



4 min

2018

Commissioned by the Cornell University Chorus, Robert Isaacs, Conductor

It isn't a dream...

for SSAA choir

Commissioned by the Cornell University Chorus, Robert Isaacs, Conductor

It isn't a dream....
It comes again and again....
You hear ivy crying on steeples
the flames haven't caught yet
and images screaming
when they see red light on the lilies
on the stained glass window of St. Joseph.
The girl with the black eyes holds you tight,
and you run... and run
past the wild, wild towers...
and trees in the gardens tugging at their feet
and little frightened dolls
shut up in the shops
crying... and crying... because no one stops...
you spin like a penny thrown out in the street
Then the man clutches her by the hair...
He always clutches her by the hair....
His eyes stick out like spears.
You see her pulled-back face
and her black, black eyes
lit up by the glare....
Then everything goes out.
Please God, don't let me dream any more
of the girl with the black, black eyes.

—From *Sun-Up [I. Celia]* by Lola Ridge (1920)



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It isn't a dream...

Andante misterioso ♩ = 88

Soprano 1
It is-n't a dream... It is-n't a dream... It is-n't a dream...

Soprano 2
It is-n't a dream... It is-n't a dream... It is-n't a dream...

Alto 1
It is-n't a dream...

Alto 2
It is-n't a

Reduction

7

S1
It is-n't a dream... It is-n't a dream...

S2
It is-n't a dream... It is-n't a dream... It is-n't a dream...

A1
It comes a-gain and a - gain... It

A2
dream... It comes a-gain and a - gain, a gain and a-gain... It

A

13

S1 *pp* It is-n't a dream... *mp* It is-n't a

S2 *pp* It is-n't a dream... *mf* It is-n't a dream... *pp* It is-n't a

S2 *pp* It is-n't a dream... *mf* It is-n't a dream... You hear iv - y... cry - ing on

A1 *mf* comes a-gain and a - gain... *pp* a-gain and a - gain... *mp* It is-n't a

A2 *mf* comes a-gain and a - gain... *pp* a-gain and a - gain... *mp*

pp *mf* *mp* *pp*

18

S1 *mf* dream... on steep - les the flames have-n't caught yet *mp* and im - ag - es, im - ag - es

S2 *pp* steep - les. *mp* It is - n't a dream... and im - ag - es, im - ag - es

A1 *mp* dream... *pp* It is - n't a dream... *mp* and im - ag - es

A2 *pp* It comes a - gain and a - gain... *mp* and im - ag - es

mf *mp*

rit. **f** **f** **p** **Poco piu mosso**

S1
scream - ing scream - ing when they see red light on the li - lies on the

S2
scream - ing scream - ing when they see red light on the li - lies on the

A1
scream - ing scream - ing when they see red light on the li - lies on the

A2
scream - ing scream - ing when they see red light on the li - lies on the

rit. **f** **f** **p** **Poco piu mosso**

B

mf *rit.* **mf** **Poco allegro** ♩=112

S1
stained glass win-dow of Saint Jo - seph. The girl with the black eyes_ holds you

S2
stained glass win-dow of Saint Jo - seph. The girl with the black eyes_ holds you

A1
stained glass win-dow of Saint Jo - seph. And you(ru)n, and you run,

A2
stained glass win-dow of Saint Jo - seph. And you(ru)n, and you run,

rit. **mf** **mf** **p** **fp** **Poco allegro** ♩=112

31

S1 tight, *mf* the girl with the black

S2 tight, *mf* the girl with the black

A1 *p* and you run, and you run, and you run, *mf* the girl with the black

A2 *p* and you run, and you run, and you run, *mf* the girl with the black

p *mf*

34

S1 eyes holds you tight, *fp* *mf* *p* and you

S2 eyes holds you tight, *fp* *mf* *p* and you

A1 black eyes, the girl with the black eyes holds you tight, *p* and you

A2 black eyes, the girl with the black, black, eyes, *p* and you

fp *mf* *p*

C

37

S1
(ru)n, and run past the wild, wild towers, and trees in the gar - dens tug-ging at their feet and

S2
(ru)n, and run past the wild, wild towers, and trees in the gar - dens tug-ging at their feet and

A1
(ru)n, and run past the wild, wild towers, and trees in the gar - dens tug-ging at their feet and

A2
(ru)n, and run past the wild, wild towers, and trees in the gar - dens tug-ging at their feet and

