

Jessica French

O Star of Strength

for SSA Choir and Piano

The French Press

jessicafrench.net

O Star of Strength

The night is come, but not too soon;
And sinking silently,
All silently, the little moon
Drops down behind the sky.

There is no light in earth or heaven
But the cold light of stars;
And the first watch of night is given
To the red planet Mars.

Within my breast there is no light
But the cold light of stars;
I give the first watch of the night
To the red planet Mars.

Is it the tender star of love?
The star of love and dreams?
No! from that blue tent above,
A hero's armor gleams.

O star of strength! I see thee stand
And smile upon my pain;
Thou beckonest with thy mailed hand,
And I am strong again.

The star of the unconquered will,
He rises in my breast,
Serene, and resolute, and still,
And calm, and self-possessed.

O fear not in a world like this,
And thou shalt know ere long,
Know how sublime a thing it is
To suffer and be strong.

From A Light of Stars by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882)

O Star of Strength

Commissioned by Seattle Girls Choir for their 40th Anniversary

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Jessica French
(2022)

Desolate ♩ = 60

Soprano 1
The night is come, _____ but not too

Soprano 2
The night is come, Oh _____

Alto
p stagger breathing
Oh _____

Piano
mp
Ped.

S 1
soon; _____ And sink - ing si - lent - ly, _____ All si - lent - ly, _____

S 2
Oh _____

A

Pno.
Ped.

The score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It features vocal parts for Soprano 1, Soprano 2, and Alto, and a piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked 'Desolate' with a quarter note equal to 60 beats per minute. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *p* (piano). Performance instructions include 'stagger breathing' for the Alto and 'Ped.' (pedal) for the piano. The lyrics are: 'The night is come, but not too' for Soprano 1; 'The night is come, Oh' for Soprano 2; 'Oh' for Alto; 'soon; And sink - ing si - lent - ly, All si - lent - ly,' for Soprano 1; and 'Oh' for Soprano 2.

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2

accel. ----- *molto rall.* -----

10 12

S 1 the lit - tle moon Drops down _____ Drops down _____ Drops down be - hind the

S 2 down _____ down _____ be - hind the

A down _____ down be - hind the

Pno.

accel. ----- *molto rall.* -----

10 12

*

Luminous ♩ = 72 *rall.* ----- **With dark despair** (♩ = 72)

14 16 18 **mf**

S 1 sky. _____ There is no light in

S 2 **mp** Oh _____ Oh _____ **mf** There is no light in

A sky _____ the _____ sky. _____ **mf** There is no light in

Luminous ♩ = 72 *rall.* ----- **With dark despair** (♩ = 72)

14 16 18

Pno. **mp**

ped. * *ped.* * *ped.* * *ped.* * *ped.* * *ped.* *