

The Mystic Nightingale

S.A.B., a cappella

Now doth the mystic nightingale carol its odes,
and buds of inner meaning are bursting into blossoms delicate and fair.

The field larks are become the festival's musicians,
and lifting wondrous voices they cry and sing to the melodies
of the Company on high, "Blessed are ye! Glad Tidings! Glad Tidings!"

— Abdu'l-Bahá

(approx. 4' 00")

dedicated to the Ladder for the Soul Choir

The Mystic Nightingale

David Nelson Miller

based on the writings of
Abdu'l-Bahá

S.A.B., a cappella

(2011, ASCAP)

Hushed throughout (♩ = approx. 120)

1

pp

Soprano
roo_ coo_ roo_ coo_ roo_ coo_ roo roo_ coo_ roo_ coo_

pp

Alto
roo_ coo_ roo_ coo_ roo_ coo_ roo roo_ coo_ roo_ coo_ *

pp

Bass
roo coo roo_ coo_ roo_ coo_ roo roo_ coo_ roo_ coo_

rehearsal keyboard

pp

Hushed throughout (♩ = approx. 120)

7

S *p* (A) roo_ coo_ roo Now doth the mys-tic night-in-gale car-ol its odes, and

A *p* (B) roo_ coo_ roo Now doth the mys-tic night-in-gale car-ol its odes, and

B *p* roo_ coo_ roo Now doth the mys-tic night-in-gale car-ol its odes, and

(A)

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Mystic Nightingale, p. 2



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(lower notes optional)

13

S buds of in-ner mean - ing are burst-ing in - to blos - soms del-i - cate and fair, *pp*

A buds of in-ner mean - ing are burst-ing in - to blos - soms del-i - cate and fair, del-i - cate and *pp*

B buds of in-ner mean - ing are burst-ing in - to blos - soms del-i - cate and fair, del-i cate and *pp* (h) (#)

19

S del-i - cate and fair. *(pp)* **B** coo roo coo roo ——— coo roo ——— coo ——— roo coo *

A fair, del-i - cate and fair. *(pp)* ooh ———

B fair, del-i - cate and fair. *(pp)* ooh ———

B

*Sixteenth-notes wherever they appear should be tossed off lightly like birdsong.

*Tails should never wag their dogs,
And birds should never sound like frogs.*

25

S
 roo coo roo coo roo coo roo coo roo coo roo coo

A
 ooh ooh

B
 ooh ooh

31

S
 roo coo roo coo roo coo roo coo roo coo roo coo roo The

A
 ooh The

B
 ooh The

p

37 **C**

S field larks are be - come the fes - ti - val's mu - si - cians, and lift - ing won - drous

A field larks are be - come the fes - ti - val's mu - si - cians, and lift - ing won - drous

B field larks are be - come the fes - ti - val's mu - si - cians, and lift - ing won - drous

C

43 **D** *mp*

S voic - es they cry and sing to the mel - o - dies of the Com - pa - ny on high, "Bless - ed are

A voic - es they cry and sing to the mel - o - dies of the Com - pa - ny on high, "Bless - ed are, *mp*

B voic - es they cry and sing to the mel - o - dies of the Com - pa - ny on high, "Bless - ed are *mp*

D *mp*

*Either divisi, or omit upper notes, or omit lower notes. But do sing something.

49

S
ye! Bless - ed are ye! _____ Glad Tid - ings! Glad Tid - ings! Glad

A
(b)
bless - ed are ye! Bless - ed are ye! Glad Tid - ings! Glad Tid - ings!

B
ye! Bless - ed are ye! _____ Glad Tid - ings! Glad Tid - ings!

55

S
Tid - ings! Glad Tid - ings! Bless - ed are ye!" roo - coo - roo - coo -

A
Glad Tid - ings! Glad Tid - ings! Bless - ed are ye!" roo - coo - roo - coo -

B
Glad Tid - ings! Glad Tid - ings! Bless - ed are ye!" roo - coo - roo - coo -

(E) *pp*

(E) *pp*

(E) *pp*

61

S
roo — coo — roo roo — coo — roo — coo — roo — coo — roo

A
roo — coo — roo — roo — coo — roo — coo — roo — coo — roo

B
roo — coo — roo roo — coo — roo — coo — roo — coo — roo *Solo mp* Now

67 **F** (*pp*)*

S
ooh — ooh —

A
ooh — ooh —

B
doth the mys-tic night-in-gale car - ol its odes, and buds of in-ner mean - ing are

F

*Optional: humming.
(Please don't bury the bird.)

73

S *oooh* *roo* *oooh roo roo*

A *oooh* *roo* *oooh roo roo*

B *p*
burst-ing in - to blos-soms del-i-cate and fair, del-i-cate and fair.

G *Like airy harps *pp*

79

S *oooh roo roo oooh roo* *oooh roo roo oooh roo roo oooh*

A *oooh roo roo oooh roo* *oooh roo roo oooh roo roo oooh*

B *All pp*
**Like airy harps*
oooh roo roo oooh roo roo oooh roo *oooh roo*

G

84

S
 roo ——— coo roo coo roo roo coo roo roo coo roo ——— coo

A
 roo ——— coo roo coo roo roo coo roo roo coo roo ——— coo

B
 coo roo roo coo roo roo coo roo ——— coo roo coo roo roo

89

S
 roo coo roo roo coo roo roo coo roo ——— coo roo The field larks *p* **H**

A
 roo coo roo roo coo roo roo coo roo ——— coo roo The field larks *p*

B
 coo roo roo coo roo ——— coo roo coo roo coo roo The field larks *p* **H**

**... those wakeful birds
 Have all burst forth in choral minstrelsy,
 As if some sudden gale had swept at once
 A hundred airy harps!*

(Coleridge, The Nightingale)

95

S (♯) (b) (b)

are be - come the fes - ti - val's mu - si - cians, and lift - ing won - drous

A (b)

are be - come the fes - ti - val's mu - si - cians, and lift - ing won - drous

B (b) (b)

are be - come the fes - ti - val's mu - si - cians, and lift - ing won - drous

100

S **I** *mp*

voic - es they cry and sing to the mel - o - dies of the Com - pa - ny on high, "Bless - ed are

A *mp*

voic - es they cry and sing to the mel - o - dies of the Com - pa - ny on high, "Bless - ed are,

B *mp*

voic - es they cry and sing to the mel - o - dies of the Com - pa - ny on high, "Bless - ed are

I *mp*

S
ye! Bless - ed are ye! _____ Glad Tid - ings! Glad Tid - ings! Glad

A
(h)
bless - ed are ye! Bless - ed are ye! Glad Tid - ings! Glad Tid - ings!

B
ye! Bless - ed are ye! _____ Glad Tid - ings! Glad Tid - ings!

S
Tid-ings! Glad Tid - ings! Bless - ed are ye!" _____ rit.

A
Glad Tid-ings! Glad Tid-ings! Bless - ed are ye!" _____ rit.

B
Glad Tid-ings! Glad Tid-ings! Bless - ed are ye!" _____ rit.