



# KUBLA

# KHAN

for mixed chorus (SATBB)

text by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Katherine Saxon

7 minutes

[katherinesaxon.com](http://katherinesaxon.com)

## Kubla Khan

In Xanadu did Kubla Khan  
A stately Pleasure-Dome decree,  
Where Alph, the sacred river ran  
Through caverns measureless to man  
Down to a sunless sea.

So twice five miles of fertile ground  
With walls and towers was girdled 'round,  
And there were gardens bright with sinuous rills,  
Where blossomed many an incense-bearing tree;  
And here were forests ancient as the hills,  
Enfolding sunny spots of greenery.

But, oh! That deep, romantic chasm which slanted  
Down the green hill, athwart a cedarn cover:  
A savage place! As holy and enchanted  
As e'er beneath the waning moon was haunted  
By woman wailing for her Demon Lover!  
And from this chasm with ceaseless turmoil seething,  
As if this Earth in fast, thick pants were breathing,  
A mighty fountain momentarily was forced,  
Amid whose swift, half-intermitted burst  
Huge fragments vaulted like rebounding hail,  
Or chaffy grain beneath the thresher's flail;  
And 'midst these dancing rocks at once and ever,  
It flung up momentarily the sacred river!  
Five miles meandering with ever a mazy motion,  
Through wood and dale the sacred river ran,  
Then reached the caverns measureless to man,  
And sank in tumult to a lifeless ocean.  
And 'mid this tumult, Kublai heard from far  
Ancestral voices prophesying war!

The shadow of the Dome of Pleasure  
Floated midway on the waves,  
Where was heard the mingled measure  
From the fountain and the caves.  
It was a miracle of rare device:  
A sunny Pleasure-Dome with caves of ice!

A damsel with a dulcimer  
In a vision once I saw:  
It was an Abyssinian maid,  
And on her dulcimer she play'd,  
Singing of Mount Abora.  
Could I revive within me  
Her symphony and song,  
To such deep delight 'twould win me  
That with music loud and long,  
I would build that dome within the air!  
That sunny dome, those caves of ice,  
And all who heard should see them there,  
And all should cry: "Beware! Beware!  
His flashing eyes, his floating hair!  
Weave a circle 'round him thrice,  
And close your eyes in holy dread:  
For he on honeydew hath fed,  
And drunk the milk of Paradise!"

# KUBLA KHAN

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Katherine Saxon  
2012

Aggressive ♩ = 84

The musical score is written for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Baritone, Bass, and Piano reduction for rehearsal only. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked 'Aggressive' with a quarter note equal to 84 beats per minute. The score includes dynamic markings such as *fp* (fortissimo piano), *f* (forte), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *mp* (mezzo-piano). The lyrics are: 'In Xa\* Xa Xa Xa Xa In'. The piano reduction is marked *f* (forte) and includes a rehearsal mark.

\* "Xa" is to be pronounced "ZA" as the first syllable of the word "Xanadu."

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Kubla Khan

2

5

S *ff* Xa - na - du did K! Ku - bla Khan *fp* A state - ly *f*

A *ff* Xa - na - du did K! Ku - bla Khan *fp* A state - ly *f*

T *ff* Xa - na - du did K! Ku - bla Khan *fp* A state - ly *f*

B *ff* Xa - na - du did K! Ku - bla Khan *fp* A state - ly *f*

B *ff* Xa - na - du did K! Ku - bla Khan *fp* A state - ly *f*

*ff* *fp* *f*

*moving ahead* ♩ = c. 96

10

S *ff* plea - sure - - - dome de - cree: *f* Where Alph, the sa -

A *ff* plea - sure - - - dome de - cree: *f* Where Alph, the sa -

T *ff* plea - sure - - - dome de - cree:

B *ff* *f* plea - sure - - - dome de - cree: Where Alph, the sa - - - cred

B *ff* *f* plea - sure - - - dome de - cree: Where Alph, the sa - - - cred

*ff* *f*

14

S *fp*  
 cred ri - ver, ra - nn, ra - nn, ra - nn, ra - nn, ra - nn, ra - nn, ra - nn,

A *fp*  
 cred ri - ver, ra - nn, ra - nn, ra - nn, ra - nn, ra - nn, ra - nn, ra - nn,

T *f*  
 8 Through ca - - - - - verns mea - sure -

B *f*  
 ri - ver, — ran, Through ca - - - - - verns mea - sure -

B *f*  
 ri - ver, — ran, Through ca - - - - - verns mea - sure -

*fp*  
*f*

17

S *mf* *rit.* = 60 *Delicately* = 72 *p*  
 ra - nn, ra - nn, ra - nn, ra - nn, So twice five miles of

A *mf* *p*  
 ra - nn, ra - nn, ra - nn, ra - nn, So twice five miles of

T *mp*  
 8 less to man - nn ra - nn, ra - nn ra - nn ran, Down to a sun - less sea.

