

NRK-C130

## Strange is the Night SATB choir unaccompanie

## Music by Nicholas Ryan Kelly

Cassilda's Song (text source for Strange is the Night) by Robert W. Chambers

Along the shore the cloud waves break, The twin suns sink behind the lake, The shadows lengthen In Carcosa.

Strange is the night where black stars rise, And strange moons circle through the skies But stranger still is Lost Carcosa.

Songs that the Hyades shall sing, Where flap the tatters of the King, Must die unheard in Dim Carcosa.

Song of my soul, my voice is dead; Die thou, unsung, as tears unshed Shall dry and die in Lost Carcosa.

From The King in Yellow (1895)

This text comes from a play that doesn't exist: a book-within-a-book alluded *The King in Yellow*, a collection of horror tales by Robert W. Chambers (1865-1933). The words to "Cassilda's Song" are deliberately cryptic: Chambers wrote them to provide a small glimpse into the world of this fictional play, which drives his characters to psychosis when they read the whole thing. (Don't worry, though: it's only Act 2 of the play that provokes this reaction, but "Cassilda's Song" is from Act 1!)

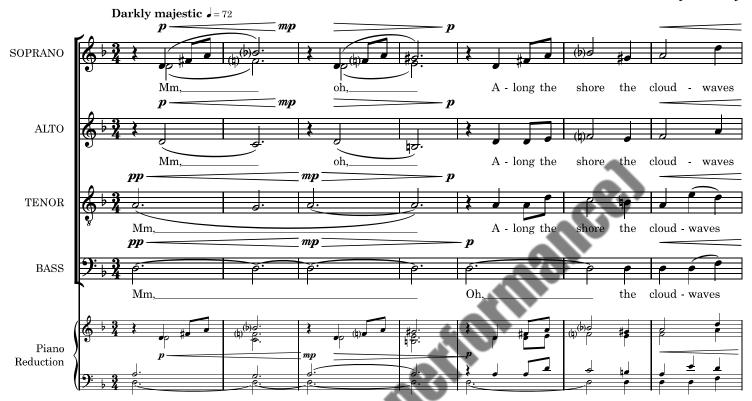
Since the meaning of this text is deliberately vague (and/or nonexistent), it serves here as a vehicle for musical exploration. Chambers never needed to flesh out the location of Carcosa, the identity of Cassilda, or any of the other fantastical entities alluded to in this poem--but this music explores what they could be like.

## Strange is the Night

words:

Robert W. Chambers

music: Nicholas Ryan Kelly





















## **About the Composer**

Nicholas Ryan Kelly is a composer inspired by speculative fiction, science, and nature. Commended by the Vancouver Sun for his "sophisticated work of such immediate, glittery appeal" and called "a rising star in the constellation of Canadian composers" by Oregon Arts Watch, he has written for many of Canada's top choirs. Nick is the recipient of commissioning grants from the Canada Council and SOCAN, as well as over a dozen awards from choirs and wind bands throughout North America. His choral music is published by Pavane, Alliance, and Cypress, and distributed by Musicspoke.

Find out more and say "hello" at www.nicholasryankelly.com.