

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Diwali, the biggest holiday in India, is called a “Festival of Lights” because people illuminate their homes both inside and out with clay lamps and candles. Light is everywhere from houses, to streets, to stores. Candles even float in rivers and lakes!

This exciting festival is becoming increasingly popular around the world. Diwali is celebrated in Singapore and several other South Asian countries as a national holiday, meaning that people other than Hindus, Sikhs, and Buddhists participate in the festivities. Some people observe Diwali as part of their religion, while others celebrate for secular reasons or a mix of both.

At the heart of Diwali is the recognition of our own inner light, and the triumph of good over evil. Diwali lasts for five days, and falls in October or November. Each day has specific tasks that begin by preparing the home—cleaning, decorating, and creating elaborate *rangoli* patterns on the floor using colorful sand or powder. Families gather by the third day and might pray if they are religious. This is always followed by a big delicious meal and fireworks. On the fourth day, families and friends visit one another, exchanging gifts and good wishes for the new year of the Hindu lunar calendar. The final day concludes with extended family gatherings and plenty more food. Diwali is not only a festival but also a delicious feast for all to enjoy!

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THE LIGHTS OF DIWALI

for 2-part voices and piano
with optional SoundTrax*

Words and Music by
LOIS BROWNSEY
and **MARTI LUNN LANTZ**

Bollywood (♩ = ca. 92)

PART I *mp*

PART II *mp*

PIANO *mp* *mf*

Bollywood (♩ = ca. 92)

mf

mf

Di -

Di -

4

mf

mf

Di -

Di -

mf

mf

Di -

Di -

* SoundTrax CD available (51114). Visit alfred.com for digital scores and audio.

6

wa - li, Di - wa - li. Oo, Di -

wa - li, Di - wa - li. Oo, Di -

wa - li, Di - wa - li.

wa - li, Di - wa - li.

8

wa - li, Di - wa - li. The _

wa - li, Di - wa - li.

wa - li, Di - wa - li.

wa - li, Di - wa - li.

10

lights are ev - 'ry - where. The _

Di - wa - li, Di - wa - li.

Di - wa - li, Di - wa - li.

Di - wa - li, Di - wa - li.

12

joy _____ is in the air.

Di - wa - li, Di - wa - li.

14

Can - dles ex - press the tri - umph of

Can - dles ex - press the tri umph of

16

good - ness.

good - ness.

18

First pre - pare then dec - o - rate.
Now it's New Year's, but there's ___ more.

20

Light the lamps as it grows late.
Shar - ing food and gifts ga - lore.

22

Make ran - go - li on ___ the ___ floor.
Then the fam - 'lies join ___ and ___ pray.

24

Bright - est col - ors at the door.
Watch the fire - works dis - play.

cresc.

26

1. *mf*
Di - wa - li, Di - wa - li.

mf
Di - wa - li, Di - wa - li.

28

2. *mf*
The _

2. *f* *mf*

30

lights _____ are ev - 'ry - where. The _

mf

Di - wa - li, Di - wa - li

32

joy _____ is in _____ the _____ air.

Di - wa - li, Di - wa - li.

34

Can - dles _____ ex - press the tri - umph _____ of

Can - dles _____ ex - press the tri - umph _____ of

36

good - ness.

good - ness.



38

Treats and col - ors that de - light.



40

Five days long, five fes - tive__ nights.



Can - dles burn to light — the — way.

Turn - ing dark - ness in - to day.

Turn - ing dark - ness in - to day.

cresc.

f 47 Di - wa - li, Di - wa - li.

f Di - wa - li, Di - wa - li.

f

48

Two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal staves have lyrics: "Oo, _____ Di - wa - li, Di - wa - li." The piano accompaniment features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

50

Two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal staves have lyrics: "Oo, _____ Di - wa - li! ____". The piano accompaniment features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a "3" above it. The piece ends with a double bar line and a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic marking. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the page.