

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

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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.

JG

FLIGHT OF THE GRACKLES

Two-Part, accompanied

Words by
JOHN PARKER (ASCAP)

Music by
JANET GARDNER (ASCAP)

(♩ = 120)

I
II

unis. *mf*

Five

mf

5

Grack - les in a pud - dle stood _____ be - neath the clouds of

9

gray, con - spir - ing in the dark - ened wood _____ at

The musical score is written for a two-part vocal setting with piano accompaniment. It is in 3/4 time with a tempo of 120 beats per minute. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score is divided into three systems. The first system shows the vocal parts (I and II) and the piano accompaniment. The piano part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The second system begins with a measure rest (5) and contains the lyrics 'Grack - les in a pud - dle stood _____ be - neath the clouds of'. The third system begins with a measure rest (9) and contains the lyrics 'gray, con - spir - ing in the dark - ened wood _____ at'. The piano accompaniment continues throughout, providing a steady harmonic and rhythmic foundation.

13

clos - ing of the day; _____ Wait - ing for the

shad - ows to swal - low up the light, when

17

out in - to the black - ened sky _____ the Grack - les will take

cresc.

cresc.

f

flight.

f

mf [24] *cresc.*

When out in - to the black - ened sky _____ the

dim. *mf* *cresc.*

I *f* [27] *f*

Grack - les will take flight.

II *f*

Grack - les will take flight.

[27] *f*

[31] *f*

A - gainst the ding - y yel - low

A -

[31] *f*

moon the Grack - les raise their wings, as

gainst the ding - y yel - low moon Grack - les raise their

35

cack - les from their rau - cous tunes in - to the dark - ness ring. wings. As cack - les from their rau - cous tunes in -

35

39 *mf*

Plan - ning mid - night plun - ders, they

to the dark - ness ring. Plan - ning mid - night plun - ders, they

39 *mf*

fly to halls un - known. And none can trace the hid - den

fly to halls un - known. And

43 *f*

path _____ their cru - el band has flown.

none can trace the path their cru - el band has flown.

46

46

And

And

mf

dim.

50 *cresc.*
 none can trace the hid - den path _____ their cru - el band has

mf cresc.
 None can trace the path their cru - el band has

50 *mf* *cresc.*

53 *f*
 flown.

f
 flown.

53 *f* *dim.*

57 *mp*
 In -

mp
 In -

57 *mf*

61

to the field of har - vest grain _____ they drop with - out a

to the field of har - vest grain _____ they drop with - out a

61 *mp*

65

sound, and eat un - til but chaff re - mains _____ like

sound, and eat un - til but chaff re - mains _____ like

65

69 *mf*

ghosts up - on the ground. _____ In the trees and

ghosts up - on the ground. _____ In the trees and

69 *mf*

hedge - rows they live like com - mon thieves. And *f*

hedge - rows they live like com - mon thieves. And *f*

73 *cresc.*
from where they are hat - ed most _____ the Grack - le nev - er

cresc.
from where they are hat - ed most _____ the Grack - le nev - er

73 *f* *cresc.*

76 *ff*
leaves.

ff
leaves.

76 *ff*

f 80 *cresc.*

And from where they are hat - ed most _____ the

f *cresc.*

And from where they are hat - ed most _____ the

80 *f* *cresc.*

ff

Grack - le nev - er leaves. _____

ff

Grack - le nev - er leaves. _____

ff

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