

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

Freely, with rubato ♩ = c. 60

Oboe

mp *mf* *mp*

Freely, with rubato ♩ = c. 60

Soprano 1

Soprano 2

Alto

Tenor

Baritone


Bass

Piano

(for rehearsal only)

Duration = c. 4:30 minutes

Quietly reflective, always sustained ♩ = 70

Ob. 

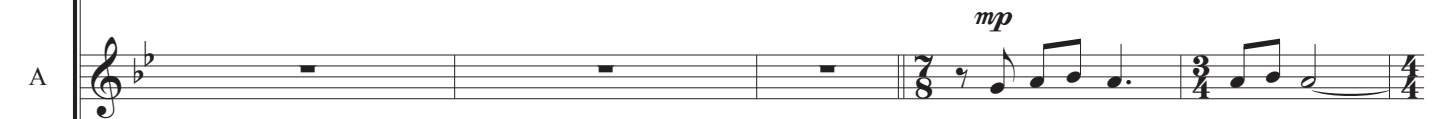
Quietly reflective, always sustained ♩ = 70

S 1 

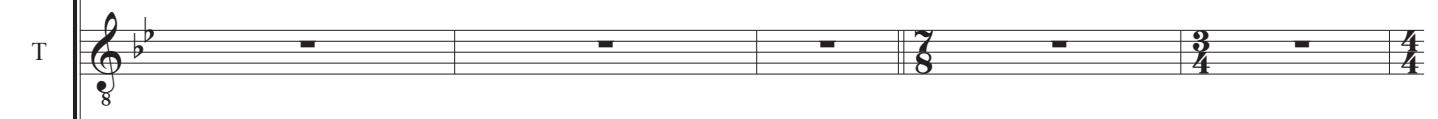
I am a child in the dark, —

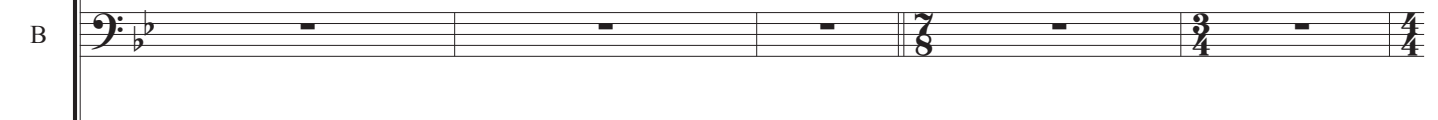
S 2 

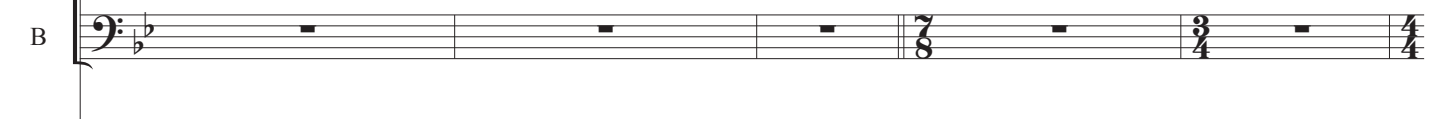
I am a child in the dark, —

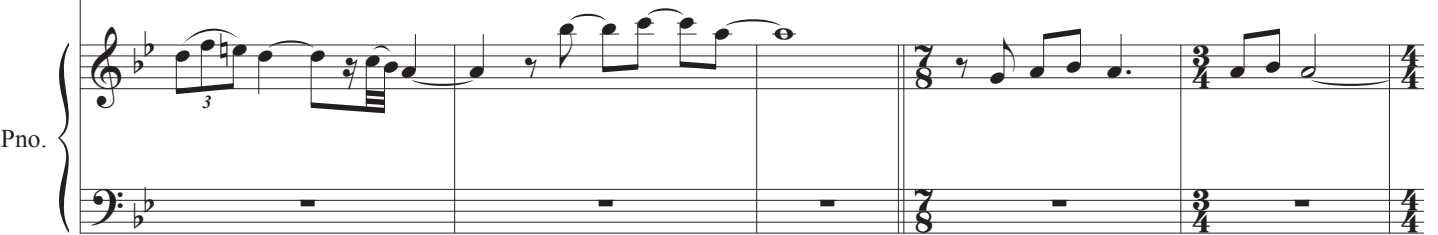
A 

I am a child in the dark, —

T 

B 

B 

Pno. 

10

Ob. *mp* *mf*

S1 *mf*
I am a child in the dark,

S2 *mf*
I am a child, a child in the dark,

A *mf*
I am a child in the dark,

T

B

B

Pno.

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for the piece 'Child in the Dark', page 3. The score is in 4/4 time and B-flat major. It features an Oboe (Ob.) and a vocal quartet (Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto, Tenor). The piano accompaniment (Pno.) is also present. The lyrics are 'I am a child in the dark'. The Oboe part starts at measure 10 with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic, moving to mezzo-forte (*mf*) later. The vocal parts enter with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The Soprano 1 part has the lyrics 'I am a child in the dark,'. The Soprano 2 part has 'I am a child, a child in the dark,'. The Alto part has 'I am a child in the dark,'. The Tenor, Bass, and Bassoon parts are silent. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and melodic lines.

