

FOREWORD

*“On this shining night,
filled with awe and wonder...
God’s gift of love comes down to earth,
flooding the world with everlasting Light.”*

Once again, the earth settles into the month of December, the darkest time of year; and, once again, the glorious story of Jesus, who came down to shed His divine Light upon our world, is told in churches and homes. The beauty of music is always an important part of the retelling of this wonderful story.

With this in mind, we present the cantata, *On This Shining Night*, to brighten your holiday season. Replete with well-loved, familiar carols, as well as brand-new texts and music, this cantata is designed to provide a worship experience for your congregation that will prepare hearts to follow the Light of Jesus. Through vocal and instrumental music, narration and scripture, the ancient tale is retold of a world that lay in shadow, crying out for a Savior; the visit of angels who announced the news of that Savior’s coming; and the birth of Jesus, the “Light of the World.”

As we offer this new musical creation to you, we pray that it may fill your hearts and your lives with the radiance of Jesus’ love.

Lee Dengler

Susan Naus Dengler

PERFORMANCE NOTES

On This Shining Night is a 37-minute cantata featuring:

- Narration, including scripture passages that can be read by one or two readers
- Familiar carols and newly composed music
- Upbeat tunes as well as slow, reflective pieces
- 9 movements plus a short reprise and underscore
- Optional opportunity for congregational participation
- Optional male and female solos
- Accompaniment can be either piano or chamber orchestra (written for flute, oboe, clarinet, horn, timpani, percussion, handbells and strings).
- Option of two possible endings – a shorter, more dramatic ending; or a slightly longer, more reflective ending that mirrors the cantata’s opening

There are many possibilities to enhance the presentation of this cantata. The following are some suggestions:

“On This Shining Night” (opening piece)

- Optional soloist may process from the back of the sanctuary, while singing, carrying a candle.
- 2 handbell players may follow, ringing as they enter.
- When the choir begins singing at measure 42, they may also process into the worship space. The instrumental ending of this piece should allow plenty of time for the choir to get into place before “O Holy Night.”
- If possible, the choir may have this opening section memorized so that they, too, can enter with candles.
- If your congregation appreciates liturgical dance, this would be effective during the interlude at measure 25, and also at measure 58, if choir is not processing.

“The Long-Awaited”

- The soloist may also enter from the back of the sanctuary, carrying a candle, to add to the imagery of “light” that is coming into the world.

“The Journey”

- This would be another opportunity to utilize liturgical dance with either one dancer or two – a male and a female – to represent Mary and Joseph making the journey to Bethlehem.

“Carols of Joy and Adoration”

- If the longer, more quiet ending is used, the soloist may recess while carrying a candle, with 2 handbell players following.

Feel free to use any or all of these suggestions, or add your own ideas to further enhance this story to suit your own congregation’s needs and tastes.

May God bless you as you share the story of “this shining night.”

NARRATION:

The people who once walked in darkness have now seen a great Light.
And on those who once lived in the land of deep shadow, now a bright
Light shines.

On This Shining Night

Words by
SUSAN NAUS DENGLER

Music by
LEE DENGLER

1 With mystery ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 66$)

ACCOMP. *pp*

5 FEMALE SOLO (opt. women unison) *
p

On this shin-ing night, filled with awe and won - der.

9

On this shin-ing night, this ho - ly night,

* Option: Soloist should process slowly from the back of the sanctuary, holding a lit candle, followed by 1 or 2 handbell ringers playing the A and D in the accompaniment. The accompanist should start playing at meas. 25 when handbells are used.

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13

God's _____ gift of love comes down to earth,

17

flood - ing the world with ev - er - last - ing Light.

21

(end solo)

2 Warmly (♩ = ca. 84)

25

p

O Holy Night

11

Words by
PLACIDE CAPPEAU (1808-1877)

Translation by
JOHN SULLIVAN DWIGHT (1813-1893)

Music by
ADOLPHE CHARLES ADAM (1803-1856)

Arranged by
LEE DENGLER

4 Flowing gently (♩ = ca. 80-84)

ACCOMP.

3 SOPRANO / ALTO
p unis.

O ho - ly night, the stars are bright - ly

6

shin - ing It is the night of the

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rit.

dear Sav - ior's birth.

12

a tempo

TENOR / BASS
p unis.

Long lay the world in sin and er - ror

12

a tempo

pin - ing, till He ap - peared and the

The Long-Awaited

19

Words by
SUSAN NAUS DENGLER

Music by
LEE DENGLER
Incorporating tune
COMMUNION

9 Peacefully (♩ = ca. 78)

ACCOMP.

mf *mp*

4 BARITONE SOLO
(opt. small ensemble of men) *
rit. **5** *a tempo*
p

Bless - ed is He who comes in the name of the

rit. *p* *a tempo*

7

Lord. Bless - ed is He who

S. *p*
A. Bless - ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
T. *p*
B.

* Option: Soloist should process slowly from the back of the sanctuary, holding a lit candle.

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comes in the name of the Lord.

Bless - ed is He who comes in the name of the

This system contains the first two vocal lines and the piano accompaniment. The first vocal line (bass clef) has the lyrics "comes in the name of the Lord." The second vocal line (treble clef) has the lyrics "Bless - ed is He who comes in the name of the". The piano accompaniment is in the right and left hands, with the right hand playing chords and the left hand playing a bass line.

13 *mp*

Bless - ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Lord.

mp Bless - ed is He who

This system contains the second two vocal lines and the piano accompaniment. The first vocal line (bass clef) has the lyrics "Bless - ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." The second vocal line (treble clef) has the lyrics "Lord." and "Bless - ed is He who". The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line. A dynamic marking of *mp* is present.

