

Ethan McGrath

THE KEEN STARS WERE TWINKLING

for high voice and piano



FOR PERUSAL USE ONLY

2011



SWIRLY MUSIC

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The keen stars were twinkling
And the fair moon was rising among them,
Dear Jane.
The guitar was tinkling
But the notes were not sweet till you sung them
Again—
As the moon's soft splendor
O'er the faint cold starlight of Heaven
Is thrown—
So your voice most tender
To the strings without soul had then given
Its own.

The stars will awaken,
Though the moon sleep a full hour later,
Tonight;
No leaf will be shaken
While the dews of your melody scatter
Delight.
Though the sound overpowers
Sing again, with your dear voice revealing
A tone
Of some world far from ours,
Where music and moonlight and feeling
Are one.

PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY (1792-1822)

For Julie Penner

The keen stars were twinkling

Poem by
Percy Bysshe Shelley

Music by
Ethan McGrath

Freely, expressively (♩ = 84)

Voice

Piano

p

mp

7 *p*

The keen stars were twin-*kl*ing And the fair moon was ris-*ing* a - mong them, Dear

p

13 *mp*

Jane. The gui-tar was tin-*kl*ing But the notes were not sweet till you sung them A -

mp

19 *pp*

gain— As the moon's soft splen - dor O'er the faint cold star - light of

19 *pp leggiero*

25 *mp* ,

Heav - en Is thrown— So your voice most ten - der To the strings with - out

25 *mp*

30 *mf* *p*

soul had then giv - en Its own.

30 *mf* *p* *mf*

36 *mp*

The stars will a -

8va

leggiero

p

14

41

wak - en, Though the moon sleep a full hour lat - er To -

8va

13

45 *p* *cresc.*

night, No leaf will be shak - en While the dew's of your mel - o - dy

cresc.

50 *ff* *ten.*

scat - ter De - light. _____ Though the sound o - ver - pow - ers Sing a -

50 *ff* *ten.*

55 *p* *stretto e cresc.*

gain, sing a - gain, with your dear voice re - veal - ing A

55 *stretto e cresc.*

p *simile*

59 *f*

tone Of some world far from ours, Where mu - sic and moon-light and

59 *f*

64 *poco rit.* *a tempo*
pp

feel - ing Are one. The keen stars were twin - kling And the fair moon was

70 *mf*

ris - ing a - mong them, Dear Jane,

76 *rit.* *p* *pp*

dear Jane, dear Jane.

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\$4.95