



It isn't a dream...

for SSAA choir

• Melissa Dunphy
Text by Lola Ridge

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)



Mormolyke
Press

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

It isn't a dream...

Text by Lola Ridge

Melissa Dunphy

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

7
S1
It is-n't a dream... 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

It isn't a dream...

A

2 13

pp *mf* *mp* *pp*

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

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

A1 It is-n't a dream... You hear iv - y cry - ing on

A2 comes a-gain and a- gain... a-gain and a- gain... It is-n't a

comes a-gain and a- gain... a-gain and a- gain...

18

mf *mp*

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

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

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

A2 It comes a - gain and a - gain... and im - ag - es

22 *rit.* **Poco piu mosso**

f *f* *p*

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

Poco allegro ♩=112

26 *mf* *rit.* *mf*

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 *mf* *p* *fp*
stained glass win-dow of Saint Jo - seph. And you(ru)n,___ and you run,

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

31

S1 tight, the girl with the black

S2 tight, the girl with the black

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

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

34 *fp* *mf* *p*

S1 eyes_ holds_ you tight, and you

S2 eyes_ holds_ you tight, and you

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

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

It isn't a dream...

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

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

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

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

45 **D** *mf*

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

S2 *mf* stops... and you(ru)n, and run past the wild, wild towers, and trees in the gar - dens

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

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

49

S1
feet and lit - tle fright-ened dolls shut up in the shops a - cry - ing and

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 cry - ing and cry-ing be-cause

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

52

E

S1
cry-ing be-cause no - one stops... and you run, and you run,

S2
cry - ing and cry-ing be-cause no-one stops... and you run and run past the wild, wild towers, and

A1
no one stops... and you run and run past the wild, wild towers, and trees in the gar-dens

A2
mf
and you run and run past the wild, wild towers and trees in the

56

S1 and run_ past the wild_____ towers. you_

run_ past the wild_____ towers. you_ spin,_____

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 a -

A2 gar - dens tug ging at their feet and lit - tle fright-ened dolls shut up in the

59

S1 spin,_____ you_ spin,_____ you_ spin,_____ you_

you_ spin,_____ you_ spin,_____ you_ spin,_____ you_

S2 up in the shops a - cry - ing...and cry - ing be-cause no - one stops... you_ spin,_____

A1 cry - ing...and cry-ing be-cause no - one stops... you_ spin,_____ you_ spin,_____ you_ spin,_____

A2 shops a - cry - ing and cry-ing be-cause no - one stops... you_ spin,_____ you_ spin,_____

F

It isn't a dream...

63 *p* *mf* 7

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

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

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

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

70 *mf* *pp* *f*

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

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

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

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

78 *mf* *p* *rit.*

S1 spears. You see her pulled-back face and her black black eyes lit up by the glare...

S2 spears. You see her pulled-back face and her black black eyes lit up by the glare...

A1 spears. You see her pulled-back face and her black eyes lit up by the glare...

A2 spears. You see her pulled-back face and her black eyes lit up by the glare...

It isn't a dream...

8

G **Andante misterioso** ♩ = 80
pp sotto voce

p espressivo

88

S1
Ooh _____ Please God, _____

S2
pp sotto voce
Ooh _____ ooh _____ ooh _____

A1
'p Then ev' ry-thing goes out. *pp sotto voce*
ooh _____ ooh _____

A2
'p Then ev' ry-thing goes out.

95

S1
don't let me dream _____ an - y more of the

S2
ooh _____ ooh _____

A1
ooh _____ ooh _____

A2
p espressivo
Don't let me dream _____ an - y more of the

99

S1
girl with the black, _____ black _____ eyes. _____
rit. pp

S2
ppp sotto voce
ooh. _____
ppp sotto voce

A1
ooh. _____
ppp sotto voce

A2
girl with the black, _____ ooh. _____