

STAR DUST



ERIC SHANFIELD

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Eric Shanfield

ENS.2006.10r | 2006-14 | 2'30"

poem by Frank Bidart

SATB Chorus

May be performed with full chorus, one person per part, or any balanced grouping in between.

Romain Clerou

by Frank Bidart

When I asked if she was in pain he said
No but that she had in her final minutes showed that panic

he had often seen the faces of the dying show facing the void.

He said this matter-of-factly, as if because he was
a doctor his experience mattered, as if he had known

her and her son long enough not to varnish or lie.

They had gone to high school together and now
because he had become a doctor and then become

her doctor he watched Martha face the void.

Twenty-eight years later, I can hear the way he said
Martha. His name was Clerou: Dr. Romain Clerou.

STAR DUST

Frank Bidart

Eric Shanfield

$\text{♩} = 88$ Hushed

Soprano *p*
(Hum)

Alto *p* *mp*
(Hum) When I asked if she was in pain he said No

Tenor *p* *mp*
(Hum) Is she in pain? No,

Bass *p* *mp*
(Hum) Is she in pain? No,

6

S.

A. but that she had in her fi-nal mi-nutes showed that pa-nic he had of-ten

T. no, that in her fi-nal min-utes pa-nic he had of-ten

B. no, that in her fin-al pa-nic he had of-ten

11

S.

A. seen the fa-ces of the dy-ing show fa-cing the void.

T. seen the fa-ces of the dy-ing show fa-cing the void.

B. seen the fa-ces of the dy-ing show fa-cing the void.

STAR DUST

2

16

S. *p* (Hum) *mp* said this mat - ter of fact - ly as

A. *p* (Hum) *mp* said this ma - ter of fact - ly as

T. *p* (Hum) *mf Soli* He said this mat - ter of fact - ly, as if be -

B. *p* (Hum) *mp* said this as said if

20

S. *mf* if be - cause he was a *mp* doc - tor his ex - *f* per - i - ence mat -

A. *mf* if be - cause he was a *mp* doc - tor his ex - *f* per - i - ence mat

T. *f* cause he was a *mf* doc - tor his ex *f* per - i - ence mat - tered, as if

B. *mf* doc - tor *mp* ex - per - i - ence *f*

24

S. *mp* tered, as if *mf* he had known *mp* her and her son long en - ough

A. *mp* - tered, as if *mf* he had known *mp* her and her son long e - ough

T. *mf* he had known her and her son long e-nough not to var-nish or lie.

B. *mp* mat - tered, *mf* long e - ough *mp* or lie.

28 *ff Soli*

S. They had gone to high school to - ge - ther and

A. *f* They had gone to high school to - ge - ther

T. *f* They had gone to high school to - ge - ther to high school to - ge - ther and

B. *f* They had gone to high school and now

32

S. now be - cause he had be - come a doc - tor and then be -

A. and now be - cause he had be - come a doc - tor doc - tor doc - tor doc

T. now and now be - cause he had be - come a doc - tor and then be - come

B. bec - cause he had be - come her doc - tor

36

S. come her doc - tor he watched *fff* Mar - tha face the

A. - tor doc - tor he watched he watched Mar - tha Mar - tha Mar - tha Mar - tha Mar *ff* *fff*

T. her doc - tor he watched Mar - tha Mar - tha

B. he watched Mar - tha face

STAR DUST

4

40

S. *mp* void. *mp* (Hum)

A. *mp* - tha face the void. *p* (Hum)

T. *mp* face the void. *p* (Hum)

B. *mp* the void. *p* (Hum) Twen - ty

44

S. *p* (Hum)

A. *p* (Hum)

T. *p* (Hum)

B. *p* eight years la - ter I can hear the way he said Mar - tha.

48

S. *pp* His name was Cler - ou: Dr. Ro main Cle - rou. *p*

A. *pp* His name was Cler - ou: Dr. Ro main Cle - rou. *p*

T. *pp* His name was Cler - ou: Dr. Ro main Cle - rou. *p*

B. *pp* His name was Cler - ou: Dr. Ro main Cle - rou. *p*