

To Death I'm a Stranger

This arrangement may be performed as written, or as a vocal solo with choir accompaniment.

If performed as a solo, the choir (including the soprano part) could sing “ooh” and the lyrics as follows:

Ooh Measures 8 to 24, and measures 25 to 41.

Lyrics Measures 42 to 57.

Ooh Measures 58 to 66.

Lyrics Measures 67 to 74, and measures 75 to the end.

Options:

The choir could sing lyrics from measure 25 to 41, or from measure 37 to 41.

Humming might be alternated with “ooh” — for example, the beginning to measure 24 could be humming, followed by “ooh” in measures 25 to 41.

8	To death I'm a stranger, Poor youth that I am. What destiny bears me Hence to that shore? The chalice of life, Scarce sipped at the brim, Has slipped from my grasp And stains the dark floor.
25	Has life any meaning? The grail that men sought Has never been found On earth. The fountain of youth— Ah, merely a myth!
37	Everyone who roamed Far in search of it Died an untimely death.
42 and 75	Yet see how the night sky, Which banishes the sun, Is banished in turn by the dawn! Death comes like a gypsy Who camps on the way; At dawn, his dark caravan's gone.
58	To death I'm a stranger, Yet, strangest of all, The stranger I feared Is a stranger to me!
67	Can shadows strike fear That hide from the sun? What horror brings death? In light I am free!

*words and music by Donald Walters
from Mystic Harp 2, © 1999*

To Death I'm a Stranger

from *Mystic Harp 2*

words and music by
Donald Walters

arr. David Miller, 2007

Freely (♩ = approx. 100)

Soprano
Alto 1
Alto 2
Tenor
Bass
rehearsal keyboard

p *mp*

Ooh To
Ooh To
Ooh To
Ooh To
Ooh To

S
A1
A2
T
B

9 death I'm a strang - er, Poor youth that I am. What des - ti - ny bears me

9 death I'm a strang - er, Poor youth that I am. What des - ti - ny bears me

9 death I'm a strang - er, Poor youth that I am. What des - ti - ny bears me

9 death I'm a strang - er, Poor youth that I am. What des - ti - ny bears me

9 death I'm a strang - er, Poor youth that I am. What des - ti - ny bears me

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15

S Hence to that shore? The chal - ice of life, Scarce sipped at the brim, Has

A1 Hence to that shore? The chal - ice of life, Scarce sipped at the brim, Has

A2 Hence to that shore? The chal - ice of life, Scarce sipped at the brim, Has

T Hence to that shore? The chal - ice of life, Scarce sipped at the brim, Has

B Hence to that shore? The chal - ice of life, Scarce sipped at the brim, Has

21

S slipped from my grasp And stains the dark floor. — Has life an - y mean - ing? The

A1 slipped from my grasp And stains the dark floor. — Has life an - y mean - ing? The

A2 slipped from my grasp And stains the dark floor. — Has life an - y mean - ing? The

T slipped from my grasp And stains the dark floor. — Has life an - y mean - ing? The

B slipped from my grasp And stains the dark floor. — Has life an - y mean - ing? The

28 (no breath)

S
grail that men seek Has nev - er been found On earth. _____ The

28 (no breath)

A1
grail that men seek Has nev - er been found On earth. _____ The

28 (no breath)

A2
grail that men seek Has nev - er been found On earth. _____ The

28 (no breath)

T
grail that men seek Has nev - er been found On earth. _____ The

28 (no breath)

B
grail that men seek Has nev - er been found On earth. _____ The

34

S
foun - tain of youth— Ah, on - ly a myth! None who ev - er roamed Far in search of it Ev - er

34

A1
foun - tain of youth— Ah, on - ly a myth! None who ev - er roamed Far in search of it Ev - er

34

A2
foun - tain of youth— Ah, on - ly a myth! None who ev - er roamed Far in search of it Ev - er

34

T
foun - tain of youth— Ah, on - ly a myth! None who ev - er roamed Far in search of it Ev - er

34

B
foun - tain of youth— Ah, on - ly a myth! None who ev - er roamed Far in search of it Ev - er

