

# Different kinds of shadows

for SSAA choir

Melissa Dunphy  
Text by Lola Ridge

4:30 min

2015

Commissioned by Women's Ensemble and Bella Voce  
from Acalanes High School, Lafayette, CA (Bruce Lengacher, director)  
and Ancora from the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir, Oakland, CA (Robert Geary, director)  
for Volti's Choral Institute for High School Singers, January 2016.

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There are different kinds of shadows.  
The blind ones  
are the shadows of things.  
These are the tame shadows—  
they love to play on the wall with you  
and follow you about like cats and dogs.  
Sometimes  
they hiss at you softly  
like snakes that do not bite,  
or swish like women's dresses,  
but if you poke a candle at them  
they pull in their heads and disappear.

But there is a shadow  
that is not the shadow of a thing...  
it is a thing itself.  
When you meet this shadow  
you must not look at it too long...  
it grows with your looking at it...  
till you are all alone  
with nothing around you...  
nothing... nothing... nothing...  
but a shadow  
with its eyes full of black light.

—From *Sun-Up [W. Betty]* by Lola Ridge (1920)



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# Different kinds of shadows

Lyrics by Lola Ridge

Melissa Dunphy

**Moderato**  $\text{♩} = 60$

*mp*

Soprano 1  
There are diff' rent kinds, diff' rent kinds of sha - dows,

Soprano 2  
There are diff' rent kinds, diff' rent kinds of sha -

Alto 1  
There are diff' rent kinds, diff' rent kinds of sha - dows,

Alto 2  
There are diff' - rent kinds of sha - dows,

**Moderato**  $\text{♩} = 60$

Piano reduction  
*mp*

7

S1  
diff' rent kinds of sha - dows, sha - dows. There are diff' - rent kinds, there are

S2  
- dows, diff' rent kinds of sha - dows. There are diff' rent kinds,

A1  
diff' rent kinds of sha - dows, sha - dows. There are diff' - rent kinds, diff' rent

A2  
diff' - rent kinds of sha - dows. There are diff' - rent kinds of

13

S1  
diff' rent kinds of sha - dows, diff' rent kinds of sha - dows. The blind ones.

S2  
diff' rent kinds of sha - dows, diff' rent kinds of sha - dows. The blind

A1  
kinds of sha - dows, diff' rent kinds of sha - dows. The blind ones.

A2  
sha - dows, diff' - rent kinds of sha - dows.

*p*

20

S1  
are the sha-dows of things. O these are the

S2  
ones, are the sha-dows of things. O these are

A1  
are the sha-dows of things. These are the

A2  
Sha - dows, the sha - dows of

*mf*

25

*sub p* *lightly*

S1 tame sha - dows— they love to play on the wall with you\_

*p* *lightly*

S2 the tame sha - dows— they love to play on the wall

*sub p* *lightly*

A1 tame sha - dows— they love to play on the wall with you\_

*p* *lightly*

A2 things. they love to play on the wall

30

*legato*

S1 and fol - low you a - bout like cats and dogs, cats and dogs.

*legato*

S2 with you and fol - low you a - bout like cats and dogs.

*legato*

A1 and fol - low you a - bout like cats and dogs.

*legato*

A2 with you and fol - low you a - bout like cats and dogs.

35 *p*

S1 Some - times they hiss at you soft - ly like snakes that

S2 *p* Some - times they hiss at you soft - ly like snakes that do not

A1 *p* Some - times they hiss at you soft - ly like snakes that

A2 *p* Some - times they hiss at you soft - ly like snakes that do not

41 *mf*

S1 do not bite, or swish like wo-men's dres-ses, but if you

S2 *mf* bite, or swish like wo-men's dres-ses, but if you poke a

A1 *p* do not bite, swish, they hiss, or swish, they hiss, they hiss, or swish,

A2 *mf* bite, or swish, *p* hiss, or swish, or swish, they hiss, they hiss, they

*mf*

*p*

46

S1  
poke a can-dle at them, they pull in their

S2  
can-dle at them, they pull in their

A1  
they hiss, or swish, shh they pull in their

A2  
swish, they hiss, or shh they pull in their

*f* *p* *f* *p* *niente* *p* *niente* *p*

51

S1  
heads and dis-ap-pear, and dis-ap-pear,

S2  
heads and dis-ap-pear, and dis-ap-pear, and dis-ap-

A1  
heads and dis-ap-pear, and dis-ap-pear.

