

A photograph of two people sitting in a forest at night, illuminated by a campfire. The scene is dark, with the fire providing the primary light source, casting a warm glow on the surrounding trees and the people. The trees are tall and thin, with dense foliage. The overall mood is serene and cozy.

A Yuletide Carol

for SATB chorus and tambourine

Music by

Dominick DiOrio

Text by

Kyle Conner

Yule Carol
An Ancient Celebration of Dance and Divination
In 6/8

(Opens with convocation of ululations, greetings, and ghostly calls)

Good tidings!

Light the candles!

Raise the spirits!

OOOoooooOOOoo!!

Shed a light!

Spirit bright!

Don't wander far!

Peace be upon you!

And your ken!

Stay close to the fire!

Let us celebrate!

Precious light!

(ululations taper off to silence...)

(accompanied by chords of great mystery)

YULE!

Y-U-L-E !!!

Y-U-L-E !!!

(Verses beginning quiet & intense, slowly building in volume and intensity, and ultimately, joy. Verses are spoken-sung in chant-like fashion.)

We-sing-Yule-to-night

Watch-the-log-burn-bright

Spi-rits-walk-up-right

Sha-ding-death-with-life

Yule is the joy of the All-As-One

Stoking the revelry just begun

Offering songs to the setting sun

Calling the past into momentum

Y-U-L-E !!

(every iteration of "YULE" should have slight upward release akin to women's Bulgarian folk singing)

See-er-tell-us-true
Fu-tures-that-you-view
What-rid-dles-can-you
Spell-for-our-com-mune?

Seer (solo or chorus, in guttural voice, as if possessed):

Now ancestor's spirits walk hand in hand
Sowing the air of the dormant land
Inhaling night and exhaling day
What is the magical seed?

We say:

Y-U-L-E !

Mys-t'ries-we-behold
Now-til-time-un-told
Cir-cle-round-the-fire
Lift-our-vi-sion-high'r

A sacred vigil this longest night
Clarifies vision of second sight
Holding realities side by side
This is the wonder we call Yuletide!

Y-U-L-E!

Join-us-in-this-dance
Find-our-in-ner-trance
Make-we-in-this-place
Joy-un-to-our-grace

Unblinking eye of Eternal Time
Fixes the mystery in its rime
In frozen moment revealèd all
Ten thousand mysteries in our thrall

Y-U-L-E !

Nature slumbers deep
Seasons in its sleep
We dream greenest fields
For our crops to yield

Spirits-move-about
Nat'ral-law-they-flout!
We-wield-ancient-wyrd
Come, Sun, quell our fear!

Fire the image of light divine
Sparkling together in dance and wine
Joy is our answer to darkest hour
Dancing the circle we call our power:

YULE-BEING!-Thee-we-praise
For-green-shoots-to-raise!
Ma-gic-let's-us-see
Pos-si-bi-li-ty!

Spirits now to rest
At Time's grave request
Sunlight scatters all
Spectral caterwauls

YULE! Y-U-L-E !!

We-take-plea-sure-now
Toast-ing-gods-and-plough
Sing-ing-praise-to-thou
Na-ture's-green-est-bough

Yule-brings-spe-cial-sight
To-this-long-est-night
May-you-live-in-peace
Joy-and-love-in-crease!

(Calls of "Yule!" race like flickering flames among the chorus fading to whispers no less intense. Chorus raises arms in final salutation to the rising sun as the celebration ends.)

Commissioned by and dedicated to the Mendelssohn Chorus of Philadelphia

A Yuletide Carol

On an original poem by
Kyle Conner

Music by
Dominick DiOrio

An Ancient Celebration of Dance and Divination

Slow and mysterious ♩ = 60

Tambourine

On the pitches below, sing repeatedly any of the phrases in the box.

p

Choir

pp *mf* niente

Good tidings! Light the candles! Raise the spirits... Shed a light... YULE...
 Don't wander far... Stay close to the fire... Peace be upon you and your ken! Yule...
 OooooooooOooooo.... Spirit bright Let us celebrate.... Precious light... Yule...

pp *mf* niente

9 **Fast, with vigor** ♩ = 168

Tamb.

f

SATB Choir

p

We sing Yule to-night Watch the log burn bright Spi - rits walk up right Shad - ing death with life

17

Tamb.