13 *mp*

This system contains the piano accompaniment for the third system. It features chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. A dynamic marking of *mp* is present.

The Wondrous News

Words by
SUSAN NAUS DENGLER

Music by
LEE DENGLER

17 Freely (♩ = ca. 88)

ACCOMP.

p *rit.*

4 Gently flowing (♩ = ca. 63)

7 SOPRANO / ALTO *p*

To Naz - a - reth an an - gel came to

TENOR / BASS *p*

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10

vis - it gen - tle Ma - ry, to bring — to her the

This block contains the musical notation for measures 10, 11, and 12. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a bass line, and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The piano part includes a dynamic marking of *p*.

13

won - drous news that she — would bear — a Son, — that
Son, — that

This block contains the musical notation for measures 13, 14, and 15. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a bass line, and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has two sharps. The piano part includes a dynamic marking of *p*.

16

she — would bear a Son.

18

This block contains the musical notation for measures 16, 17, and 18. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a bass line, and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has two sharps. The piano part includes a dynamic marking of *p*. A measure number '18' is enclosed in a box above the vocal line in measure 17.

The Journey

Words by
SUSAN NAUS DENGLER

Tune: **WEXFORD CAROL**
Traditional Irish Melody
Arranged by
LEE DENGLER

25 Simply (♩ = ca. 60)

SOPRANO
ALTO

p unis.

Come, gath - er - round, all

ACCOMP.

p

4

who would hear this tale of Jo - seph and Ma - ry dear, who

7

26

by the - law were du - ty bound that they should trav - el to

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10 *mp* **11** *cresc. poco a poco*

Da - vid's town. The path was hard, the way was slow, yet

13 *unis. 3* *mf* *mp*

ev - er on - ward the two did go. But when to Beth - le -

16

hem they came, there was no lodg - ing that they could claim.

19 **27**

On This Shining Night

(Reprise)

Words by
SUSAN NAUS DENGLER

Music by
LEE DENGLER

30 Warmly ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 84$)

ACCOMP.

p

3 SOPRANO / ALTO

TENOR / BASS

On this shin-ing

a tempo
p

6

rit.

a tempo
p

6

7

night, touched by heav-en's glo - ry, all the world be-holds the

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12

14 *cresc. poco a poco*

won - drous sight. God has come to us, Light for all the

cresc. poco a poco

14

cresc. poco a poco

17

rit. *mf*

a - ges, on this shin - ing night, this ho - ly night.

mf

rit. *mf*

22

attacca

a tempo
p

rit.

The Light Has Come

51

Words by
SUSAN NAUS DENGLER

Tunes: NOEL
W ZLOBIE LEZY
ROCKING
Arranged by
LEE DENGLER

31 With warmth and expression ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 92$) ** p unis.*

SOPRANO
ALTO

TENOR
BASS

ACCOMP.

p

O - lit - tle town of -

4

Beth - le - hem, how still we see - thee lie. A -

* Tune: NOEL, traditional English melody
Words: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

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7

bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the__ si - lent__ stars go

10 *poco rit.* **Slower** 11 *a tempo*

by. Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the

Slower 11 *a tempo*

poco rit.

13 *mf* *mp*

ev - er last - ing Light. The__ hopes and fears of__

mf *mp*

High in the Heavens

Words by
SUSAN NAUS DENGLER

Music by
LEE DENGLER

35 With abundant joy (♩ = ca. 118)

ACCOMP. *f*

mf

mp

10 SOPRANO / ALTO *mp*

High_ in the heav-ens, the an - gels sing, _ "Glo-ry in the high-est to the

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13

new-born King.” — Peace — and good-will to the earth He brings..

16

mf “Glo - ry in the high - est, glo - ry in — the high - est,

19

mp glo - ry in the high - est to the *mf unis.* new - born King.”

Rise Up and Follow

Words by
SUSAN NAUS DENGLER

Tunes:
RISE UP, SHEPHERD
Traditional Spiritual
O LEAVE YOUR SHEEP
Traditional French Melody
Arranged by
LEE DENGLER

41 Freely (♩ = ca. 78) *mp unis. (opt. solo)*

SOPRANO
ALTO

There s a

ACCOMP.

mp

5

star in the east that lights the way. Rise up,

42

10 *rit.* **12** *a tempo steadily*

shep - herds, and fol - low!

TENOR / BASS

mp gently rhythmic

O leave your sheep.

12 *rit.* *a tempo steadily*

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14

mp (tutti)

O leave your sheep up -

O leave — your sheep. O leave — your sheep.

18

on this shin - ing night. Go see the Child, the

O leave — your sheep. O leave — your sheep.

22

24

ev - er - last - ing Light. He comes to earth with

O leave — your sheep. O leave — your sheep.

24

Carols of Joy and Adoration

81

Words by
SUSAN NAUS DENGLER

Tunes: O SANCTISSIMA
JÜNGST
ANTIOCH
ADESTE FIDELES
O HOLY NIGHT
Arranged by
LEE DENGLER

48 Joyfully (♩ = ca. 88)

ACCOMP. *mf*

6 SOPRANO / ALTO * *mf*
TENOR / BASS *mf unis.*

O how joy-ful-ly O how

9

bliss-ful-ly, from the man-ger, shin-ing bright,

12

* Tune: O SANCTISSIMA, *The European Magazine and London Review*, 1792

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17

love is beam - ing, from sin re - deem - ing. Christ has come to

17

love is beam - ing, from sin re - deem - ing. Christ has come to

23

49

bring us light.

bring us light.

29

mf *mf* unis. Christ is born on

Sing with wonder and delight.

29

Sing with wonder and delight.