

CCM517

Craig Carnahan



*Child in
the Dark*

S.S.A.T.B.B., oboe



Craig Carnahan Music
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*I am a child in the dark
I stretch my hands
through the coverlet of night
for thee, Mother.*

Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941)
translated from Bengali to English by the author*

Program Note

Much has been written about the inexplicable bond that exists between mother and child, yet seldom as eloquently as in this brief meditation by Rabindranath Tagore. Initially encircled by the menacing landscape of the darkness of night – and all of the fears and anxiety it often triggers – the child finds ultimate solace in the simple gesture of reaching out through the darkness to grasp a mother’s reassuring hand. And while the term “child” is traditionally associated with the youngest among us, the emotions embodied in these words conjure vivid memories and emotions in children of all ages who feel the need for our mother’s comforting presence through-out our lives.

– *Craig Carnahan*

Rabindranath Tagore

Rabindranath Tagore reshaped Bengali literature and music, as well as Indian art in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Author of *Gitanjali* and its “profoundly sensitive, fresh and beautiful verse,” he became the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913. In translation, his poetry was viewed as spiritual and mercurial; however, his “elegant prose and magical poetry” remain largely unknown outside Bengal. Tagore introduced new prose and verse forms and the use of colloquial language into Bengali literature, thereby freeing it from traditional models based on classical Sanskrit. He was highly influential in introducing the best of Indian culture to the West and vice versa, and he is generally regarded as the outstanding creative artist of the modern Indian subcontinent.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rabindranath_Tagore

*From *Stray Birds*
New York: The Macmillan Company, 1916

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Child in the Dark

Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941)

Craig Carnahan (1951-)

Freely, with rubato ♩ = c. 60

p *mp* *mp*

Freely, with rubato ♩ = c. 60

Soprano 1

Soprano 2

Alto

Tenor

Baritone

Bass

Piano

(for rehearsal only)

Detailed description: The score is for a vocal ensemble and piano. The Oboe part is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. It begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic, followed by a crescendo to mezzo-piano (*mp*). The melody features a triplet of eighth notes and a triplet of sixteenth notes. The Piano part is also in B-flat major and 4/4 time, with a dynamic marking of *p* and the instruction '(for rehearsal only)'. The vocal staves (Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto, Tenor, Baritone, Bass) are currently blank, indicating that the vocal parts are not yet written or are to be filled in by the conductor.

Duration = c. 6:30 minutes

Throughout, balance the sections evenly among the voices.

Musical score for measures 6-8. The score includes parts for Oboe (Ob.), Soprano 1 (S1), Soprano 2 (S2), Alto (A), and Piano (Pno.). The Oboe part features a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes in measure 6, a half note in measure 7, and a triplet of eighth notes in measure 8. Dynamics are marked *p* and *mp*. The Piano part mirrors the Oboe's melodic line. The vocal parts (S1, S2, A) are silent in these measures. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 at the end of measure 8.

Quietly reflective, always sustained ♩ = 70

Musical score for measures 13-16. The score includes parts for Oboe (Ob.), Soprano 1 (S1), Soprano 2 (S2), Alto (A), and Piano (Pno.). The Oboe part has a melodic line with dynamics *mp* and *p*. The vocal parts enter in measure 14 with the lyrics "I am a child". The Alto part has the lyrics "I am a child in the dark." The Piano part provides accompaniment. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 2/4 in measure 14 and back to 4/4 in measure 15. The tempo marking is ♩ = 70.

19

Ob.

S 1

S 2

A

Pno.

mp *p*

in the dark. I am a child

in the dark. I am a child

I am a child,

24

Ob.

S 1

S 2

A

Pno.

mp *p*

in the dark, I am a child, a child.

in the dark. I am a child.

a child in the dark. a child.

28

Ob.

S 1

S 2

A

T

B

B

Pno.

mp

I stretch my hands in the dark, I stretch my hands _____ in the

mp

I stretch my hands _____

mp

I stretch my hands _____ in the

33

Ob.

S 1 *mf*
through the cov-er-let__ of

S 2 *mf*
through the cov-er-let__ of

A *mf*
through the cov-er-let__ of

T *mf*
8 dark _____ through the cov-er-let__ of night,

B
in the dark _____

B
dark, _____ the dark

Pno.

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score, page 33. It features seven staves. The top staff is for Oboe (Ob.), which is mostly silent with rests. The next three staves are for vocalists: Soprano 1 (S 1), Soprano 2 (S 2), and Alto (A). They all sing the same phrase: "through the cov-er-let__ of". The Tenor (T) part starts with a fermata on a whole note, then sings "dark _____ through the cov-er-let__ of night,". The first Bass (B) part sings "in the dark _____". The second Bass (B) part sings "dark, _____ the dark". The Piano (Pno.) accompaniment is in the bottom staff, featuring a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets and chords. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4 and back to 3/4. The key signature has two flats. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte).

