



# **Hymn to the night**

**H. Ernest Nichol  
(1862-1926)**

**Henry Ernest Nichol** (1862-1926) was born in Hull, Yorkshire, England. He originally planned to be a civil engineer but abandoned an apprenticeship to study music privately, then graduated from Oxford University. He settled back in Hull as performer and teacher. He was music master at Hull Grammar School, organist at St. Andrew's, conductor of the North Cave Choral Society, and conductor of the Newport Harmonic Society. He was also musical editor for The Sunday School Union and wrote books on choir training and a primer on transposition at sight. He died in Yorkshire, England. His compositions include cantatas, services, anthems, carols, hymns, songs, piano pieces, and part-songs. His best known hymn is "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations." He often wrote under the pseudonym Colin Sterne, an anagram of his name.

I heard the trailing garments of the Night  
Sweep through her marble halls!  
I saw her sable skirts all fringed with light  
From the celestial walls!

I heard the sounds of sorrow and delight,  
The manifold, soft chimes,  
That fill the haunted chambers of the Night,  
Like some old poet's rhymes.

I felt her presence, by its spell of might,  
Stoop o'er me from above;  
The calm, majestic presence of the Night,  
As of the one I love.

From the cool cisterns of the midnight air  
My spirit drank repose;  
The fountain of perpetual peace flows there,—  
From those deep cisterns flows.

O holy Night! from thee I learn to bear  
What man has borne before!  
Thou layest thy finger on the lips of Care,  
And they complain no more.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882)

# Hymn to the night

H. Ernest Nichol

*Andante espressivo*

S *p* I heard the trail - ing gar - ments of the Night Sweep \_\_\_\_\_

A *p* I heard the trail - ing gar - ments of the Night Sweep \_\_\_\_\_

T *p* I heard the trail - ing gar - ments of the Night Sweep \_\_\_\_\_

B *p* I heard the trail - ing gar - ments of the Night Sweep \_\_\_\_\_

6  
S — through her mar - ble halls! I saw her sa - ble

A — through her mar - ble halls! I saw her sa - ble

T — through her mar - ble halls! I saw, I saw her sa - ble

B — through her mar - ble halls! I saw her sa - ble

# Hymn to the night

10

S skirts all fringed with light From the ce - les - tial walls! From

A skirts all fringed with light From the ce - les - tial walls! From

T skirts all fringed with light From the ce - les - tial walls! From

B skirts all fringed with light From the ce - les - tial walls! From

14

S — the ce - les - tial walls! I heard the

A — the ce - les - tial walls! I heard the

T — the ce - les - tial walls! I heard the

B — the ce - les - tial walls! I heard the sounds

18

S sounds of sor - row and de - light, The man - i - fold, soft

A sounds of sor - row and de - light, The man - i - fold, soft

T sounds of sor - row and de - light, The man - i - fold, soft

B — of sor - row and de - light, The man - i - fold, soft

## Hymn to the night

22

S chimes, The man - i - fold, soft chimes, That fill \_\_\_\_\_ the

A chimes, The man - i - fold, soft chimes, That fill the

T chimes, The man - i - fold, soft chimes, That fill the

B chimes, The man - i - fold, soft chimes,

26

S haunt - ed cham - bers of the Night, Like \_\_\_\_\_ some old

A haunt - ed cham - bers of the Night, Like \_\_\_\_\_ some old

T haunt - ed cham - bers of the Night, Like \_\_\_\_\_ some old

B Like \_\_\_\_\_ some old

30

S po - et's rhymes, Like \_\_\_\_\_ some old po - et's rhymes.

A po - et's rhymes, Like \_\_\_\_\_ some old po - et's rhymes.

T po - et's rhymes, Like \_\_\_\_\_ some old po - et's rhymes.

B po - et's rhymes, Like \_\_\_\_\_ some old po - et's rhymes.

# Hymn to the night

S *p* I felt her pres - ence, by its spell of might, Stoop \_\_\_\_\_ *mf*

A *p* I felt her pres - ence, by its spell of might, Stoop \_\_\_\_\_ *mf*

T *p* I felt her pres - ence, by its spell of might, Stoop \_\_\_\_\_ *mf*

B *p* I felt her pres - ence, by its spell of might, Stoop \_\_\_\_\_ *mf*

38 S — o'er me from a - bove; The calm, ma -

A — o'er me from a - bove; The calm, ma -

T — o'er me from a - bove; The calm, ma -

B — o'er me from a - bove; The calm, ma -

42 S jes - tic pres - ence of the Night, As of the

A jes - tic pres - ence of the Night, As of the

T jes - tic pres - ence of the Night, As of the

B jes - tic pres - ence of the Night, As of the

# Hymn to the night

45

S one I love, As of the one I love. From the

A one I love, As of the one I love. From the

T one I love, As of the one I love. From the

B one I love, As of the one I love. From the

49

S cool cis - terns of the mid - night air My

A cool cis - terns of the mid - night air My

T cool cis - terns of the mid - night air My

B cool cis - terns of the mid - night air My

51

S spir - it drank re - pose; The foun - tain of per -

A spir - it drank re - pose; The foun - tain of per -

T spir - it drank re - pose; The foun - tain of per -

B spir - it drank re - pose; The foun - tain of per -



# Hymn to the night

54

S  
pet - ual peace, the foun - tain of per - pet - ual peace flows

A  
pet - ual peace, the foun - tain of per - pet - ual peace flows

T  
pet - ual peace, the foun - tain of per - pet - ual peace flows

B  
pet - ual peace, the foun - tain of per - pet - ual peace flows

57

S  
there, flows there, — From those deep cis - terns flows,

A  
there, flows there, — From those deep cis - terns flows,

T  
there, flows there, — From those deep cis - terns flows,

B  
there, — flows there, — From those deep cis - terns flows,

61

S  
From those deep cis - terns flows. O ho - ly

A  
From those deep cis - terns flows. O ho - ly

T  
From those deep cis - terns flows. O ho - ly

B  
From those deep cis - terns flows. O ho - - - ly Night! —

## Hymn to the night

65

S Night! from thee I learn to bear \_\_\_\_\_ What *pp*

A Night! from thee I learn to \_\_\_\_\_ bear \_\_\_\_\_ What *pp*

T Night! from thee I learn to bear \_\_\_\_\_ What *pp*

B \_\_\_\_\_ from thee \_\_\_\_\_ I learn to bear \_\_\_\_\_ What *pp*

68

S man has borne be - fore! What man has borne be -

A man has borne be - fore! What man has borne be -

T man has borne be - fore! What man has borne be -

B man has borne be - fore! What man has borne be -

71

S fore! Thou lay - est thy fin - ger on the lips of

A fore! Thou lay - est thy fin - ger on the lips of

T fore! Thou lay - est thy fin - ger on the lips of

B fore!

# Hymn to the night

75

S Care, And they com - plain no more, they com -

A Care, And they com - plain no more, they com -

T Care, And they com - plain no more, they com -

B And they com - plain no more, they com -

*p* *pp* *rall.*

79

S plain, complain no more.

A plain, complain no more.

T plain, complain no more.

B plain, complain no more.

*ppp*

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