41

S1
lit-tle fright-ened dolls shut up in the shops a - cry - ing and cry ing be-cause no - one stops... *f*

S2
lit-tle fright-ened dolls shut up in the shops a - cry - ing and cry ing be-cause no - one *f*

A1
lit-tle fright-ened dolls shut up in the shops cry - ing and cry ing be-cause no - one stops..and you *f* *mf*

A2
lit-tle fright-ened dolls shut up in the shops cry - ing and cry ing be-cause no - one *f*

45 **D**

mf

S1 and you (ru)n, and run past the wild, wild towers, and trees in the

mf

S2 stops... and you (ru)n, and run past the wild, wild towers, and

A1 (ru)n, and run past the wild, wild towers, and trees in the gar - dens

mf fp mf

A2 stops... And you (ru)n, and you run, and you

fp mf

48

S1 gar - dens tug ging at their feet and lit - tle fright-ened dolls shut up in the

S2 trees in the gar - dens tug ging at their feet and lit - tle fright-ened dolls shut

A1 tug ging at their feet and lit - tle fright-ened dolls shut up in the shops

fp mf fp mf

A2 (ru)n, and you (ru)n, and you run, and you

fp mf fp mf

E

51

S1 shops a - cry - ing and cry - ing be-cause no - one stops... and you *mp*

S2 up in the shops a - cry - ing and cry - ing be-cause no - one stops... and you

A1 cry - ing and cry - ing be-cause no one stops... and you run and run past the

A2 *fp* (ru)n, _____ *mf* and you run and

fp *mf* *mp*

54

S1 run, and you run, and run_ past the *mf*

S2 run, and you run, and run_ past the wild_ *mf*

S2 run and run past the wild, wild towers, and trees in the gar - dens

A1 wild, wild towers, and trees in the gar - dens tug-ging at their feet and

A2 run past the wild, wild towers and trees in the gar - dens tug-ging at their

mf

57

S1 wild towers. you spin,

towers. you spin, you spin,

S2 tug ging at their feet and lit - tle fright-ened dolls shut up in the shops a -

A1 lit - tle fright-ened dolls shut up in the shops a - cry - ing...and cry-ing be-cause

A2 feet and lit - tle fright-ened dolls shut up in the shops a - cry - ing and

60

F

S1 you spin, you spin, you spin like a

you spin, you spin, you spin like a

S2 cry - ing...and cry-ing be-cause no - one stops... you spin, you spin like a

A1 no - one stops... you spin, you spin, you spin like a

A2 cry-ing be-cause no - one stops... you spin, you spin, you spin like a

64

p *mf*

S1 pen - ny thrown out in the street. Then the man clutch-es her by the

S2 pen - ny thrown out in the street. Then the man clutch-es her by the

A1 pen - ny thrown out in the street. Then the man clutch-es her by the

A2 pen - ny thrown out in the street. Then the man, the man clutch-es her by the

70

mf *pp*

S1 hair... He al - ways clutch-es her by the [inhale] hair... His

S2 hair... He al - ways clutch-es her by the [inhale] hair... His

A1 hair... He al - ways clutch-es her by the [inhale] hair... His

A2 hair... He al - ways clutch-es her by the [inhale] hair... His

76 *f* *mf*

S1 eyes stick out like spears. You see her pulled - back face and her black black

S2 eyes stick out like spears. You see her pulled - back face and her black, black

A1 eyes stick out like spears. You see her pulled - back face and her black

A2 eyes stick out like spears. You see her pulled - back face and her black

84 *p* *rit.* **G** **Andante misterioso** ♩ = 80 *pp* *sotto voce*

S1 eyes lit up by the glare... Ooh

S2 eyes lit up by the glare... Ooh

A1 eyes lit up by the glare... Then ev' ry-thing goes out.

A2 eyes lit up by the glare... Then ev' ry-thing goes out.

p *rit.* **Andante misterioso** ♩ = 80 *pp* *sotto voce*

92

p espressivo

S1 Please God, don't let me dream an - y

S2 ooh ooh ooh

A1 *pp sotto voce* ooh ooh ooh

A2 *p espressivo* Don't let me dream an - y

p espressivo

98

rit. pp

S1 more of the girl with the black, black eyes.

S2 ooh ooh. *ppp sotto voce*

A1 ooh. *ppp sotto voce*

A2 more of the girl with the black, ooh. *ppp sotto voce*

ppp sotto voce

rit. pp