B *f* *p*  
 less to man - nn ran, Down to a sun - - - less sea.

B *f* *mp*  
 less to man Down to a sun - - - less sea.

*mf* *f* *mp* *p*

22

S  
fer - tile ground

A  
fer - tile ground With walls and to - wers were girld - ed round:

T  
8 With walls and to - wers were girld - ed round: And there were gar - dens bright with

B  
And there were gar - dens bright with

B  
And there were gar - dens bright with

*mp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf*

26

S  
Where blos - somed man - y an in - cense bear - ing tree;

A  
Where blos - somed man - y an in - - - cense bear - ing tree;

T  
8 sin - uous rills,

B  
sin - uous rills, And here were for - rests

B  
sin - uous rills, And here were for -

*p* *mf* *mf* *p* *mf*

31

S  
A  
T  
B  
B

En - fold - ing sun - ny spots of green - er - y.  
an - cient as the hills. En - fold - ing sun - ny spots of green - er - y.  
- rests an - cient as the hills.

*f*  
*mp*  
*p*  
*mp*  
*p*  
*mp*  
*mp*  
*p*  
*f*

But

36

Slower ♩ = 60

S  
A  
T  
B  
B

But oh! that ro - man - tic - cha - sm - which slant - ed  
oh! that ro - man - tic - cha - sm - which slant - ed  
But oh! But oh! that deep chas - mm - which slant -  
But oh! that deep chas - mm - which slant - ed Down  
But oh! But oh! that deep chas - mm -

*f*  
*mf*  
*f*  
*f*  
*f*  
*f*  
*f*  
*f*  
*f*  
*f*  
*fp*  
*fp*  
*f*  
*f*  
*f*  
*mf*  
*f*  
*p*  
*p*  
*f*  
*p*

Kubla Khan

6 40

S  
A  
T  
B  
B

Down the green hill a - thwart a ce - darn co - ver!  
8 - ed Down the green hill a - thwart a ce - darn co - ver!  
the green hill Down the hill a - thwart a ce - darn co - ver!

*pp*  
*pp*  
*pp*  
*ffz*  
*pp*  
*ff*

44

S  
A  
T  
B  
B

A sav - age place! as ho - ly and en - chant - ed,  
A sav - age place! sss as  
A sav - age place! sss  
sav - - - age place! sss

*ff*  
*ff*  
*ff*  
*ff*  
*p*  
*p*  
*p*  
*p*  
*ffmp*  
*ffmp*  
*ffmp*  
*ffmp*  
*niente*  
*niente*  
*niente*  
*niente*  
*niente*  
*niente*  
*p*



48

S ho - ly, en - chant - ed

A ho - ly and en - chant - ed ho - ly,

T as ho - ly and en - chant -

B As

B As

*mp* *mf* *mf* *mf*

51

S By wo - man

A en - chant - ed en - chant - ed, haunt - ed By

T ed, en - chant - ed en - chant - ed, haunt - ed

B e're be - neath the wan - ing moon was haunt - ed

B e're be - neath the wan - ing moon was haunt - ed

*mf* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Kubla Khan

54 - wail - ing, wail - - - ing for her de - mon lo - ver,  
 man wail - - - ing, wail - ing for her de - mon lo - ver,  
 wo - man wail - - - ing for her de - mon lo - ver

*p* *p* *f* *f* *f*

And from this  
 And from this  
 And from this

*moving forward* ♩ = c. 72

58 *p*  
 with cease - less tur - moil seeth - ing,  
 with cease - less tur - moil seeth - ing,  
 chas - mm, As  
 chas - mm, As  
 chas - mm, As

