

When the Song of the Angels is Stilled



Howard Thurman

SATB and flute

Elizabeth Alexander

Seafarer Press

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman

From *The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations* by Howard Thurman.
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This musical setting's replacement of the word "sky" with the word "heavens"
was done with express written permission of Friends United Press.

Howard Thurman (1900-1981) spent most of his life engaged in the work of Christmas. In his early professional life, he was professor of religion and director of religious life at Morehouse and Spelman Colleges, and later was dean of Howard University. In 1944 he moved to San Francisco to co-found the first integrated, multi-cultural church in the United States, The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples. In 1936 Thurman led the first black delegation to Southern Asia, where he was profoundly affected by his meeting with Mohandas Gandhi. His 1949 book, *Jesus and the Disinherited*, inspired nonviolent civil rights movements in the United States and throughout the world.

The cover art was created for this publication by Jonathan Machen. Jonathan lives in Boulder, Colorado with his wife and two young children. There he manages the Solstice Center LLC, a healing arts facility. He takes his inspiration from the people around him and the beauty of the Rocky Mountains and American Southwest. Other loves include playing with his kids, playing guitar, backpacking, skiing, bicycling and kayaking.

More of Jonathan's art can be seen at www.haikutimes.com



When the Song of the Angels is Stilled

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SATB and flute *

Elizabeth Alexander

With vitality and joy

Fl
p *mp*

S
pp warmly
De - o Glo - ri - a,

A
pp warmly
De - o Glo - ri - a,

T
pp warmly
De - o Glo - ri - a,

B
pp warmly
De - o Glo - ri - a,

for rehearsal only

6
Fl
S
A
T
B

Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis,

Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis,

Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis,

Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis,

* Flute part (SEA-062-06) may be downloaded at www.seafarerpress.com/works/when-the-song-of-the-angels-is-stilled

10 *poco rit.* *a tempo*

Flute (Fl): *p* *pp*

Soprano (S): *expectantly*

Alto (A): *expectantly*

Tenor (T): *expectantly*

Bass (B): *expectantly*

Glo - - - ri - a De - o. When the

16 *pp (mf 2nd time)*

Soprano (S): *pp (mf 2nd time)*

Alto (A): *pp (mf 2nd time)*

Tenor (T): *pp (mf 2nd time)*

Bass (B): *pp (mf 2nd time)*

song of the an - gels is stilled, when the song of the an - gels is
 kings and the prin - ces are home, when the kings and the prin - ces are

19

mp (f 2nd time) *p (mf 2nd time)*

S
 stilled, when the song of the an - gels is stilled, the work of Christ - mas be -
 home, when the kings and the prin - ces are home, the work of Christ - mas be -

A
 stilled, when the song of the an - gels is stilled, the work of Christ - mas be -
 home, when the kings and the prin - ces are home, the work of Christ - mas be -

T
 stilled, when the song of the an - gels is stilled, the work of Christ - mas be -
 home, when the kings and the prin - ces are home, the work of Christ - mas be -

B
 stilled, when the song of the an - gels is stilled, the work of Christ - mas be -
 home, when the kings and the prin - ces are home, the work of Christ - mas be -

23

f

Fl
2nd time only:

S
 gins, When the star in the hea - vens* is gone, when the star in the hea - vens is
 gins, When the shep - herds are back with their flocks, when the shep - herds are back with their

A
 gins, When the star in the hea - vens* is gone, when the star in the hea - vens is
 gins, When the shep - herds are back with their flocks, when the shep - herds are back with their

T
 gins, When the star in the hea - vens* is gone, when the star in the hea - vens is
 gins, When the shep - herds are back with their flocks, when the shep - herds are back with their

B
 gins, Oh when the star in the hea - vens* is gone, when the star in the hea - vens is
 gins, Oh when the shep - herds are back with their flocks, when the shep - herds are back with their

* Original poem by Howard Thurman reads: "When the star in the sky is gone." Word substitution made by permission of Friends United Press.

27

Fl

S

A

T

B

gone, when the star in the hea - vens is gone, Oh, the
flocks, when the shep - herds are back with their flocks, Oh, the

gone, when the star in the hea - vens is gone, Oh, the
flocks, when the shep - herds are back with their flocks, Oh, the

gone, when the star in the hea - vens is gone, Oh, the
flocks, when the shep - herds are back with their flocks, Oh, the

gone, when the star in the hea - vens is gone, Oh, the
flocks, when the shep - herds are back with their flocks, Oh, the

mp (f 2nd time) *sfz*

mp (f 2nd time) *sfz*

mp (f 2nd time) *sfz*

mp (f 2nd time) *sfz*

30

Fl

S

A

T

B

work of Christ - mas, the work of Christ - mas, the

work of Christ - mas, the work of Christ - mas, the

work of Christ - mas, the work of Christ - mas, work of

work, the work of Christ - mas, the work of

mp (both times)

mp (both times)

mp (both times)

mp (both times)

