

THE SHADOW DANCE OF SYLVA

SATB Choir

Commissioned by National Concerts, 2023 Carnegie Hall

Darius Lim

About The Work

The Shadow Danace of Sylva is part of my collection of Fantasies for Choirs, along with The Fire Dance of Luna and Water Dance of Lluvia. This work explores my further venture and exploration into crossbreeding contemporary choral music and theatrical elements. The music is about how a civilisation of warrior-like beings were found in the dark and mysterious forests of Sylva.

When I think of Sylva, I imagine a forest that is filled with ancient trees, tangled vines, and hidden groves. The air is thick with the scent of moss and wildflowers, and the sounds of birds and animals fill the air. The light that filters through the trees is dappled and soft, creating a dreamlike atmosphere that is both beautiful and eerie.

Sylva is a place of mystery and magic, where the natural world is imbued with a sense of power and wisdom. The trees themselves seem alive, and their branches reach out like fingers, beckoning travelers deeper into the forest. In Sylva, it is said that time moves differently, and that those who wander too far into the woods may never find their way back.

Imagine dancing in a place filled with mystery and danger.
What an adventure it would be!

Text

Do not wonder too far into the woods
Haunting rustles whisper in the night
Do not wonder too far that I may lose you to the shadows
You'll never find your way back

The ancient trees, the tangled vines
The hidden groves are alive
The air is thick; filled with the scent of flowers
Whispered harmonies in the wind

The endless beat ignites a song moving through the night
Surrender to its rhythmic might!

It's the valley of wonders
It's the voice of the angels
It's the night that empowers
It's the voice that calls us to the dance

Ya sha taka taka ...Move the music!
Da bada la Move the music of the ancient forest woods!
Mystic, powerful, magical enchanting ancient music!
Dance in the shadows of Sylva!

Commissioned by National Concerts. June 11, 2023 at Carnegie Hall. Dr. Jeffery Redding, conductor

SHADOW DANCE OF SYLVA

For SATB Choir

Darius Lim

A

Mysteriously $\text{♩} = 56$

Choir looks around mysteriously with free hand gestures

SOPRANO
Do not wan-der too far in-to the woods Haunt-ing rus-tles whis-per in the night Do not

ALTO
Do not wan-der too far in-to the woods Haunt-ing rus-tles whis-per in the night Do not

TENOR
Do not wan-der too far in-to the woods Haunt-ing rus-tles whis-per in the night Do not wan-der too far

BASS
Do not wan-der too far in-to the woods Haunt-ing rus-tles whis-per in the night Do not wan-der too far

Piano
mf *pp* *mf* *mp*

9

S. wan-der too far__ Do not wan - der_____ too far *fp* *pp* too far that I may lose you to the__

A. wan-der too far__ Do not wan - der_____ too far *fp* *pp* too far that I may lose you to the__

T. Do not wan - der_____ too far *fp* *pp* too far that I may lose you to the__

B. Do not wan - der_____ too far *fp* *pp* too far that I may lose you to the__

Pno. *p*

Choir looks around

15

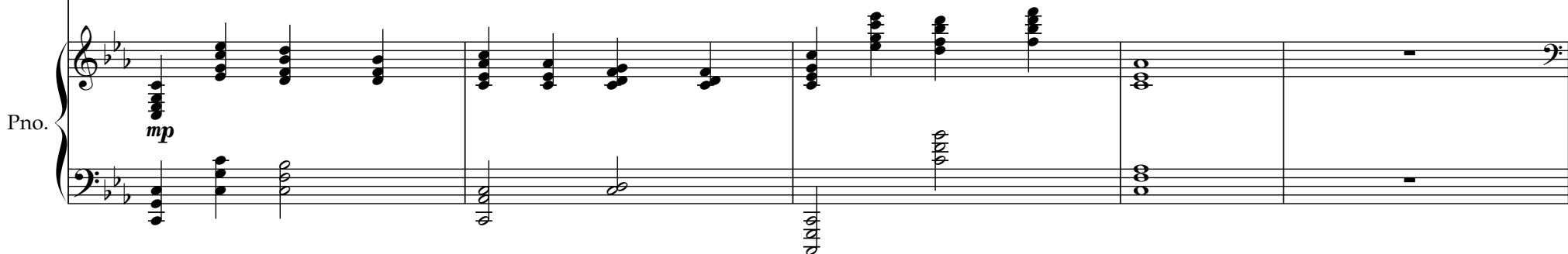
S. *p*
Sha - dows Sha - dows Sha - dows you'll ne - ver find your way