14

Ob. *< mp*

S1

S2

A

T *mp*

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

B *mp*

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

B *mp*

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

Pno.

Expressive, with more emotion ♩ = 70

33

Ob.

Expressive, with more emotion ♩ = 70

S 1

mf *mp*

I am a child, a child in the dark, I stretch my hands through the

S 2

mf *mp*

I am a child, a child in the dark, I stretch my hands through the

A

mf *mp*

I am a child, a child in the dark, I stretch my hands through the

T

mf *mp*

I am a child, a child in the dark, I stretch my hands through the

B

mf *mp*

I am a child, a child in the dark, I stretch my hands through the

B

mf *mp*

I am a child, a child in the dark, I stretch my hands through the

Pno.

38

Ob. *mp*

S 1 *mf*
cov-er-let ___ of night, I stretch my hands for thee, _____

S 2 *mf*
cov-er-let ___ of night, I stretch my hands for thee, _____

A *mf*
cov-er-let ___ of night, I stretch my hands for thee, _____

T *mf*
cov-er-let ___ of night, I stretch my hands for thee, _____

B *mf*
cov-er-let ___ of night, I stretch my hands for thee, for thee, _____

B *mf*
cov-er-let ___ of night, I stretch my hands for thee, for thee, _____

Pno.

Tenderly, like a lullaby

47

Ob.

S 1

S 2

A

T

B

B

Pno.

p

mp

p

p

mp

p

for Moth-er, Moth-er, for

Moth-er, er, Moth-er, for

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

Moth-er, er, Moth-er, for

52

Ob. *mp*

S1 *mp* *sim.*
Moth - er, ___ Moth-er, ___ for Moth - er, ___ Moth - er, ___ for Moth - er, ___

S2 *mp* *sim.*
Moth-er, ___ Moth-er, ___ for Moth-er, ___ Moth-er, ___ for Moth-er, ___

A *mp* *sim.*
Moth-er, ___ Moth-er, ___ for Moth-er, ___ Moth - er, ___ for Moth-er, ___

T *p* *sim.*
Moth - er, ___ Moth - er, ___ Moth - er,

B *p* *mp* *sim.*
Moth-er, ___ for Moth-er, ___ Moth-er, ___ for Moth-er, ___ Moth-er, ___

B *p* *mp* *sim.*
Moth-er, ___ for Moth-er, ___ Moth-er, ___ for Moth-er, ___ Moth-er, ___

Pno.

66

Ob. *f* *f*

S 1 *f* *mf* *f* *mf*
Moth-er, ___ Moth-er, ___ Moth-er, ___ Moth-er, ___

S 2 *f* *mf* *f* *mf*
Moth-er, ___ Moth-er, ___ Moth-er, ___ Moth-er, ___

A *f* *mf* *f* *mf*
Moth-er, ___ Moth-er, ___ Moth-er, ___ Moth-er, ___

T *f* *mf* *f* *mf*
Moth-er, ___ Moth-er, ___ Moth-er, ___ Moth-er, ___

B *f* *mf* *f* *mf*
Moth-er, ___ Moth-er, ___ Moth-er, ___ Moth-er, ___

B *f* *mf* *f* *mf*
Moth-er, ___ Moth-er, ___ Moth-er, ___ Moth-er, ___

Pno.

80

Ob. *mf* *mp*

S 1 I stretch my hands for thee, *f*

S 2 I stretch my hands for thee, *f*

A I stretch my hands for thee, *f*

T *mp* I stretch my hands in the dark, I stretch my hands for thee, *f*

B *mp* I stretch my hands in the dark, I stretch my hands for thee, *f*

B *mp* I stretch my hands in the dark, I stretch my hands for thee, *f*

Pno.

The musical score is written for a full orchestra and choir. It begins at measure 80. The Oboe (Ob.) part starts with a melodic line in the key of B-flat major, marked *mf* and *mp*. The vocal parts (S1, S2, A, T, B) enter in measure 81 with the lyrics "I stretch my hands for thee," marked *f*. The Tenor (T) and Bass (B) parts have a more complex line, including the lyrics "I stretch my hands in the dark, I stretch my hands for thee," marked *mp* and *f*. The Piano (Pno.) part provides harmonic support throughout the passage.

85

Ob. *p* *mp*

S 1 *mp* *p* *mp*
I stretch my hands for thee.

S 2 *mp* *p* *mp*
I stretch my hands for thee.

A *mp* *p* *mp*
I stretch my hands for thee.

T *mp* *p* *mp*
I stretch my hands for thee.

B *mp* *p* *mp*
I stretch my hands for thee.

B *mp* *p* *mp*
I stretch my hands for thee.

Pno.