FLIGHT OF THE GRACKLES

Two-Part, accompanied

Music by JANET GARDNER

ALSO AVAILABLE

Accompaniment Track on BLCD0T24 Full Version Vocal Demo on BLCD0V24

Range: I d - e'

II a - d'

Language: English

Use: General, contest/festival

Time: Approx. 2:09 *Difficulty: Moderate

Performance Notes

The Common Grackle, Quiscalus quiscula, is a large blackbird. The 32 cm long adults have a long dark bill, a pale yellowish eye and a long tail; their plumage is an iridescent black. Adult females are slightly smaller and less glossy. Their breeding habitat is open and semi-open areas across North America east of the Rocky Mountains. The nest is a well-concealed cup in dense trees (particularly pine) or shrubs, usually near water; sometimes, they will nest in cavities or in man-made structures. They often nest in colonies, some being quite large. This bird is a permanent resident in much of its range. Northern birds migrate in flocks to the southeastern United States. These birds forage on the ground, in shallow water or in shrubs; they will steal food from other birds. They are omnivorous, eating insects, minnows, frogs, eggs, berries, seeds and grain, even small birds. This bird's song is particularly harsh, especially when these birds, in a flock, are calling. The range of this bird expanded west as forests were cleared. In some areas, they are now considered a pest by farmers because of their large numbers and fondness for grain. Some species of Grackle are confused with an American Crow when people unfamiliar with bird identification are asked to identify a dead blackbird.

John Parker's haunting text is enhanced by musical intensity and dynamic contrasts. Emphasize the beginning consonants of key words and take care to articulate just as clearly during the quieter parts. The half notes in the middle of phrases should have the feeling of moving forward. Have fun exploring the musical possibilities of this piece.

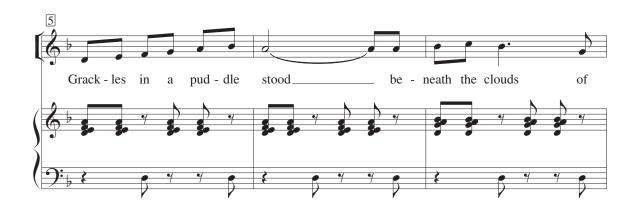
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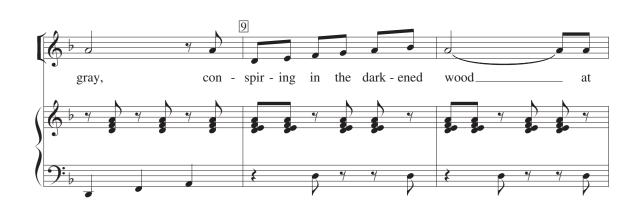
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Two-Part, accompanied

Words by JOHN PARKER (ASCAP) Music by JANET GARDNER (ASCAP)























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from BriLee Music Publishing Co.

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