

# Star of Rohini

from *Feasts of Christmas*



**Muttai**  
shruthi  
rajasekar  
music

**Shruthi Rajasekar**  
*SATB div. a cappella*

**Program Note**

*Star of Rohini* is from a collection of pieces (*Feasts of Christmas*) that draws parallels between Christian and Hindu mythologies and divine beings Jesus and Krishna. In *Star of Rohini*, written for the Christian Feast of Epiphany and embracing its sense of wonder, awe, and mystery, the star of Bethlehem is reimagined as Rohini, Krishna's *nakshatra* (birth star) and guiding influence. Matthew 2:2 from the Bible says, "Vidimus enim stellam ejus in oriente" — "For we have seen His star in the East." Who is to say that this wasn't Krishna's star of Rohini?

**Text**

- Shruthi Rajasekar, 2021

They saw the star of  
Rohini ascending  
Vidimus stellam in oriens  
et venimus adorare

We were stargazing  
Gazing at stars  
Ecce stella quam  
viderant in oriente

gavisi sunt  
gaudio magno valde

They rejoiced for the star was there  
With tears of joy, they cried,  
"Behold the star!"

The answers -  
They lie in oriente

- Adapted from Matthew 2:2, 2:9-10, and  
the Bhagavata Purana, Canto 10 with  
additions from the composer

For the Yale Voxtet and Princeton Vocal Consort, directed by Gabriel Crouch. 2021

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# Star of Rohini - Epiphany

Shruthi Rajasekar

with Wonder ♩ = 92  
*p*

**A**

Soprano  
Star of Ro - hi - ni — as - cend in Ro - hi -

Alto  
Star of Ro - hi - ni — saw the star star of Ro - hi

Tenor  
Star Ro They star of Ro - hi

Bass  
Star of Ro star saw — star — star —

Piano  
(rehearsal only)

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5

S. - ni Vi - di - mus the star\_\_\_\_\_

A. the star\_\_\_\_\_ Vi - di - mus the star as - cend

T. o star the star as - cend - - ing

B. stell - am in o - ri - ens star as - cend - - ing

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10 **B**

S. *cresc. poco a poco* in o - ri - ens in o - ri - ens *mf* stel - lam stel - lam we were

A. *cresc. poco a poco* mm Vi - di - mus the star of Ro - hi - ni *mf* we were

T. *cresc. poco a poco* mm oo ee *mf*

B. \_\_\_\_\_

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13

S. star - gaz - ing were star\_\_\_\_\_ the star Ro - hi - ni in o - ri -

A. ng star - gaz - ing the star the star\_\_\_\_\_ *mp*

T. star - gaz - ing were star - gaz - ing were gaz - ing at stars *mp*

B. gaz - ing in *mp*

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19 *mp* *p*

S. -en - te ve - ni - mus et a - do -

A. a - do - - ra - re *p* ve - ni - mus et a - do -

T. ra - re\_\_\_\_\_ mus\_\_\_\_\_ *pp*

B. a - - - do - - ra - re\_\_\_\_\_ mus\_\_\_\_\_ *pp*

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24

S. *p*  
- ra - re \_\_\_\_\_ Ec - ce stel - la quam vi - de - rant ga - vi - si

A. *p*  
- ra Ec - ce stell Ec - ce stel - la quam vi - de - rant vi - si

1  
T. *p*  
ra - re a stel - la quam vi - si

2  
ra - re \_\_\_\_\_ stel - la quam vi - si

B. *p*  
ra - re a - do - ra - re \_\_\_\_\_ ec - ce \_\_\_\_\_

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27

S. *p*  
sunt \_\_\_\_\_ They re - joiced for the star was there Ro - hi - ni mag - no val -

A. *p*  
sunt \_\_\_\_\_ They re - joiced they re - joiced gau - di - o \_\_\_\_\_

(unis.)  
T. *p*  
sunt \_\_\_\_\_ They re - joiced star was Ro - hi - ni \_\_\_\_\_ gau -

B. *p*  
sunt \_\_\_\_\_ They re - joiced there Ro - hi - ni

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31

S. *p* - de with tears of joy they cried, "Ec - ce, Ec - ce, Ec - ce Be -

A. *p* tears of joy they cried, "Ec - ce, Ec - ce Ec - ce Be -

T. *p* - di - o with tears of joy Ec - ce, Ec - ce, Ec - ce Be -

B. *p* with tears of joy cried, "Ec - ce, Ec - ce, Ec - - -

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36

S. *mp* **D** - hold, Be - hold the star!" *cresc. poco a poco* Vi - de - rant the star in o - ri - ens vi - de -

A. *mp* - hold, Be - hold the star!" *cresc. poco a poco* Vi - de rant the star in o - ri - ens vi -

T. *mp* - hold, the star!" *cresc. poco a poco* Vi - - - de star

B. *mp* - ce" *cresc. poco a poco* o - - - ri - - ens vi - de -

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40

S. - rant the star in o - ri - ens vi - de - rant the star in o - ri -

A. - de o - ri - ens vi - de Ro - hi - ni

T. star o - ri - en - te the star in o

B. - rant vi - de - - - - rant

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43

S. - ens We were star gaz - ing Stel - lam o - ri - ens o - ri -

A. We were star gaz - ing Stel - lam star

T. Stell - am We were star - gaz - ing Stel - lam star in

B. in Stars Stel - lam in star

*f* *mp* *p*

*f* *mp* *p*

*f* *mp* *p*

*f* *mp* *p*

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47

S. - ens Ro - hi - ni

A. star star of Ro - hi - ni

T. star in the star Ro - hi - ni

B. star star nn

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50

*dim.* *rit*..... *pp* = 76

S. the an - swers they lie in o - ri - en - te

A. the an - swers they lie in o - ri - en - te

T. the an - swers an - swers o - ri - en - te

B. o - ri - en - - - te

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"[Shruthi] Rajasekar has allowed boldness to be her guiding light in the journey through her dense and evocative creativity... Rajasekar will continue to sail forward, into a cartography of her own delineation."

– The Seattle Times

Composer and vocalist Shruthi Rajasekar (she/her) is a McKnight Fellow, Jerome Hill Artist Fellow, Associate of the Royal Northern College of Music (ARNCM), winner of the Global Women in Music Award from the United Nations, and a Marshall Scholarship recipient. Her creative work highlights identity, community, and joy. Shruthi's music reflects her deep roots in the Carnatic (South Indian classical) and Western classical idioms, her diasporic South Asian background, and her belief in the importance of communal gathering and civic engagement. Globally, her compositions have been featured at the Royal Albert Hall (London, UK), the Cannes Film Festival (France), the National Centre for Performing Arts (Mumbai, India), Victoria Concert Hall (Singapore), and the United Nations' COP 26 (Glasgow, UK).

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