*p* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

Kubla Khan

62

S *mf* As if this earth in *f* fast thick pants were breath - ing, *mp* A

A *mf* As if this earth in *f* fast thick pants were breath - ing, *mp* A

T 8 if this earth in *f* fast thick pants were breath - ing, *mp* A

B if this earth in *f* fast thick pants were breath - ing, *mp* A

B if this earth in *f* fast thick pants were breath - ing, *mp* A

66

S might - y foun - tain mo - ment - ly was forced; *f* half

A might - y foun - tain mo - ment - ly was forced; *f* half

T 8 might - y foun - tain mo - ment - ly was forced; *f* *mp* A - mid whose swift half -

B might - y foun - tain mo - ment - ly was forced; *f* *mp* A - mid whose swift half -

B might - y foun - tain mo - ment - ly was forced; *f* half

69

*sfz*

**Weighty** ♩ = 72

S in - ter - mit - ted burst,

A in - ter - mit - ted burst,

T in - ter - mit - ted burst, Huge frag - ments vault -

B in - ter - mit - ted burst, Huge frag - ments vault - - - ed like re - bound - ing

B Huge frag - ments vault - ed like re - bound - ing hail, Huge

Piano accompaniment

73

S Or chaf - fy grain be - neath the thresh - er's

A Or chaf - fy grain be - neath the thresh - er's

T - - ed like re - bound - ing hail, Or chaf - fy grain be - neath the thresh - er's

B hail, re - bound - ing hail,

B frag - ments

Piano accompaniment

76 *a little faster* ♩ = 84

S flail; dan - cing once ev - er

A flail; dan - cing once ev - er

T flail; It flung up mo - ment - ly the

B *mp* And 'mid these rocks at and *f* It flung up mo - ment - ly the

B *mp* And 'mid these rocks at and *f* It flung up mo - ment - ly the

*mp* *f*

80 *sweetly* ♩ = 96 *mp*

S Five miles me - an - der - ing with maz - y

A Five miles me - an - der - ing with maz - y

T *f* sa - cred *p* ri - ver.

B *f* sa - cred *p* ri - ver.

B *f* sa - cred *p* ri - ver.

*mp* *f* *p* 3

84

S mo - tion. Then reached the ca - verns

A mo - tion. Then reached the ca - verns

T Through wood and dale the sa - cred ri - ver ran, ra - nn, ra - nn, ra - nn, ra - nn,

B Through wood and dale the sa - cred ri - ver ran, ra - nn, ra - nn, ra - nn, ra - nn,

B

*mf*

88

S mea - sure - less to man, tu - mult sss

A mea - sure - less to man, tu - mult sss

T ra - nn,

B ra - nn, And sank in tu - mult to a life - less o - cean;

B And sank in tu - mult to a life - less o - cean;

*mf* *pp* *f* *f* *p* *p*

Aggressive ♩ = 84

Kubla Khan

93

*pp* *p*

S An - ces - tral voi - ces pro - phe - sy - ing

A An - ces - tral voi - ces pro - phe - sy - ing

T *f* *mp*  
8 And 'mid this tu - mult Ku - bla heard from far voi - ces pro - phe - sy - ing

B tu - mult An - ces - tral voi - ces pro - phe - sy - ing

B tu - mult An - ces - tral voi - ces pro - phe - sy - ing

*f* *p*

Delicately ♩ = 72

97

*f* *mf*

S war! The sha - dow of the dome of plea - sure Float - ed

A war! The sha - dow of the dome of plea - sure Float - ed

T *f* *pp*  
8 war! Hmm

B *f* *pp*  
war! Hmm

B *f* *pp*  
war! Hmm

*f* *mf*

101

S  
mid - way — on the waves; Where was heard the mingl - ed mea - sure From the

A  
mid - way — on the waves; Where was heard the mingl - ed mea - sure From the

T  
8

B

B

105

S  
foun - tains and the caves. *f* It was a *mf* mi - ra - cle of rare de - *accel.*

A  
foun - tains and the caves. It was a mi - ra - cle of rare de -

T  
8  
*mf* It was a *f* mi - ra - cle of rare — de -

B  
*mf* It was a *f* mi - ra - cle of rare — de -

B  
*mf* It was a *f* mi - ra - cle of rare de -



109

S *sub. p*  
 vice, A sun - ny plea - sure dome with caves of

A *sub. p*  
 vice, A sun - ny plea - sure dome with caves of

T *sub. p*  
 vice, A sun - ny plea - sure dome with caves of

B *sub. p*  
 vice, A sun - ny plea - sure dome with caves of

B *sub. p*  
 vice, A sun - ny plea - sure dome with caves of

*p*

113

Tranquil  $\text{♩} = 76 - 88$

S *f* *pp*  
 ice! sss Ah

A *f* *pp*  
 ice! sss Ah

T *mp*  
 ice! A dam - sel with a dul - ci - mer In a vi - sion \_ once \_ I

B *f* *pp*  
 ice! sss

B *f* *pp*  
 ice! sss

*mp*  
*pp*

117

S Ah \_\_\_\_\_ Ah \_\_\_\_\_

A Ah \_\_\_\_\_ Ah \_\_\_\_\_

T 8 saw: It was an A - bys - sin - ian maid, And on her dul - ci - mer she played, \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

