Strange Voices

for choir

(2009)
The first performance was given on 22 June 2010 by The 24, conducted by Graham Bier, at the Sir Jack Lyons Concert Hall.

Duration: c. 8’ 30”
PERFORMANCE NOTES

Each voice type is *divisi a 2 or 3* throughout; all singers should sing at all times, changing between the various divisions as necessary. For this reason, a choir of 24 is suggested – 6 singers per voice type.

- ‘m’ indicates the note should be hummed with a closed mouth;
- ‘n’ indicates the notes should be hummed with lips apart;
- the transition between humming and singing should always be accomplished as smoothly as possible.
Strange Voices

WORDS BY Christina Rossetti

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Fluid: ethereal and mysterious (\(\lambda=100\))

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

pp

\textit{m-n-si-ning m}

\textit{m-n-si-ning m}

\textit{m-n-si-ning m}

\textit{m-n-si-ning m}
Strange voices singing

pp

Strange voices singing

pp

\[ \sum \]

pp

fp

\[ \sum \]

pp

fp

\[ \sum \]

pp

fp

\[ \sum \]

pp

fp

\[ \sum \]
Strange voices – sing

Strange voices – sing

m

Sing

m

Sing

m

Sing

m

Sing

m

Sing

m

Sing

m

Sing

m
Strange voices singing; Strange voices singing among the planets
Strange voices sing; Sing among the planets which move.

Strange voices singing move.

Sing among the planets which move.
tutti cresc. (poco a poco)

for ev - er; Strangevoi - ces sing a - mong the pla - nets_ a - mong the pla - nets

(on for ev - er; Strangevoi - ces sing a - mong the pla - nets_ a - mong the pla - nets

Sing - m

Sing - m

Sing - m

Sing - m

Sing - m

Sing - m

Sing - m
which move on for ever; Strange voices sing among the planets;

which move on for ever; Strange voices sing among the planets;

m_________ sing among the planets which move on for ever;

sing among the planets

sing among the planets; sing among the planets which move on for ev-

sing among the planets; sing among the planets which move on for ev-

Sing________________ Strange______ voi - 

Sing________________ Strange______ voi -
voices sing among the planets; Sing among the planets which
Strange voices sing among the planets; Sing among the planets which

Strange voices Sing among the planets which
er; Strange voices sing among the planets which

Sing among the planets which
Sing among the planets which

voi ces sing! 
voices; Strange voices sing!

voi ces; Strange voices sing!

voices sing!
move on for ever

move on for ever singing

move on for ever singing m

move on for ever

move on for ever

In the old sea's foam there is a pro-

In the old sea's foam there is a pro-
In heaven's blue dome great beacon fires are lighted

- phe-cy
and yet star jewels make it rich and

and yet star jewels make it rich and

- ted;

- ted;

as pitch is night; and yet star jewels make it

as pitch is night; and yet star jewels make it

night; Black as pitch is night;

night; Black as pitch is night;
yet star jewels make it rich and if the moon
yet star jewels make it rich and if the moon
and if the moon lights up her
and if the moon lights up her
and if the moon lights up her
and if the moon lights up her
rich
rich
Black as pitch is night;
Black as pitch is night;
Black as pitch is night;
lights up her cloudy home and if the moon lights up her cloudy home; and if the moon
lights up her cloudy home; and if the

and if the

lights up her cloudy home; and if the

her cloudy home; and if the

her cloudy home; and if the

her cloudy home; and if the

her cloudy home; and if the

& lights up her cloudy home; and if the

and if the

lights up her cloudy home; and if the

her cloudy home; and if the

her cloudy home; and if the

her cloudy home; and if the

her cloudy home; and if the

moon lights up her cloudy home;

moon lights up her cloudy home;

moon lights up her cloudy home;

moon,

moon,

moon,
and if the moon lights up her clou-dy home;
The darkness flees;

The darkness flees;

The darkness flees;

The darkness flees;
Poco agitato

The darkness flees; The darkness flees; The darkness flees; The darkness flees; The darkness flees; The darkness flees; The darkness flees;
The darkness flees; The darkness flees; The darkness flees; The darkness flees; The darkness flees;
and if the moon lights up her cloudy home; 

and if the moon lights

The darkness flees; 

The darkness flees; 

The darkness flees; 

The darkness flees; 

The darkness flees; 

The darkness flees; 

The darkness flees; 

The darkness flees; 

The darkness flees; 

The darkness flees; 

The darkness flees; 

The darkness flees; 

The darkness flees.
The darkness flees; up her cloudy home;

The darkness flees;
and if the moon lights up her cloudy home;

The darkness flees;

The darkness flees;

The darkness flees;
The darkness—flees;
Molto meno mosso (\textit{L}=66) ... poco a poco accel. ...

\begin{verbatim}


\textbf{Forth strange glea-mings roam!}
\end{verbatim}
Tempo primo (\( q = 100 \))

\[ \text{Earth} \text{ is full of all } \]

\[ \text{questions that I ask;} \text{ Earth is full of all } \]

\[ \text{Earth} \text{ is full of all } \]
Earth is full of all questions; full of all questions that I ask;
Earth is full; full; full; full;
Earth is full; full; full; full;
Earth is full; full; full; full;
Earth is full; full; full; full;
Earth is full; full; full; full;
Earth is full; full; full; full;
Earth is full; full; full; full;
Earth is full; full; full; full;
Earth is full; full; full; full;
Earth is full; full; full; full;
questions; Earth is

of all questions; Earth is

of all questions; Earth; Earth

full of all questions; Earth is

and she; she alone; she alone full of heavy silence;

full of all questions of all questions that I

full of all questions of all questions that I

full of all questions of all questions that I
Come prima

Tones that I ask;

Questions; that I ask

Questions; that I ask

Questions that I ask;

Questions; that I ask;

Silence answer not;

That I ask

That I ask

That I ask

That I ask
fp (bell-like)  poco rall...

si - ng - m

fp (bell-like)

si - ng - m

fp (bell-like)

ask

ask

ask

ask

ask

ask
What ______ is it severeth us____ from the
spirits that we would be with?

What

spirits that we would be with?

What

spirits that we would be with?

What

spirits that we would be with?

What
we would be with;

is it sever-eth us; from the spirits that we would be with;

is it sever-eth us; from the spirits that we would be with;

is it sever-eth us; from the spirits that we would be with;

is it sever-eth us; from the spirits that we would be with;
Is it that our flesh-ly ear is dull? Is it that our flesh-ly ear is dull?

Is it that our ear is dull? Is it that our ear is dull?

Is it that our ear is dull? Is it that our ear is dull?

Is it that our ear is dull? Is it that our ear is dull?
ear is dull?

flesh-ly ear is dull?

And our sha-dow________

And our sha-dow________

And our sha-dow________

And our sha-dow________

And our sha-dow hides

And our sha-dow hides light________

And our sha-dow hides light

And our sha-dow hides light
And our shadow hides light with a mask

Hides light with a mask

Light with a mask?

Hides light with a mask?

M_

M_

M_

M_

M_

M_

M_
pp (stagger breathing)

ppp possible

pp (stagger breathing)

ppp possible