Things That Go Bump
In the Night

A journey from dusk to dawn in three movements

(Composed with students from Edward Smith Elementary School)

SA, piano, and optional flute

Elizabeth Alexander
Things That Go Bump in the Night

I. And the moon is listening...
by Clarence Brennen, Zack Clark, Sarah Doucette, Corky Ellison, Mallisa Gasparovic, Caitlin Gucker-Kantor, Jenna Hawkins, Kamesha Huddleston, Nikki King, Sean Moore, Kristen Myrick, Ashley Spinks, Katie Steele, & Maggie Stonecash

I lie in bed at night and listen.
Doors creak and walls moan,
Faucets drip and the house is settling.
And the moon is listening...

I lie in bed at night and listen.
Mice creep and clocks tick,
Marking time while we are dreaming.
And the moon is listening...

My cats go bumpy-bump all night,
Mischief happening left and right.
Bumpy-bumpy-bumpity-bumpity-bump!

I lie in bed at night and listen.
Snow falls and branches sway,
Wind chimes clatter in the breeze.
And the moon is listening...
And I drift to sleep...

II. There it is again!
by Zara Asman, Jessica Barbour, Kyle Bell, Thomas Brown, Brandon Burchand, Nicole Caffy, Zack Clark, Kim Crossway, Nick DeCarlo, Sarah Doucette, Joshua Gamage, Max Gerros, Erin Godwin, Gwen Hayward, Eddie Herron, Stacey Karpouzes, Patrick Kelly, Meagan Kennedy, Jennifer Knight, Michael McLaughlin, Meghan Mehan, Sean Moore, Katie Ninno, Claire Pietrzak, Logan Pistello, Josh Pagan, Andrew Post, Kate Price, Chris Resti, Crysten Rushmore, Sulaiman Abdul Sabur, Amy Savage, Sarah Schechter, Lauren Shaw, Beth Stricker, Amanda Sullivan, Kent Sutherland, David Swift, Daquan Thomas, Joel Tillman, Eric Uhlig, Porsche Walker, Dorsey Williams, Sierra Williams, Rhiannon Wilson, & Jordan Wood

Cracking lumber wakes me from my slumber,
And my fear takes hold.
Sky and clouds brawl, simple things make my skin crawl,
And the night grows suddenly loud and dark and cold.

I hold my breath and dare not make a peep.
I try to go back to sleep...I can’t go back to sleep...

Oooooooooh, Oooooooooh — What’s that?
I hear a creaking and a moaning — souls in agony are groaning.

Oooooooooh, Oooooooooh — There it is again! — Who’s there?

It’s getting louder, and louder, and louder!
If I close my eyes, maybe it won’t be able to see me!

Something’s creeping under my bed!
Is it alive or is it dead?
Does it even have a head?
I pull my legs under the covers!
What a grim and grisley howl!
Is it a wolf or a great white owl?
Is it a monster wicked and fowl? — There it is again!
I feel my hair rising... rising... higher and higher to the roof!

I’m so scared I rattle the sheets! I’m so scared I start to freeze!

Open the door to my closet, trying to find what could cause it...

A roar and a rip and then I know it’s a Bad Mean Scary Tiger,
And it’s coming closer, and closer, and closer...
I see its yellow eyes! It’s on my bed!
And it’s coming towards me and I hear this noise:
PURRRRRRRRRRRRR...

I turn on the light, not a shadow in sight —
So I go back to sleep, but back they all creep...

***************************

It’s getting louder, and louder and louder!
Something’s peeking in my window!

Is it a giant or a crook?
Witch of the West or Captain Hook?
I’m afraid to take a look!
Okay, try to stay calm...

What’s that shadow that I see?
Is it a spider bigger than me?
Should I hide or should I flee? — There it is again!
I feel my house shaking...shaking...shaking...No, I’m shaking!

I’m so scared I jump out of my Pjs! I’m so scared I start to grow a beard!

Footsteps in the hall... I’m not afraid, not at all....
A roar and a rip and then I know it’s a... it’s a... it’s a...
And it’s coming closer, and closer, and closer...
It opens up my door! Its eyes turn red!
And it’s coming towards me and I hear this noise...
GET BACK IN BED!

I turn on the light, not a shadow in sight —
So I go back to sleep, and I don’t hear a peep.

III. Things That Go Bump in the Night
by Anna Guisbond & Katie Wood

I pull the covers from my face, and glance around the room.
The light of dawn reveals no trace that I had been visited by creatures of doom.

Things that go bump in the night just might
Make somebody get light with fright.
They get so scared that they might be cared
By the things that go bump in the night.