40 *rit.* *mf* *a tempo*

S found what he sought. Yet see how the night sky, Which ban-ish-es the sun, Is

40 *rit.* *mf* *a tempo*

A1 found what he sought. Yet see how the night sky, Which ban-ish-es the sun, Is

40 *rit.* *mf* *a tempo*

A2 found what he sought. Yet see how the night sky, Which ban-ish-es the sun, Is

40 *rit.* *mf* *a tempo*

T found what he sought. Yet see how the night sky, Which ban-ish-es the sun, Is

40 *rit.* *mf* *a tempo*

B found what he sought. Yet see how the night sky, Which ban-ish-es the sun, Is

40 *rit.* *mf* *a tempo*

found what he sought. Yet see how the night sky, Which ban-ish-es the sun, Is

47

S ban - ished in time by the dawn! Death comes like a gyp - sy Who

47

A1 ban - ished in time by the dawn! Death comes like a gyp - sy Who

47

A2 ban - ished in time by the dawn! Death comes like a gyp - sy Who

47

T ban - ished in time by the dawn! Death comes like a gyp - sy Who

47

B ban - ished in time by the dawn! Death comes like a gyp - sy Who

47

ban - ished in time by the dawn! Death comes like a gyp - sy Who

* All Basses on top part if it's balanced with the rest of the choir. If not, Basses divide.

53 *mp* *pp*
 S camps on the way; At dawn, — his — dark car - a - van's gone. To
 A1 camps on the way; At *mp* dawn, — his — dark car - a - van's gone. To *pp*
 A2 camps on the way; At *mp* dawn, his dark car - a - van's gone. To *pp*
 T camps on the way; At *mp* dawn, his dark car - a - van's gone. To *pp*
 B camps on the way; At *mp* dawn, his dark car - a - van's gone. To *pp*

59
 S death I'm a strang - er, Yet, strang - est of all, The strang - er I feared Is a
 A1 death I'm a strang - er, Yet, strang - est of all, The strang - er I feared Is a
 A2 death I'm a strang - er, Yet, strang - est of all, The strang - er I feared Is a
 T death I'm a strang - er, Yet, strang - est of all, The strang - er I feared Is a
 B death I'm a strang - er, Yet, strang - est of all, The strang - er I feared Is a

65

S
strang - er no more! The sha - dow I feared But hides from the sun! In death there is *rit.*

A1
65
strang - er no more! The sha - dow I feared But hides from the sun! In death there is *rit.*

A2
65
strang - er no more! The sha - dow I feared But hides from the sun! In death there is *rit.*

T
65
strang - er no more! The sha - dow I feared But hides from the sun! In death there is *rit.*

B
65
strang - er no more! The sha - dow I feared But hides from the sun! In death there is *rit.*

72

S
peace On God's in - fi - nite shore! Yet see how the night sky, Which ban-ish-es the *mf* *a tempo*

A1
72
peace On God's in - fi - nite shore! Yet see how the night sky, Which ban-ish-es the *mf* *a tempo*

A2
72
peace On God's in - fi - nite shore! Yet see how the night sky, Which ban-ish-es the *mf* *a tempo*

T
72
peace On God's in - fi - nite shore! Yet see how the night sky, Which ban-ish-es the *mf* *a tempo*

B
72
peace On God's in - fi - nite shore! Yet see how the night sky, Which ban-ish-es the *mf* *a tempo*

78 *mp*
 S sun, Is ban - ished in time by the dawn! — Death comes like a gyp - sy Who
 A1 78 sun, Is ban - ished in time by the dawn! — Death comes like a gyp - sy Who
 A2 78 sun, Is ban - ished in time by the dawn! — Death comes like a gyp - sy Who
 T 78 sun, Is ban - ished in time by the dawn! — Death comes like a gyp - sy Who
 B 78 sun, Is ban - ished in time by the dawn! — Death comes like a gyp - sy Who

85 *p* *rit.*
 S camps on the way; At dawn, — his — dark car - a - van's gone.
 A1 85 camps on the way; At dawn, — his — dark car - a - van's gone.
 A2 85 camps on the way; At dawn, his dark car - a - van's gone.
 T 85 camps on the way; At dawn, his dark car - a - van's gone.
 B 85 camps on the way; At dawn, his dark car - a - van's gone.