

DAVID BIEDENBENDER

THIS NIGHT

for SATB a cappella choir and (optional) solo flute

BENT SPACE MUSIC

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Performance materials available from Bent Space Music (Publisher):
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First printed July 2012.

Duration: ca. 4:30

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PROGRAM NOTE

This Night is a setting of the text *Dies ist die Nacht, da mir erschienen*, (“This Night a Wondrous Revelation”), which was written in 1683 by Caspar Friedrich Nachtenhöfer. I have used an English translation of the original German poem by Anna B. Hoppe from 1922, which also serves as the text for the Christmas hymn of the same name, commonly set to the tune *O Dass Ich Tausen Zungen*, written by Johann B. König in 1738. I chose this text because of the beautifully vivid imagery and metaphors for light in the poetry, and because I really enjoy the simple, common rhyme and phrase structure that encouraged me to write simple, clear music.

TEXT

This night a wondrous revelation
Makes known to me God’s love and grace;
The Child that merits adoration
Brings light to our benighted race;
And though a thousand suns did shine,
Still brighter were that Light divine.

The Sun of Grace for thee is beaming;
Rejoice, my soul, in Jesus’ birth!
The light from yonder manger streaming
Sends forth its rays o’er all the earth.
It drives the night of sin away
And turns our darkness into day.

This Light, which all thy gloom can banish,
The bliss of heaven glorifies;
When sun and moon and stars shall vanish,
Its rays shall still illumine the skies.
This light through all eternity
Thy heaven and all to thee shall be.

for Philip Brunelle and VocalEssence

THIS NIGHT

for SATB a cappella choir and solo flute

BY DAVID BIEDENBENDER

Still, calm $\text{♩} = 56$

Flute *ppp*

Soprano *p* This night, this night, this night. *mp*

Alto *p* Night, this night, this night. *mp*

Tenor *p* Night, this night, this night. *mp*

Bass *p* Night, this night, this night. *mp*

Piano (rehearsal only)

8 Moving along $\text{♩} = 84$

p *mp* *espressivo* *mf*

p This night a won - drous re - ve - la - tion, Makes known to me God's

p This night a won - drous re - ve - la - tion, Makes known to me God's

p This night a won - drous re - ve - la - tion, Makes known to me God's

p This night a won - drous re - ve - la - tion, Makes known to me God's

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THIS NIGHT

15

13

love and grace. The Child that merits adoration, Brings

love and grace. The Child that merits adoration, Brings

love and grace. The Child that merits adoration, Brings

love and grace. The Child that merits adoration, Brings

18

poco accel. 21 A little faster ♩=92 rit.

light to our benighted race. And though a thousand suns did

light to our benighted race. And though a thousand suns did

light to our benighted race. And though a thousand suns did

light to our benighted race. And though a thousand suns did

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24 Calm ♩=84

23 *f* somewhat freely *mf*

shine, Still bright-er were that Light di -

shine, Still bright-er were that Light di -

shine, Still bright-er were that Light di -

shine, Still bright-er were that Light di -

29 With motion again ♩=104

27 *rit.* *p* *pp* *p* *pp* (stagger breathe) *p* *mp*

vine, this nigh(t). (ah)

vine, this night.

vine, this night.

vine, this night. Re -

vine, this night. The Sun of grace for thee is beam - ing, Re -

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33 36

mp
The light from yon-der man-ger stream - ing, Sends

mp
The light from yon-der man-ger stream - ing, Sends

p
joyce, my soul, in Je - sus birth! This

joyce, my soul, in Je - sus birth!

39

rall. *Stretching out* ♩=80 *rit.*

mp *f*
forth its rays o'ver all the earth. It drives the night of sin a - way,

mp *f*
forth its rays o'ver all the earth. It drives the night of sin a - way,

mp *f*
night, this night, this sin a - way,

mp *f*
this night, this sin a - way,

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THIS NIGHT

45 At ease $\text{♩} = 88$

poco accel.

And turns our dark - ness in - to day. This

And turns our dark - ness in - to day. This

And turns our dark - ness in - to day. This

And turns our dark - ness in - to day. This

49 Resolute $\text{♩} = 104$

Light, which all thy gloom can ban - ish, The bliss of hea - ven glo - ri - fies, When

Light, which all thy gloom can ban - ish, The bliss of hea - ven glo - ri - fies, When

Light, which all thy gloom can ban - ish, The bliss of hea - ven glo - ri - fies, When

Light, which all thy gloom can ban - ish, The bliss of hea - ven glo - ri - fies, When

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THIS NIGHT

sun and moon and stars shall van - ish, Its rays shall still il - lume the skies. This

sun and moon and stars shall van - ish, Its rays shall still il - lume the skies. This

sun and moon and stars shall van - ish, Its rays shall still il - lume the skies. This

sun and moon and stars shall van - ish, Its rays shall still il - lume the skies. This

rit.

light through all e - ter - ni - ty,

light through all e - ter - ni - ty,

light through all e - ter - ni - ty,

light through all e - ter - ni - ty,

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64 Slower, calm ♩=80 **molto rit.** Very slowly, peaceful, hushed ♩=52

The musical score consists of five vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked 'molto rit.' and the dynamics range from *mf* to *pp*. The lyrics are: 'Thy heav'n and all to thee shall be, this night, this night.'

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