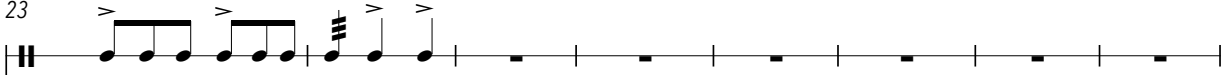
p

SATB Choir

mp

Yule is the joy of the All - As - One Stok - ing the re - vel - ry just be - gun Of - fer - ing songs to the set - ting sun

23

Tamb. 

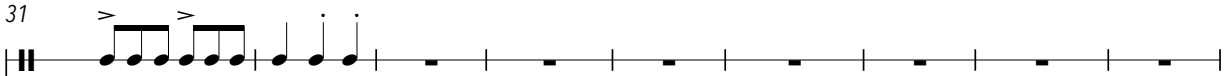

S *f*  Call-ing the past in-to mo-men-tum: YULE! _____ YULE! _____ YULE! YULE!_

A *f*  Call-ing the past in-to mo-men-tum: YULE, YULE_____ YULE, YULE_____ YULE, YULE YULE!_


T *f*  Call-ing the past in-to mo-men-tum: YULE, YULE_____ YULE, YULE_____

B *f*  Call-ing the past in-to mo-men-tum: YULE! _____ YULE! _____


31

Tamb.  *mf*  *p*

S *p*  YULE! _____ [mm]

A *p*  YULE! _____ [mm]

T *p*  See - er tell us true Fu - tures that you view What rid - dles can you Spell for

B *p*  See - er tell us true Fu - tures that you view What rid - dles can you Spell for

40

Tamb.

S *mp*
Now an-ces-tor's spi-rits walk hand in hand Sow-ing the air of the dormant land In-hal-ing night and ex-

A *mp*
Now an-ces-tor's spi-rits walk hand in hand Sow-ing the air of the dormant land In-hal-ing night and ex-

T *mp*
our com-mune? See - - er tell us true...

B *mp*
our com-mune? See - - er tell us true...

46

Tamb.

S *mf* *f*
hal-ing day What is the mag-i-cal seed? We say:

A *mf* *f*
hal-ing day What is the mag-i-cal seed? We say:

T *mf*
What is the mag-i-cal seed? We say:

B *mf*
What is the mag-i-cal seed? We say:

53

Tamb.

S
YULE! _____ YULE! _____ YULE! YULE! _____ YULE! _____

A
YULE, YULE _____ YULE, YULE _____ YULE, YULE YULE! YULE! _____

T
f YULE, YULE _____ YULE, YULE _____ Oh, _____ *mf* Mys - t'ries we be - hold

B
f YULE! _____ YULE! _____ Oh, _____ *mf* Mys - t'ries we be - hold

61

Tamb.

S
_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ *p* A sa - cred vi - gil this long - est night

A
_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ *p* A sa - cred vi - gil this long - est night

T
Now til time un - told Cir - cle round the fire Lift our vi - sion high'r *mp*

B
Now til time un - told Cir - cle round the fire Lift our vi - sion high'r *mp*

69

Tamb.

S
Clar - i - fies vi - sion of se - cond sight Hold - ing re - al - i - ties side - by - side This is the won - der we call _____ Yule -

A
Clar - i - fies vi - sion of se - cond sight Hold - ing re - al - i - ties side - by - side This is the won - der we call _____ Yule -

T
We call Yule

B
We call Yule

76

Tamb.

S
mf *p* *mp* *p*
tide! _____ We call Yule - tide! _____

A
mf *f*
tide! _____ We call Yule - tide! _____

T
mf *f* *mp*
tide! _____ We call Yule - tide! _____ Join us

B
mf *f* *mp*
tide! _____ We call Yule - tide! _____ Join us _____ in

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