

VOCAL ESSENCE  Music Press

# Carol of the Night

## David Evan Thomas

SATB, a cappella  
VocalEssence Welcome Christmas Series

VEMP-4007-PDF (PDF/INSTANT DOWNLOAD)  
VEMP-4007-PRT (PRINTED SCORE)

# Carol of the Night

## PROGRAM NOTE:

*Carol of the Night* treats an image common to all religious traditions: the kindling of light in the darkness. The Spirit unfolds the mystery, but it is for humanity to “blow on the embers of the heart.” In the music, searching harmonies set a melancholy tone, but a four-note, ascending “light”-motive soon spreads throughout the texture, as if from candle to candle.

*Carol of the Night* was composed during the holiday season in 2016. It was a winner of the Welcome Christmas Carol Contest the following year, and was premiered by the Ensemble Singers of VocalEssence conducted by Philip Brunelle in 2017.

—David Evan Thomas

## TEXT:

In this holy darkness,  
this quiet hour,  
the beating heart is heard,  
a gentle drumbeat of longing.

This night,  
something so primal shakes the earth—  
the Spirit comes to us  
and rests among us.

Unfold for us, O Spirit,  
the mystery and power of Love,  
cradled in human form,  
not as king but peasant child.

Blow on the embers of the heart,  
that Love may be born in us anew  
this night,  
and we might see the beauty of holiness  
in humble places,  
and bow down  
with grateful heart.

Now, the night beckons,  
for here we find the Light,  
a beacon on this uncertain road.  
Here is the Light.

—Jean Greenwood

**David Evan Thomas** has been honored with two McKnight Foundation Artist Fellowships, an Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and commissions from the Minnesota Orchestra and Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. Born in Rochester, New York in 1958, Thomas studied at Northwestern University, Eastman School of Music, and with Dominick Argento at the University of Minnesota. His music is published by ECS, MorningStar, Augsburg Fortress and several other publishers. Thomas was the first composer-in-residence for The Schubert Club from 1997-2005 and in 2016 he received the “An die Musik Award” from that organization for outstanding service. In 2018 Thomas was initiated into Sigma Alpha Iota Fraternity as a National Arts Associate. Thomas lives in Minneapolis. More: [www.davidevanthomas.com](http://www.davidevanthomas.com).

Minneapolis poet **Jean Greenwood** is a Presbyterian minister and a recipient of a Bush Leadership Grant. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Minnesota with a BS in English Education, and received a Master of Divinity from United Theological Seminary.

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TOGETHER WE SING

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In memory of Jay Andrew Johnson

# Carol of the Night

Jean Greenwood

David Evan Thomas  
(2016)

**Adagio** (♩=48)

*p*

Soprano

In this ho - ly dark - ness, this qui - et hour, the

*pp*

Alto

\*Mm Mm Mm

*pp*

Tenor

\*Mm Mm Mm Mm

*pp*

Bass

\*Mm Mm

**Adagio** (♩=48)

*pp*

Piano  
(for rehearsal only)

*p*

5

S

beat - ing heart is heard, a gen - tle drum - beat of long - ing.

A

Mm Mm

T

Mm Mm

B

*div.* *unis.*

Mm

\*Or "Nn"

8

S This night, some - thing so pri - mal shakes the earth-

A This night, some - thing shakes the

T This night, some - thing shakes the

B This night, the

10

S the Spir - it comes to us and rests a - mong us. *pp* Un - fold

A earth- the Spir - it comes to us. *pp* Un - fold

T earth, the earth- *mp* Un - fold for us, O Spir - it, the

B Spir - it comes to us.

# Carol of the Night

13

S *mp* the power of Love, not king but peas-ant

A *p* the power of Love, O

T *p* mys-ter-y and power of Love, cra-dled in hu-man form, O

B *p* O

Piano accompaniment with triplets in the right hand.

**Somewhat faster** (♩=66)

16

S *mp* child. Blow, blow, blow, this

A *mf* Blow on the em-bers of the heart, that Love may be born in us a - new this night,

T *mf* Blow, blow this

B *div.* Blow, blow this

**Somewhat faster** (♩=66)

Piano accompaniment with triplets in the right hand.

19

S night, this night, the beau - ty of ho - li - ness in *mp*

A and we might see the beau - ty of ho - li - ness in hum - ble *p*

T night, the beau - ty of ho - li - ness in hum - ble *mf* *p*

B *unis.* night, in hum - ble *p*

*mp*

23

S hum - ble plac - es. *ritard.* *ppp* *Very slowly* *pochiss.* Here is the Light.

A plac - es. *pp* *ritard.* *ppp* *div.* *pochiss.* Here is the Light.

T plac - es. *ritard.* *ppp* *pochiss.* Here is the Light.

B plac - es. *ritard.* *ppp* *pochiss.* Here is the Light.

*pp* *ritard.* *ppp* *Very slowly*

**Tempo I**

*p* *accel. e cresc.*

S Now the night beck - ons, for here we find the Light, a bea - con on this un -

*unis. pp* *accel. e cresc.*

A Night beck - ons, on this un -

*pp* *accel. e cresc.*

T Night beck - ons, on this un -

*pp* *accel. e cresc.*

B Night beck - ons, on this un -

**Tempo I**

*p* *accel. e cresc.*

**Risoluto**

*mp*

S - cer - tain road. Here is the Light,

*mp*

A cer - tain road. Here is the Light, here is the

*div.* *unis. mp*

T cer - tain road. Here is the Light, here is the Light,

*mp*

B cer - tain road. Here is the Light, here is the Light,

**Risoluto**

*mp*

35

S here is the Light, here is the Light, the Light, the

A Light, here is the Light, here is the Light, here is the Light,

T here is the Light, here is the Light, here is the Light,

B here is the Light, the Light, the Light, the

*cresc.* *più f*

39

S Light, the Light, the Light.

A *più f* here is the Light, here is the Light, the Light.

T *più f* here is the Light, here is the Light, the Light.

B Light, the Light, the Light.

*f* *p*

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