A2  
heads and dis-ap-pear, and dis-ap-pear.

*p* *p* *p* *p*

57

S1 and dis - ap - pear. But there is a

S2 pear, and dis - ap - pear,

A1 But there is a

A2 But there is a

pp

pp

pp

pp

63

S1 sha - dow that is not the sha-dow of a thing...

S2 dis - ap - pear. There is a sha - dow... it

A1 sha - dow that is not the sha-dow of a thing...

A2 sha - dow that is not the sha-dow of a thing...

p

p



69

S1  
it is a thing it - self. When you meet this sha - dow

S2  
is a thing it - self. When you meet this

A1  
it is a thing it - self. When you meet this sha - dow

A2  
it is a thing it - self. When you meet this

*p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *p*

77

S1  
— you must not look at it too long...

S2  
sha - dow you must not look at it too

A1  
— you must not look at it too long...

A2  
sha - dow you must not look at it too

*p* *p* *p* *p*

82

S1  
it grows, grows, grows...

S2  
long... it grows, grows...

A1  
it grows, grows, grows with your look - ing at it...

A2  
long... it grows, it grows, it grows with your look - ing at it...

*mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

87

S1  
till you are all a - lone. There is a

S2  
till you are all a - lone. There is a

A1  
till you are all a - lone. There is a

A2  
till you are all a - lone. There is a

*p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp*

93

S1 *mf*  
 sha - dow that is not the sha-dow of a thing... it grows,

S2 *mf* <  
 sha - dow, a sha - dow that is not the sha-dow of a thing... grows,

A1 *mf*  
 sha - dow that is not the sha-dow of a thing... it grows,

A2 *mf* <  
 sha - dow that is not the sha-dow of a thing... grows,

100

S1 *ff* **poco rit.** **a tempo** *p*  
 grows, grows, grows... no - thing,

S2 *ff* *p*  
 grows, grows, grows... no - thing,

A1 *ff* *p*  
 grows, grows till you are all a - lone with no - thing,

A2 *ff* *p*  
 grows, grows till you are all a - lone with no - thing,

**poco rit.** **a tempo**

108

S1  
no - thing, no - thing a - round you... no - thing... no - thing...

S2  
no - thing, no - thing a - round you... no - thing, no - thing,

A1  
no - thing, no - thing a - round you... no - thing, no - thing,

A2  
no - thing, no - thing a - round you... no - thing, no - thing,

113 *f broadly*

S1  
no - thing... no - thing... no - thing... no - thing... no - thing...no - thing... no - thing...no - thing...

S2  
no - thing a - round you... no - thing, no - thing, no - thing

A1  
no - thing a - round you... no thing, no - thing, no - thing a -

A2  
no - thing a - round you... no - thing... no - thing...

118 **poco rit.**

S1 no - thing... no - thing... no - thing... no - thing...

S2 a - round you... no - thing... no - thing... no - thing...

A1 round you... no - thing, no - thing, no - thing a -

A2 no - thing... no - thing... no - thing...

**poco rit.**

122 **Andante** ♩=56 **p** **pp**

S1 but a sha - dow, a sha - dow with its eyes

S2 but a sha - dow, a sha - dow with its eyes

A1 round but a sha - dow, a sha - dow with its eyes

A2 but a sha - dow, a sha - dow with its eyes

**Andante** ♩=56 **pp**

128

S1  
full of black light, black light,

S2  
full of black light, black light,

A1  
full of black light, black light,

A2  
full of black, black light, black light,

134

S1  
black light, black light.

S2  
black light, black light.

A1  
black light, black light.

A2  
black light, black light.

*pp*