

EVENING, Cobb
SBMP1844

TTBB
piano



Evening

Text by
James Hearst

Music by
Nancy Hill Cobb



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About the composer

Nancy Hill Cobb retired in 2019 from a 44-year career as a university administrator and professor of composition and conducting. Cobb's published choral compositions have been performed throughout the United States and world-wide. Her choral/orchestral work *Threnody* won the honor of Special Distinction in the 1999 ASCAP Rudolph Nissim Orchestral Competition. In July 2021, her full-length musical entitled *The Suffragist* (book and lyrics by Cavan Hallman) premiered at the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center in Cedar Falls, Iowa. The *Suffragist* highlights the dramatic stories of the last ten years of the suffrage fight in the United States (1910-1920) and the women who risked everything for the fight. Her orchestral commission, *Shades and Illumination*, was commissioned and premiered by Orchestra Iowa in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in May 2023.



About the poet

James Hearst was born in 1900 in rural Cedar Falls, Iowa. James Hearst worked on his family's farm both before and after breaking his back in a devastating diving accident when he was 17. During his recovery, he also began writing poems that drew on his experience as a farmer. He published his first collection, *Country Men*, in 1937. Like his friend and contemporary, Robert Frost, Hearst drew on his rural background to explore the depths of human experience. During a long and productive literary career, he would publish over 600 poems and more than a dozen collections of poetry, essays, and fiction. He also taught creative writing at the University of Northern Iowa for 34 years. His former house is now the location of the James and Meryl Hearst Center for the Arts in Cedar Falls. Courtesy of Dr. Jim O'Loughlin, Professor of English, University of Northern Iowa.

Evening

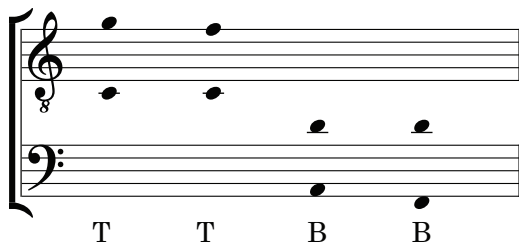
by James Hearst

Be quiet, Heart, the sun goes down
The sun goes down on the meadow.
As far to the east as the eye can reach
The cottonwood spreads its shadow.
A team in the field makes its last slow turn,
In a barn on the hill the windowpanes burn.

Be comforted, Heart, the sun goes down,
The sun bends down to harvest
The few remaining straws of light
That the roofs and the trees still cherish,
And a late-winged bird drops a falling bar
Of sleep notes to the evening star.

Be peaceful, Heart, though the sun goes down
Though the sun goes down and ever
It leaves to the pouring layers of dark
Our fields as it might forever,
This day our love, our labor and grief
Like the fiber of life have surpassed belief.

Ranges



recording and rehearsal tracks
available at sbmp.com

James Hearst

Evening

Nancy Hill Cobb

$\text{♩} = 46$ TTBB, unis. *mf*

Piano *mf*

5

qui - et, Heart, the sun goes down The

sim. *mp*

9

sun goes down on the mead - ow. As

Red. sim.

13

far to the east as the eye can reach the cot - ton - wood spreads its

Red.

16 *f*

shad - ow. A team in the field makes its last slow turn,

Red.

19

In a barn on the hill the win - dow panes burn.

f *L.H.*

Red.

23 *mf*

T T Be com - fort - ed, Heart,

B B *mf* Be com - fort - ed, Heart, the sun goes

sim. *p* *sim.*

26 *accel.* *f* $\text{♩} = 50$

the sun goes down, The sun bends down to

down, The sun bends down to

29

har - vest the few re - main - ing straws of light The

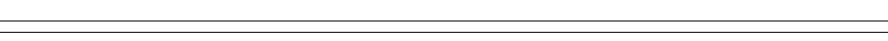
har - vest the few re - main - ing straws of light The

32 *ff* *rit.*

light That the roofs and the trees still cher - ish, still cher-ish, Still cher-ish,

light That the roofs and the trees still cher - ish Still cher-ish, Still cher-ish,

36



Two empty musical staves, one for the treble clef and one for the bass clef, both in the key of B-flat major. The staves are numbered 36 and 37.

An empty musical staff with a treble clef on the top line and a bass clef on the bottom line. The key signature is one flat, indicated by a flat symbol on the first line of the treble clef and the first line of the bass clef. The staff is otherwise empty.

40

rit.

Tempo I

star. ____

star.

mf

Be

p

mp

L.H.

46 *mf*

8 Be peace - ful, Heart, the sun goes down.____

peace - ful, Heart, though the sun goes down_____ Though the

sim.

sim.

50

8

the sun goes down and ev - er It leaves _____ It

sun goes down _____ and _____ ev - er It leaves _____ It

54

8

leaves to the pour - ing lay - ers of dark Our fields as it might for - ev - er, This

leaves to the pour - ing _____ layers of dark Our fields as it might for - ev - er, This

58

8

day our love, our lab - or and grief This day our love, our

day our love, our lab - or and grief This day our love, our

Red.

62 *ff*

la - bor and grief Like the fi - ber of life have sur - passed be - lief.

ff

la - bor and grief Like the fi - ber or life have sur - passed be - lief.

ff

Red.

66 *p*

Be com - fort - ed heart, Be peace - ful heart

p

Be qui - et heart, Be peace - ful heart

pp

sim.

Red.

70 *rit.*

the sun goes down.

the sun goes down.

Red.