

Alec Roth – **DARK NIGHT** – words by Vikram Seth

for voice and guitar, or harp, or keyboard, or string quartet

first performed by Christopher Maltman (baritone) and the Sacconi String Quartet, Louth Methodist Church, 17 November 2005

version for guitar first performed by Mark Padmore (tenor) and Morgan Szymanski (guitar), Rochdale Town Hall, 15 November, 2008

*Dark night and silent, calm, and lovely,
That stills the efforts of our lives,
Rare, excellent-kind, and behovely . . .
No matter how the poet strives
To weave with epithets and clauses
Your soundless web, he falters, pauses,
And your enchantment slips between
His hands, as if it's never been.
Of all times most imbued with beauty,
You lend us by your spell relief
From ineradicable grief
(If for a spell), and pain, and duty.
We sleep, and nightly are made whole
In all our fretted mind and soul.*

Vikram Seth, *The Golden Gate*, stanza 5.39

DURATION

ca. 4½ minutes

FORCES REQUIRED

Voice (medium range) with Guitar or Harp or String Quartet

Dark Night may also be performed with Keyboard using the Vocal Score

Projected version (awaiting commissioner): Voice and String Orchestra

PERFORMANCE MATERIALS

Vocal Score

Guitar Score

Harp Score

Quartet version: Full Score and set of Parts: Violin I; Violin II; Viola; Cello

SCORE SAMPLE

Click here for a sample page of the [Vocal Score](#)