A. *p*
Sha - - dows Sha - - dows Sha - dows you'll ne - ver find your way

T. *mp*
sha - dows you'll ne - ver find ne - ver find your way

B. *mf*
sha - dows you'll ne - ver find you'll ne - ver find ne - ver find your way

Pno. *mp*



B Moving ♩=86

Choir in a whispering gesture

S. *back!* *whispered* *mp* The an-cient trees; the tan - gled vines; the hid den groves are a -

A. *back!* *whispered* *mp* The an-cient trees; the tan - gled vines; the hid den groves are a -

T. *back!* *whispered* *mp* The an-cient trees; the tan - gled vines; the hid den groves are a -

B. *back!* *whispered* *mp* The an-cient trees; the tan - gled vines; the hid den groves are a -

Pno. *mp*

B Moving ♩=86

Db. *mp*

25

S. *mf* live! _____ The an-cient trees; the tan - gled vines; the hid-den groves are a - live! _____ *mp* The

A. *mf* live! _____ The an-cient trees; the tan - gled vines; the hid-den groves are a - live! _____ *mp* The

T. *f* live! _____ The an-cient trees; the tan - gled vines; the hid-den groves are a - live! _____ *f* The

B. *mf* live! _____ The an-cient trees; the tan - gled vines; the hid-den groves are a - live! _____ *f* The

Pno. *mf*

Db.



30

S. *mf* *mp* *f* *p*
 air flo - wers whis-p'ring har-mo-nies in the wind The end-less beat ig-nites a song

A. *mf* *mp* *f* *p*
 air flo - wers whis-p'ring har-mo-nies in the wind The end-less beat ig-nites a song

T. *fp* *mp* *f* *p*
 air is thick; filled with the scent of flo - wers whis-p'ring har-mo-nies in the wind The end-less beat ig-nites a song

B. *fp* *mp* *f* *p*
 air is thick; filled with the scent of flo - wers whis-p'ring har-mo-nies in the wind The end-less beat ig-nites a song

Pno. *mp* *mf* *p*



pizz.

arco

pizz.

Db.

D

♩=100

35

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno.

Snare drum to improvise on the following rhythmic su...

D

♩=100

S. D.

Cym.

Db.

40

S. It's the voice of the an - gels It's the light that em - po - wers

A. It's the voice of the an - gels It's the light that em - po - wers

T. won - ders an - gels It's the light that em - po - wers light that em -

B. won - ders an - gels It's the light that em - po - wers light that em -

Pno.

S. D.

Cym.

mp

arco

pizz.

Db.

E

Choir to do a foot stomp on first beat

44

S. It's the voice that calls us to the dance ya sha ta ka ta ka ta la la

A. It's the voice that calls us to the dance ya sha ta ka ta ka ta la la

T. po - wers calls us to the dance The air is thick filled with the scent of

B. po - wers calls us to the dance The air is thick filled with the scent of

Pno.

S. D. **E**

Bongos *Bongos to improvise on the following rhythmic suggestions*

Cym.

Db. arco mp pizz.

48

S. *f* *mf*
 ya sha ta ka_ la Move the mu - - sic da ba da la la da ke ta la

A. *f* *mf*
 ya sha ta ka_ la Move the mu - - sic da ba da la la da ke ta la

T. *fp* *mp* *f*
 flo - wers whis-pered har-mo-nies in the wind_ The end-less beat ig-nites a song

B. *fp* *mp* *f*
 flo - wers whis-pered har-mo-nies in the wind_ The end-less beat ig-nites a song

Pno.

Bongos

Cym.

Db. *arco* *mp* *pizz.*

52

S. da ba da la la da ke Move the mu - sic of the an - cient fo - rest woods

A. da ba da la la da ke Move the mu - sic of the an - cient fo - rest woods

T. mo - ving through the night sur - ren - der to it's rhy - thm-ic might!

B. mo - ving through the night sur - ren - der to it's rhy - thm-ic might!

Pno.

Bongos

Db. arco

Bars 57-66
 Choreography Suggestion:
 Foot Stomp on every first beat of the bar,
 accompanied with a gesture of power

F

56

S. *mp* *mf* *cresc.*
 Mys-tic an-cient Pow'r-ful an-cient Ma-gi-cal En - chan-ting an-cient Mys-tic an - cient Pow'r-ful an-cient

A. *mp* *mf*
 Mys-tic an-cient Pow'r-ful an-cient Ma-gi-cal En - chan-ting an-cient En-chan-ting an - cient

T. *mp* *mf*
 Mys-tic an-cient Pow'r-ful an-cient Ma-gi-cal En - chan-ting an-cient Ma - gi - cal an - cient

B. *mp* *mf*
 Mys-tic an-cient Pow'r-ful an-cient Ma-gi-cal En - chan-ting an-cient Mys-tic an - cient Pow'r-ful an-cient

Pno. *mp* *mf*

F

Db.