122

*poco rit.* ----- ♩ = c. 68

S \_\_\_\_\_

A \_\_\_\_\_

T 8 Sing - ing of Mount A - bo - ra. *p* Could I re - vive with - in me Her

B *p* Could I re - vive with - in me Her sym -

B \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*poco rit.*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

127

S  
A  
T  
B  
B

8 sym - phon - y and song, de-light 'twould win me, That with mus - ic  
phon - y and song, de-light 'twould win me, That with mus - ic  
To such a deep de-light 'twould win me, That with mus - ic

*p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

132

S  
A  
T  
B  
B

loud and long, I would build that dome in air, That sun - ny  
I would build that dome in air, That sun - ny  
loud and long, I would build that dome in air, That sun - ny  
loud and long, I would build that dome in air, That sun - ny

*f* *ff* *f* *ff* *f* *ff*

Kubla Khan

18

138

S dome! those caves of ice! ss —

A dome! those caves of ice! ss —

T 8 dome! those caves of ice! And all who hear should see

B dome! those caves of ice! And all who hear should see

B dome! those caves of ice! And all who hear should see

143

S And all should cry, Be - ware! Be - ware!

A And all should cry, Be - ware! Be - ware!

T 8 them there, And all should K! cry, — Be - ware! Be - ware!

B them there, And all should K! cry, — Be - ware! Be - ware!

B them there, And all should K! cry, — Be - ware! Be - ware!

147

S *ff* His flash - ing eyes, his float - - - ing hair! *p* Weave a

A *ff* His flash - ing eyes, his float - - - ing hair! *p* Weave a cir-cle round him

T *ff* His flash - ing eyes, his float - - - ing hair! *mf* Be -

B *ff* His flash - ing eyes, his float - - - ing hair!

B *ff* His flash - ing eyes, his float - - - ing hair!

151

S *mf* cir - cle round him thrice, Weave a cir - cle round him thrice, Weave a cir - cle round him thrice, And

A thrice, Weave a cir - cle round him thrice, Weave a cir - cle round him thrice, And close your eyes with

T *mf* ware! *f* Be - ware! His

B *mf* Be - ware! *f* Be - ware!

B *mf* Be - ware! Be - ware!

154

S close your eyes with ho - ly dread, And close your eyes with ho - ly dread, And close your eyes with ho - ly dread, And

A ho - ly dread, And close your eyes with ho - ly dread, And close your eyes with ho - ly dread, And close your eyes with

T 8 flash - - - - ing eyes, his float - - - - ing

B Be - ware! Be ware! his float - - - -

B His flash - - - - ing eyes, his float - - - -

*f*

157

S close your eyes with ho - ly dread, And close your eyes And close your eyes with dread, Be - ware!

A ho - ly dread, And close your eyes with ho - ly dread, And close your eyes with dread, Be - ware!

T 8 hair! Be - ware! Be - ware! Be - ware!

B - - ing hair! Be - ware! Be - ware!

B - - ing hair! Be - ware! Be - ware! Be - ware!

*ff*

S *p* For he on hon - ey - dew hath fed, *pp* And *pp*

A *pp* For he on hon - ey - dew hath fed, *pp* And *pp*

T *pp* For he on hon - ey - dew hath fed, *pp* And *pp*

B *pp* For he on hon - ey - dew hath fed, *pp* And *pp*

B *pp* For he on hon - ey - dew hath fed, *pp* And *pp*

*p* *pp*

S *p* drunk K! the milk K! of Pa - ra - dise. *pp* ss

A *p* drunk K! the milk K! of Pa - ra - dise. *pp* ss

T *p* drunk K! the milk K! of Pa - ra - dise. *pp* ss

B *p* drunk K! the milk K! of Pa - ra - dise. *pp* ss

B *p* drunk K! the milk K! of Pa - ra - dise. *pp* ss

*p*