But they know it isn’t true,
And hopefully so do you.
**This piece is not for a shy choir!** In order to create a mysterious atmosphere, singers are asked to speak, whisper, shout, moan, click their tongues, and make rolls in their throats. They are also asked to rub their hands together, snap their fingers, and stomp their feet on the floor!

**Neither may the pianist be a shrinking violet!** The pianist is asked to play inside the piano, striking the strings with the palm, playing glissandos with the fingernail, or dampening certain strings while playing them on the keyboard. There are also some chord clusters that are played using the whole forearm!

Many measures in this piece do not have time signatures. These measures, which contain special effects and spoken words, should be given as much time as they need, depending on the musical content.

**It is more important to have fun with these effects than to do them “exactly right.”**

*Things That Go Bump in the Night* was composed with and for students at Syracuse’s Edward Smith Elementary School, as part of Syracuse Society for New Music’s Composers-in-the-Schools project. The original work, as performed by the entire music program of the school, consisted of three movements for chorus, one interlude for band, and two interludes for string orchestra. The three choral movements, performed separately, create their own “Journey from Dusk to Dawn.”

The composition of this piece was truly collaborative. Before I came on the scene, the students chose a subject for the piece, and then produced a wealth of creative writing on that theme. I edited these varied poems, stories and descriptions, assembling them into three song lyrics with very different moods. Then, small groups of student composers met, choosing time signatures tempos, and chord qualities; composing melodies, rhythms and harmonies; assigning parts to instruments; and adding special effects. Finally, I forged their ideas into a large work which student musicians learned and performed for their teachers, parents, and friends.

Funding for this project was provided by New York State Council on the Arts; The Copland Fund; Martin A Yenawine and I’m Smart of CNY, Inc. Also vital to this effort was the energetic grant-writer Billie Burdick, Syracuse Society for New Music’s Neva Pilgrim, and the talented and enthusiastic teachers at Edward Smith Elementary School.

**Student Composers:** Mikel Ashkin, Sean Bailey, Kirsten Barrett, Kim Crossways, Robert Dougherty, Lisa Eade, Emile Godwin, Jaqual Green, Matt Guisbond, Shatosha McMullen, Ana Riley, Meredith Robson, Katie Scheutzow, Kye Smith, Alexandra Watson, Matt Abbott, Jessica Barbour, Chris Hall, Elizabeth Klemperer, Elisha Maxfield, Brian McCulley, Maggie Stonecash, Kent Sutherland, Joel Tillman, Katie Wood, Ashley Bailey, Kyle Bell, Clarence Brennen, Grace Broadwater, Zach Chase, Sarah Floyd, Tyler McAndrew, Evi Robinson, Daquan Thomas, & Eli Tiffault

**Student Lyricists are listed with the lyrics of the individual songs.**

For more information about Elizabeth Alexander and her music, including scores, recordings, grants, awards, and current projects, visit:

www.elizabethalexander.com
I. And the moon is listening...

Each new note like a distant bell

I lie in bed at night and listen.

Doors creak and walls moan,
Faucets drip and the house is settling.

Tongue clicks, like a dripping faucet
Form mouth into large or small "O"

And the moon is
I lie in bed at night and listen.

Mice creep and clocks tick, Marking time while we are dreaming.
Tongue clicks, like a ticking clock
(Form mouth into large or small "O")
mechanically

And the moon is

Tutti
energetically mf

My

cats go bump-ity bump all night.
A LOT OF HARD WORK & CREATIVITY WENT INTO BRINGING THIS MUSIC TO YOU...

...AND SOME OF IT WAS EVEN MINE.

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(YOU KNOW WHY.)

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Tutti: *pp* placidly

I lie in bed at night and listen.

Snow falls and branches sway,

Wind chimes clatter in the breeze.

And the moon is
Tutti

\[ \text{listening.} \]

A

\[ \text{meno mosso} \]

\[ \text{dreamily} \]

And I drift

B

And I drift

C

\[ \text{meno mosso} \]

And I drift

A

\[ \text{to sleep.} \]

B

\[ \text{to sleep.} \]

C

\[ \text{to sleep.} \]
Mysteriously

Rub hands together

Exhale, making wind sounds

Pat lowest strings with palm

Glissando on middle strings with fingernail

Spoken

Crack-ing lum-ber wakes me from my slum-ber, and my fear takes

Gliss. and the

Sky and clouds brawl, sim-ple things make my skin crawl, and the
Tutti

night grows sud-den-ly loud and dark and cold.

Glissando on middle strings with fingernail

I hold my breath and dare not make a peep.

Glissando on middle strings with fingernail

I try to go back to sleep,

I try to go back to sleep,
I try to go back to sleep.

