



Shadows over a cradle...

for SSAA choir

Melissa Dunphy
Text by Lola Ridge

3 min

2015

Commissioned for Ancora by the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir, Robert Geary Director.

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Robert Geary Director.

(Shadows over a cradle...
fire-light craning...
A hand
throws something in the fire
and a smaller hand
runs into the flame and out again,
singed and empty...
Shadows
settling over a cradle...
two hands
and a fire.)

—From *Sun-Up* by Lola Ridge (1920)



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Shadows over a cradle...

Lyrics by Lola Ridge

Melissa Dunphy

♩ = 50

Soprano 1
Sha-dows, sha-dows o - ver a cra - dle, sha-dows o - ver a,

Soprano 2
Sha-dows, tsss fpp tsss fpp

Alto 1
Hmm hmm o - ver a p

Alto 2
Hmm hmm o - ver a, p
(ossia in brackets)

Piano
pp

5

S1
sha-dows, tsss poco a poco cresc. sha-dows o-ver a, sha-dows, sha-dows o - ver a cra - dle,

S2
Sha-dows, sha-dows, sha-dows o-ver a cra - dle, sha-dows, tsss fpp

A1
cra - dle, a cra - dle, a cra - dle, sha-dows, sha-dows, tsss p

A2
tsss fpp a cra - dle, tsss, sha-dows, sha-dows p

Pno.
poco a poco cresc.

9

S1
sha-dows, fire-light, sha dows, sha-dows o-ver a, sha-dows,

S2
Fire - light cran - ing... Sha-dows, sha-dows, sha-dows,

A1
sha-dows, sha-dows, sha-dows o-ver a, tsss sha-dows

A2
o - ver a cra dle, a cra - dle, a cra - dle, a cra - dle, a

Pno.

13

S1
sha-dows o - ver a cra-dle, sha-dows, sha-dows o - ver a cra dle,

S2
sha-dows o - ver a cra-dle, sha-dows, sha-dows o - ver a cra - dle, sha-dows,

A1
o - ver a, ha sha-dows,

A2
cra - dle, ha ha

Pno.

17

S1 *ff* *mp*
 fire - light_ cran - ing... A hand_ throws

S2 *ff*
 fire - light_ cran - ing... Sha-dows, sha-dows o - ver a cra- dle...

A1 *ff* *mp*
 fire - light_ cran - ing... A hand_ throws

A2 *ff*
 fire - light_ cran - ing... A hand_

Pno. *ff* *mp*

22

S1 *mp*
 some-thing in the fire, some-thing in the fire, some-thing in the fire,

S2 *mp*
 some-thing in the fire, some-thing in the fire, some-thing in the

A1 *mp*
 some-thing in the fire, some-thing in the fire, some-thing in the fire,

A2 *mp*
 some-thing in the fire, some-thing in the fire, the

Pno. *mp*

25

S1
some-thing in the fire, some-thing in the fire, some-thing in the fire, and a

S2
fire, some-thing in the fire, some-thing in the fire, and a

A1
some-thing in the fire, some-thing in the fire, the fire, and a

A2
fire, some-thing in the fire, the fire, and a

Pno.

28

S1
smal - ler hand runs in - to the flame, some-thing in the

S2
smal - ler hand runs in - to the flame, some-thing in the fire,

A1
smal - ler hand runs in - to the flame and out a - gain,

A2
smal - ler hand runs in - to the flame and out a - gain,

Pno.

31

S1
fire, runs in - to the flame and out a - gain, in - to the

S2
runs in - to the flame, some-thing in the fire, and

A1
runs in - to the flame and out a - gain, runs in - to the flame and

A2
runs in - to the flame and out a - gain, runs in - to the flame and

Pno.

34

S1
flame and out a-gain out a - gain *p* singed, singed,

S2
out a-gain, and out a - gain *fp* out a - gain *fp* tsss tsss

A1
out a-gain, and out a-gain, *p* out a - gain, singed, singed,

A2
out a-gain, and out a-gain, *p* out a - gain, singed, singed,

Pno.

41

S1 *pp* *p*
 — singed Shad-ows,

S2 *pp* *p*
 — singed Shad-ows,

A1 *pp* *p*
 — singed and emp-ty.

A2 *pp* *p*
 — singed Sha-dows,

Pno. *pp* *p*

48

S1
 sha-dows o - ver a cra-dle, sha-dows set - tlingo - ver a cra dle...

S2
 sha-dows o - ver a cra-dle, sha-dows, sha-dows, sha-dows set - tlingo - ver a

A1
 sha-dows o - ver a cra-dle, sha-dows, sha-dows set - tlingo - ver a

A2
 set - tling o - ver a, sha-dows, sha-dows set - tlingo - ver a cra-dle, sha-dows

Pno.

52

mf

S1

two hands

S2

mf

cra - dle... two hands

A1

mf

cra - dle, sha-dows set - tling o - ver a cra - dle, a cra - dle...

A2

mf

set - tling o - ver a cra - dle, a cra - dle, a cra - dle...

Pno.

56

pp

S1

sha- dows, sha- dows, sha- dows.

S2

fpp

tsss

A1

p

and a fire.

A2

p

and a fire.

Pno.

pp

p