Opal Palmer Adisa, poet • Paul Adams, technological hero • Stephen Alexander, lyric consultant • Ginny Allen, Agile coach and friend • The great people at American Composers Forum • Yehuda Amichai, poet • A. R. Ammons, poet • Jennifer Anderson, conductor and composer advocate • Scott Bates, poet • Abbie Betinis, initiator of collaborative endeavors • Beth Norton, conductor and composer advocate • Dennis Blubaugh, more than just a music dealer • Michael deVernon Boblett, poet • Edna Busby, my first piano teacher • Ray Bradbury, writer • Augustin Cadena, translator • Norbert Capek, minister and advocate for religious freedom • Jessica Corbett, editor • David Cummings, poet • Philip Dacey, poet • Catherine Dalton, composer and scrum partner • Emily Dickinson, poet • Evelyn Dudley, poet and caregiver • Rob Eller-Isaacs, minister and composer advocate • Ralph Waldo Emerson, philosopher and poet • Louise Erdrich, writer • David Allan Evans, poet • Sophia Lyon Fahs, writer • Richard M. Fewkes, minister and writer • Sasha Gertler, poet • Jack Gallagher, composer and teacher • Paul Gerike, proofreader • Jocelyn Hagen and Michael Hagan, founders of Graphite Marketplace • Steve Harper, just about everything • Steve Harkins, web designer • Edie Hill, composer and friend • Langston Hughes, poet • Margaret and George Heald, piano technician • Karel Husa, composer and teacher • David Ignatow, poet • Kabir, mystic • Linda Kachelmeier, composer and scrum partner • Ruth Palmer, conductor and composer advocate • Joan Wolf Prefontaine, poet • Paul Rardin, conductor and composer advocate • Kalidasa, poet • Steve Kaul, recording engineer • Søren Kierkegaard, philosopher and poet • Dorothy Knost, piano teacher • Ben Krywosz, artistic director of Nautilus Music-Theater • Denise Levertov, poet • George Ella Lyon, poet • Jonathan Machen, vocalist • Dawna Markova, writer • Anne Matlack, conductor and composer advocate • Nancy Menk, composer advocate • Edna St. Vincent Millay, poet • Jane Ramseyer Miller, conductor, composer, social activist • Joe Mish, conductor and composer advocate • J. David Moore, composer • Gerald Rich, poet • Carl Sandburg, poet • friend • King Sigismund III, religious reformer • Ann Silsbee, composer, poet and friend • Simon Alexander-Adams, sounding board, fellow creative, and awesome son • Steven Stucky, composer and teacher • Rabindranath Tagore, poet • Sister Peronne Marie Thibert, teacher and writer • Oliver Alexander-Adams, unconventional thinker and light of my life • Howard Thurman, civil rights leader and writer • Everyone whose work supports the Association for Unitarian Universalist Music Ministries • Charles Varney, high school choral director • Anna Vonhuben, illustrator and graphic designer • Nancy White, poet • John Greenleaf Whittier, poet • Theodore Chickering Williams, poet • Daniel Winter, pianist and teacher • Nancy Wood, poet • Yehudi Wyner, composer and teacher

**A lot of hard work
and creativity went
into bringing this
music to you...**



**...and some of it
was even mine.**

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purchased through any music store or dealer.**

Elizabeth Alexander

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42

Flute (Fl): *mf* *Both times:*

Soprano (S): *mf* *mp dolce*
 re - build the na - tions, to bring peace a - mong bro - thers, To make

Alto (A): *mf* *mp dolce*
 re - build the na - tions, to bring peace a - mong bro - thers, To make

Tenor (T): *mf* *mp dolce*
 re - build the na - tions, to bring peace a - mong bro - thers, To make

Bass (B): *mf* *mp dolce*
 re - build the na - tions, to bring peace a - mong bro - - thers, To make

47

Flute (Fl): *mf*

Soprano (S): *mf*
 mu - sic in the heart, to make mu - sic in the heart, to make

Alto (A): *mf*
 mu - sic in the heart, to make mu - sic in the heart, to make

Tenor (T): *mf*
 mu - sic in the heart, to make mu - sic in the heart, to make

Bass (B): *mf*
 mu - - - sic, to make mu - - - sic, to make

1.

51

Fl

S

A

T

B

f

mu - - - - - sic, when the

f

mu - - - - - sic, when the

f

mu - - - - - sic, when the

f

mu - - - - - sic, when the

55

Fl

S

A

T

B

mf

p

star is gone, when the song is stilled, the work of

mf

star in the hea - vens is gone, when the song of the an - gels is stilled, the work of

mf

star in the hea - vens is gone, when the song of the an - gels is stilled, the work of

mf

star is gone, when the song is stilled, the work of

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67

Fl
S
A
T
B

shep - herds are back, when the kings are home, when the
shep - herds are back with their flocks, when the kings and the prin - ces are home, when the
shep - herds are back with their flocks, when the kings and the prin - ces are home, when the
shep - herds are back, when the kings are home, when the

71

poco rit. *meno mosso*

Fl
S
A
T
B

star is gone, when the song is stilled, the
star in the hea - vens is gone, when the song is stilled, the
star in the hea - vens is gone, when the song of the an - gels is stilled, the
star is gone, when the song of the an - gels is stilled, the

mp *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