Solo: Spoken

I can’t go back to sleep!

Tutti: Moaned (higher)

Moaned (lower)

Oooooh

Oooooh

Scratch, Scrunchity, Scritch

WHAT’S THAT?

I hear a creaking and a moaning.

Souls in agony are
Such a creak-ing and a moan-ing, p Such a groan-ing, Souls in a-gon-y are groan-ing.

Creak-ing and moan-ing and squeak-ing and groan-ing, and creak-ing and

Moaned (higher) Moaned (lower)

Solo: Shouted

Scratch, Scrunchity, Scritch Tutti: Shouted

Tutti: WHO’S THERE?

Whispered repeatedly, randomly
A LOT OF HARD WORK & CREATIVITY WENT INTO BRINGING THIS MUSIC TO YOU...

...AND SOME OF IT WAS EVEN MINE.

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Some-thing's creep-ing un-der my bed. Is it a-live or is it dead?

Does it e-ven have a head? I pull my legs under the covers!

What a grim and gris-ley howl! Is it a wolf or a great white owl?

Is it a mon-ster wick-ed and foul?

I feel my hair rising...rising...higher and higher to the roof!

THERE IT IS AGAIN!
I'm... [STOMP]. I'm... [STOMP]. I'm...

Solo:

Spoken. Stomp foot on the downbeats as indicated. (Do not actually say the word "stomp.")

I'm so scared I rattle the sheets!

Dampen strings with right hand

I'm so scared I start to freeze!

[STOMP!], I'm... [STOMP!].
Open the door to my closet, Trying to find what could cause it,

Open the door to my closet, Trying to find what could cause it,

Play Chord Cluster with Arm (Lowest keys on piano)
A roar and a rip, and then I know it's a Bad Mean Scary Tiger.

and it's coming closer, and closer, and closer,

Inhale audibly, in a long slow collective gasp

I see its yellow eyes! It's on my bed!

And it's coming towards me and I hear this noise, I hear this noise:
A lot of hard work & creativity went into bringing this music to you...

...and some of it was even mine.

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(you know why.)

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It's getting louder.

It's getting louder.

It's getting louder.

It's getting louder.

It's getting louder.

It's getting louder.

Solo:

Something's peeking in my window!
Is it a giant or a crook? Witch of the West or Captain Hook?

I'm afraid to take a look! Okay, try to stay calm...

What's that shadow that I see? Is it a spider bigger than me?

Should I hide or should I flee? THERE IT IS AGAIN!

I feel my house shaking... shaking... shaking... No, I'm shaking!

Scritch, scratchity, scrunch
Solo:

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I'm so scared I jump out of my P. J.s!
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**Spoken.** Stomp foot on the downbeats as indicated.

Solo:

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I'm so scared I start to grow a beard!
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**Spoken.** Dampen strings with right hand.
A LOT OF HARD WORK & CREATIVITY WENT INTO BRINGING THIS MUSIC TO YOU...

...AND SOME OF IT WAS EVEN MINE.

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A roar and a rip and then I know it's a...

and it's coming closer, and closer, and closer,

Scream for just one second.
WATCH THE CONDUCTOR!
Cut off should be extremely precise!

Aaaaaaaaaa!
It opens up my door! My eyes turn red!

And it's coming towards me and I hear this noise, I hear this noise:

* Yep, there's a full-fledged scream in this piece. Depending on the situation, your ensemble may prefer to use a different vocalization, or to have a soloist do some other melodramatic thing here instead.
Spoken. This may be a choir member if you wish, although my favorite option is planting a deep-voiced parent in the audience.

I turn out the light, not a shadow in sight, so I

I go back to sleep, and I don't hear a peep.

I go back to sleep, and I don't hear a peep.
III. Things That Go Bump in the Night

\( \text{Placidly} \)
A lot of hard work & creativity went into bringing this music to you...

...and some of it was even mine.

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Tutti

Things that go bump in the night.

Choir breaks into 3 parts for canon:

A

Things that go bump in the night just might make some-bod-y get light with fright.

B

Things that go bump in the night just might make some-bod-y get light with fright.
Things that go bump in the night just might make some-bod-y get light with fright.

They get so scared that they might be cared by the
Things that go bump in the night just might make some body get light with fright.

They might be cared by the

They get so scared that

They get scared that

Things that go bump in the night just might make some body get light with fright.
A lot of hard work & creativity went into bringing this music to you...

...and some of it was even mine.

This page has been intentionally left blank.

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Things that go bump in the night just might make some-bod-y get light with fright.

They might be cared by the

They get so scared by the

But they know it is n't

But they know it is n't
true, and hopefully

true, and hopefully

so do you!

so do you!