



THE DANCE OF SWORDS

WORDS BY

FREDERICK H. MARTENS

MUSIC BY

CHARLES GILBERT SPROSS

HIGH VOICE

6

LOW VOICE

THE JOHN CHURCH COMPANY

Cincinnati

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The black tents upraised on the desert sands,
The stars above in their radiant bands,
With my tribesmen I watch – for the desert's lords
Antara is dancing the dance of swords.

On Mosuli drugget of faded rose
Antara sways, as the full moon throws
A dark shadow fantastic, that sombre, apes
The grace that her every least motion shapes.

With shimmering flicker of argent sheen
The moonbeams play o'er the steel blades keen:
In the dance of the swords, where bright danger flaunts,
Antara their azure-edged sharpness taunts.

She's swaying and bending with tender grace,
The moonbeams kissing her upturned face:
On her foot a red drop, like a ruby raised,
The kiss of the sword, where its steel lip grazed!

O sword to be envied, whose blade, caressed
By the faintest touch of her foot, was blessed,
Ah, what would I not give, did she let me heal
With lips passion-kind, thy kiss of steel!

Frederick H. Martens

The Dance of Swords



FREDERICK H. MARTENS

CHARLES GILBERT SPROSS

Andantino *mp*

The

p

rit * *rit* * *rit* * *rit* *

black tents up - raised _____ on the des - ert sands, _____ The

rit * *rit* * *rit* * *rit* *

stars a - bove _____ in _____ their ra - di - ant bands, _____ With my

rit * *rit* * *rit* * *rit* *

s.

tribes - men I watch For the des-ert's lords An -

The first system of music features a vocal line in G major with a key signature of one flat (F major) and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are "tribes - men I watch For the des-ert's lords An -". The piano accompaniment consists of a right hand with eighth-note patterns and a left hand with a steady bass line. There are three fermatas marked with a star and a double bar line below the piano part.

ta - ra is danc - ing, is danc - ing, is -

The second system continues the vocal line with the lyrics "ta - ra is danc - ing, is danc - ing, is -". The piano accompaniment features a more active right hand with eighth-note chords and a left hand with a simple bass line. A fermata with a star and a double bar line is placed over the eighth measure of the piano part.

danc - ing the dance of swords. On

The third system shows the vocal line with the lyrics "danc - ing the dance of swords. On". The piano accompaniment has a right hand with eighth-note chords and a left hand with a bass line. There are three fermatas marked with a star and a double bar line below the piano part.

Mo - su - li drug - get of fad - ed rose An -

The fourth system features the vocal line with the lyrics "Mo - su - li drug - get of fad - ed rose An -". The piano accompaniment has a right hand with eighth-note chords and a left hand with a bass line. There are two fermatas marked with a star and a double bar line below the piano part.

ta - ra sways, An - ta - ra sways, as the

full moon throws A dark shad - ow fan - tas - tic, that

som - bre, apes The grace that her ev - 'ry least mo - tion shapes.

With - shim - mer - ing flick - er of ar - gent

sheen The moon-beams play o'er the steel blades

keen: In the dance of the swords, Where bright dan-ger flaunts, An- *rall*

ta-ra their a-zure-edged sharpness taunts. *L.H.*

She's sway-ing and bend-ing— with

ten - der grace, — The moon - beams kiss - ing her up - turned

rit * rit * rit *

face: — On her feet a red drop, — like a ru-by

rit * rit * rit *

raised, The kiss of the sword, where its steel lip

rit * rall

grazed! O sword to be en-vied, whose

rit * mf

blade, ca-ressed By the faint-est touch of her foot, was blessed, —

cresc.

Ah, — what would I not give, — did she let me heal, — with lips pas-sion-
with pas - sion'd

f

kind, — thy kiss — of
lips

steel

a tempo

8.