choses tranquilles.	<i>By the love of quiet things.</i>

From the Composer

As the world gets smaller and more interconnected, it's no surprise that solitude has become more of a luxury. But the humbling power of gazing up at an evening blanket of stars remains a common avenue for exploring the depths and hidden corners that often aren't noticeable with the brightness and busyness of the day. The true challenge (and opportunity!) with this piece is breathing, being careful to find a comfortable balance between giving the phrase the energy it needs and keeping the tempo reflective of the vivid and sensitive poetic imagery. Of course, measure 28 is a wonderful opportunity to reverse that balance in a sudden and vibrant way, making the rest of the piece seem even more sensitive by contrast.

Biography

Hailed as "... inventive and compelling" by the Dallas Morning News, Chris Foss has been writing and arranging music for Cantus since he joined in 2008. Chris grew up in southwest Iowa and graduated from Millikin University with a BM in Commercial Music. After a short two years at the University of Nebraska directing the Vocal Jazz program and earning a graduate degree in Choral Conducting, Chris relocated to the Twin Cities and has been proud to be a part of Cantus since then. Chris has also taught voice at McNally Smith College of Music and composition at Concordia University - St. Paul. He spends his fleeting free time attempting to keep his dogs and children from jumping out of the canoe.

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To Charles Gounod

Camille Saint-Saëns

arr. Chris Foss

Adagio (♩ = c. 66) **pp**

Soprano I
Soprano II
Alto I
Alto II

Cal - - me des nuits, frai - cheur des soirs, _____

Cal - - me des nuits, frai - cheur des soirs, _____

Cal - - me des nuits, frai - cheur des soirs, _____

Cal - - me des nuits, frai - cheur des soirs, _____

7

S I
S II
A I
A II

Vas - - te scin - til - le - ment des mon - des, _____

Vas - - te scin - til - le - ment des mon - des, _____

Vas - - te scin - til - le - ment des mon - des, _____

Vas - - te scin - til - le - ment des mon - des, _____

14 **sempre pp**

S I
S II
A I
A II

Grand si - len - ce des an - tres noirs _____ Vous char - mez les

Grand si - len - ce des an - tres noirs _____ Vous char - mez les

Grand si - len - ce des an - tres noirs _____ Vous char - mez les

Grand si - len - ce des an - tres noirs _____ Vous char - mez les

Calme des nuits

21

S I à - mes pro - fon - - - - - des.

S II à - mes pro - fon - - - - - des.

A I à - mes pro - fon - - - - - des.

A II à - mes pro - fon - - - - - des.

28 *f*

S I L'é - clat du so - leil, la gai - té, Le bruit plai - sent aux plus fu - ti - les;

S II *f* L'é - clat du so - leil, la gai - té, Le bruit plai - sent aux plus fu - ti - les;

A I *f* L'é - clat du so - leil, la gai - té, Le bruit plai - sent aux plus fu - ti - les;

A II *f* L'é - clat du so - leil, la gai - té, Le bruit plai - sent aux plus fu - ti - les;

33 *pp*

S I Le po - è - - - - te seul est han -

S II *pp* Le po - è - - - - te seul est han -

A I *pp* Le po - è - - - - te seul est han -

A II *pp* Le po - è - - - - te seul est han -

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