

ՇԵՆՏԻՅԵ : Taavligah : Morning Light

For Choir (SATB) and Percussion (2012)

Paul Suchan

ᑕᑦᑕᓴᑦᑲ : Taavligah : Morning Light

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Program Notes:

Each year, during the winter months, the far north experiences the phenomenon known as polar twilight, a time during which the sun does not come above the horizon.

During this time of darkness, rituals and invocations are sung to the sun, whom the storytellers in this setting refer to as their "living fountain", in order to bring back light to the world and end the blackness of the night.

The piece combines the poetry of St. John of the Cross with the Northern Canadian Inuit language of Inuktitut.

Taavligah

Her shining never has a blur
I know all life does come from her
In black of night

The eternal fountain is unseen
Yet how well I know that flowing spring
In black of night

O living fountain that I crave
I know your face, I know your flame
O living fountain that I crave
Sweet light surround me

She calls on all mankind to start
to drink her water, though in dark.
In black of night
In black of night
For black is night

Taavligah

Performance Notes:

The pronunciation of Taavligah is "Tah - Vlee - Gah"

One star (*) Repeat the consonant "vl" every 2 - 4 seconds, while holding the "ee" sound.

Two stars (**) Repeat the consonant "vl" at a more frequent interval

The instruments that provide the wind sounds may include: Wind Chimes (both orchestral, and the "home" variety), plastic tubes that are whirled in the air, glass harp, wind machine, or any other instrument capable of creating a wind or wind-suggesting sound.

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(1983)

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The musical score is written for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, Wind Sounds, Piano (Rehearsal Only), and Percussion. It features a 3/4 time signature and a key signature of three flats (B-flat major/D minor). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 60. The score includes lyrics in both English and Cree syllabics. Dynamics range from *ppp* to *p*. A large 'Perusal' watermark is overlaid on the score.

Lyrics:
Soprano: Taa - vli - - - - - gah
Alto: Taa - vli - gah Taa - vli* - - - - - gah
Tenor: Taa - vli - - - - - gah
Bass: Taa - vli - - - - - gah
Piano (Rehearsal Only):
Soprano: Taa - vli - - - - - gah Taa -
Alto: Taa - vli* - - - - - gah Taa - vli* -
Tenor: Taa - vli - - - - - gah Taa -
Bass: Taa - vli - - - - - gah Taa -

Taavligah

slight rit. *a tempo*

molto rit.

Musical score for the first system (measures 12-17). It includes vocal parts for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B), as well as Piano (Pno.) and Woodwind/Percussion (W.P.).

Vocal lyrics: vli gah Taa - vli - gah Taa - vli Taa - vli*

Dynamic markings: *mf*, *mp*, *p*. Performance directions: *slight rit.*, *a tempo*, *molto rit.*

Perusal

Musical score for the second system (measures 18-23). It includes vocal parts for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B), as well as Piano (Pno.) and Woodwind/Percussion (W.P.).

Vocal lyrics: gah Her shi ning her gah Her shi - ning her gah Taa - vli* vli** gah Taa - vli* vli**

Dynamic markings: *dim.*, *ppp*, *pp*, *cresc.*. Performance directions: *a tempo*, *molto rit.*

slight rit.

p dolce

mf

p dolce

mf

p dolce

mf

p dolce

mf

dolce

slight rit.

mf

p

Pno.

rit.

a tempo

pp

mp

pp

pp

mp

pp

pp

mp

pp

pp

mp

pp

pp

mp

pp

pp

mp

pp

pp

mp

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mp

pp

S

A

T

B

Pno.



