



It's strange about stars...

for SSAA choir

Melissa Dunphy

Text by Lola Ridge

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

3 min

2014

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

for all the survivors

It's strange about stars ...
You have to be still when they look at you.
They push your song inside of you with their song.
Their long silvery rays
sink into you and do not hurt.
It is good to feel them resting on you
like great white birds...
and their shining whiteness
doesn't burn like the sun —
it washes all over you
and makes you feel cleaner'n water.

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



Melissa Dunphy

Mormolyke Press

1214 Poplar St., Philadelphia, PA 19123
(717) 214-6121 | www.mormolyke.com

It's strange about stars...

Lyrics by Lola Ridge

Melissa Dunphy

Adagio ♩ = 60

Soprano 1
pp It's strange a-bout stars... *p* It's strange, *f* You have to be

Soprano 2
pp It's strange a-bout stars... *p* It's strange, *mf* it's strange, *f* You have to be

Alto 1
pp It's strange a-bout stars... *p* It's strange a-bout stars... *f* You have to be

Alto 2
pp It's strange, *p* It's strange, *f* You have to be

Reduction
pp *p* *mf* *f*

6
S1 *sub p* still when they look at you. *p* They push, push, push your *f*

S2 *sub p* still, still when they look at you. *p* They push, push, push your *f*

A1 *sub p* still when they look at you. *p* They push, push, push your *f*

A2 *sub p* still, still when they look at you. *p* They push, push, push, push your *f*

Reduction
sub p *p* *f*

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11

S1 *mf* *f* *mp*
song in - side of you with their song. Their long, long sil - ver-y rays

S2 *mf* *f* *mp*
song in - side of you with their song. Their long, long, long sil - ver-y rays

A1 *mf* *f* *mp*
song in - side of you with their song. Their long, long, sil - ver-y rays

A2 *mf* *f* *mp*
song in-side of you with their song. Their sil - ver-y rays

17

S1 *f*
sink in-to you and do not hurt. It is good to feel them rest - ing on

S2 *f*
sink in-to you and do not hurt. It is good to feel them rest - ing on

A1 *f*
sink in-to you and do not hurt. It is good to feel them rest - ing on

A2 *f*
sink in-to you and do not hurt. It is good to feel them rest-ing on you

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22 *f* *mp* 4

S1 you like great white birds... great white birds... and their shin-ing white - ness does-n't

S2 you like great white birds... great white birds... and their shin-ing white - ness does-n't

A1 you like great white birds... great white birds... and their shin-ing white - ness does-n't

A2 like great white birds... great white birds... and their shin-ing white - ness does-n't

28 *ff* *sempre ff*

S1 burn like the sun— it wash - es ov - er you, it wash - es ov - er

S2 burn like the sun— it wash - es ov - er you, it wash - es ov - er you, it

A1 burn like the sun— it wash - - es ov - er you, it

A2 burn like the sun— it wash - - es ov - er you, it

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5

34

S1
you, it wash - es ov - er you and makes you feel clean - er 'an

S2
wash - es ov - er you and makes you feel clean - er 'an

A1
wash - es ov - er you and makes you feel clean er 'an

A2
wash - es ov - er you and makes you feel clean - er 'an

39

S1
wat - er, clean - er 'an wat - er, clean - er than wat - er.

S2
wat - er, clean - er 'an wat - er, clean - er than wat - er.

A1
wat - er, clean - er 'an wat - er, clean - er than wat - er.

A2
wat - er, clean - er 'an wat - er, clean - er than wat - er.