Ob. ⁴⁸ *mp*

Pno.

Expressive, with more emotion ♩ = 70

Ob. ⁵³ *mf*

S 1 *mf*

S 2 *mf*

A *mf*

T *mf*

B *mf*

B *mf*

Pno.

accel.

I am a child, — a child in the

61

Ob.

S 1

mf I stretch my hands for thee, *p* I am a child

S 2

mf I stretch my hands for thee, *p* I am a child

A

mf I stretch my hands for thee, *p* I am a child

T

mf I stretch my hands for thee, *p* I am a child

B

mf I stretch my hands for thee, for thee, *p* I am a child

B

mf I stretch my hands for thee, for thee, *p* I am a child

Pno.

Tenderly, like a lullaby

76

Ob. *p*

S 1 *mp* *p* *mp* *p*
Moth - er, Moth - er, for Moth - er, Moth - er, for

S 2 *mp* *p* *mp* *p*
Moth - er, Moth - er, for Moth - er, Moth - er, for

A *mp* *p* *mp* *p*
Moth - er, Moth - er, for Moth - er, Moth - er, for

T *p* *mp* *p* *mp*
Moth - er, Moth - er, for Moth - er, Moth - er, for

B *p* *mp* *p* *mp*
Moth - er, for Moth - er, Moth - er, for Moth - er,

B *p* *mp* *p* *mp*
Moth - er, for Moth - er, Moth - er, for Moth - er,

Pno.

80

Ob. *mp*

S 1 *sim.*
Moth - er, _____ Moth - er, _____ for Moth - er, _____ Moth - er, _____ for _____ Moth - er,

S 2 *sim.*
Moth - er, _____ Moth - er, _____ for Moth - er, _____ Moth - er, _____ for Moth - er, _____

A *sim.*
Moth - er, _____ Moth - er, _____ for Moth - er, _____ Moth - er, _____ for Moth - er, _____

T *sim.*
Moth - er, _____ for Moth - er, _____ Moth - er, _____

B *sim.*
Moth - er, _____ for Moth - er, _____ Moth - er, _____ for Moth - er, _____ for Moth - er, _____

B *sim.*
Moth - er, _____ for Moth - er, _____ Moth - er, _____ for Moth - er, _____ Moth - er, _____

Pno.

85

Ob. *mp*

S 1
Moth-er, _____ Moth - er, Moth-er, _____ Moth - er, Moth-er, Moth - er,

S 2
Moth - er, for Moth-er, _____ Moth - er, Moth-er, _____ Moth - er, _____

A
for Moth-er, _____ Moth - er, _____ for Moth-er, _____ Moth - er, _____ for Moth-er, _____

T
_____ for Moth-er, _____ Moth - er, _____ for Moth-er, _____ Moth - er, _____ for Moth-er,

B
_____ for Moth - er, for Moth-er, _____ for Moth - er, for Moth-er, _____ for Moth - er, _____

B
_____ Moth-er, _____ Moth - er, _____ Moth-er, _____ Moth - er, _____ Moth - er, _____

Pno.

poco a poco cresc.

90

Ob.

S 1

Moth-er, _____ Moth - er, for Moth-er, _____ Moth - er, for Moth-er, _____

S 2

Moth - er, _____ for Moth-er, _____ Moth - er, _____ for Moth-er, _____ Moth - er, _____

A

Moth - er, _____ for Moth - er, _____ Moth - er, _____ for Moth - er, _____ Moth - er, _____ for

T

_____ Moth - er, Mother, _____ Moth-er, _____ Moth - er, Mother, _____ Moth-er, _____ Moth-er,

B

_____ Moth-er, _____ Moth - er, _____ Moth-er, _____ Moth-er, _____ Moth-er,

B

_____ Moth-er, _____ Moth-er, _____ Moth-er, _____ Moth-er, _____ Moth - er, _____

Pno.

Passionately

Ob. *f* *mf* *f*

S 1 *f* *mf* *f*

S 2 *f* *mf* *f*

A *f* *mf* *f*

T *f* *mf* *f*

B *f* *mf* *f*

B *f* *mf* *f*

Pno.

Moth-er, Moth-er, Moth-er,

Moth-er, Moth-er, Moth-er,

Moth-er, Moth-er, Moth-er,

Moth-er, Moth-er, Moth-er,

Moth-er, Moth-er, Moth-er,