35 *p* 2

S The e - ter - nal the e - ter - nal foun - tain is un - seen how well how well I

A The e - ter - nal - ter - nal foun - tain is un - seen how well how well I

T E - ter - nal foun - tain foun - tain is un - seen yet how well I know that spring how well how well I

B The e - ter - nal foun - tain is un - seen yet how well I know that spring how well well I

Pno. *p* *mf*

40 *f* *p* *pp* *mf* *p* *rit.* *a tempo*

S know how well I know that flow - ing spring In black of night Taa - vli - gah

A know how well I know that w - ir spu Taa - vli - gah

T know how well I know that flow - ing spring Taa vli Taa - vli - gah

B know how well I know that flow - ing spring In black of night gah

Pno. *f* *p* *pp* *mf* *p*

46 3

S *p* *mf* *p*
O li - ving foun - tain that I crave

A *pp* *mf* *p*
foun - tain O li - ving foun - tain that I crave

T *p* *mf* *p*
O li - ving foun - tain O li - ving foun - tain that I crave

B *pp* *mf* *p*
Ta - vli* vli* vli* that I crave

W.P. *pp* *mf* *p*

Pno. *pp* *mf* *p*

51 *piu mosso* *mf* *f* *molto rit.* *mp* *dolce* *p*

S I know your face know your flame I li - ving foun - tain that I crave

A *mf* *mp* *dolce* *p*
vli* vli* O li - ving foun - tain that I crave Taa - vli* Taa -

T *mf* *f* *mp* *dolce* *p*
I know your face I know your flame O li - ving foun - tain that I crave Taa - vli*

B *mf* *f* *mp* *dolce* *p*
vli* vli* O li - ving foun - tain that I crave

W.P. *mp* *cresc.* *f* *mp*

Pno. *mf* *cresc.* *f* *molto rit.* *dolce* *mp*

4 *a tempo*

S
pp sweet light — su - rround me — *mp* sweet light — su - rround me *mp* sweet light — su - rround me — sweet

A
pp vli* — Taa - vli - gah — Taa - vli - gah — *mf* sweet light — su - rround me *mp* vli - gah — Taa - vli - gah —

T
pp Taa-vli* sweet light — su - rround me — *mf* sweet light — su - rround me *mp* sweet light — su - rround me —

B
pp sweet light — sweet light — *mp* sweet light — su - rround me *mp* sweet light — sweet light — sweet

Pno.
p *mp*

63 *mf* *f* *mp* *p*

S
 light — su - and me — *f* sweet light — su - rround *mp* sweet light — su - rround me *p* sweet

A
f sweet light — su - rround me *mp* sweet light — su - rround me *mp* sweet light — su - rround me

T
f sweet light — su - rround me *f* sweet light — sweet light — sweet light — su - rround me *mp*

B
mf *f* *mp* *p*
 light — su - rround me sweet light — sweet light — sweet light — su - rround me sweet

Pno.
mf *mp* *p*

a tempo

69

S *pp* light su - rround me *mf* she calls on all man - kind to start

A *pp* sweet light su - rround me *mf* she calls on all man - kind to start

T *pp* sweet light su - rround me su - rround me *mp* Ah calls on

B *pp* light su - rround me su - rround me *mp* Ah calls on

Pno. *molto rit.* *pp* *mf*

75

S *dolce p* to drink her wa - ter though in dark In black of night in black of
[5]

A *dolce p* to drink her wa - ter though in dark In black of night In black of

T *dolce p* all to drink her wa - ter though in dark In black of night In black of

B *dolce p* all to drink her wa - ter though in dark *mp* vli**

Pno. *dolce* *slight rit.* *p* *pp* [5]

rit.

a tempo

pp

81

S night For black is night Taa - vli -

A night For black is night Taa - vli*

T night For black is night Taa - vli -

B *mp* vli** For black is night Taa - vli -

W.P.

Pno.

pp

rit. *dim.* *a tempo*

87

S - - gah ta vli Taa vli gah

A - - gah Taa - vli* Taa - vli gah

T - - gah Taa - vli Taa - vli gah

B - - gah Taa - vli Taa - vli gah

W.P.

Pno.

molto rit. and dim to end