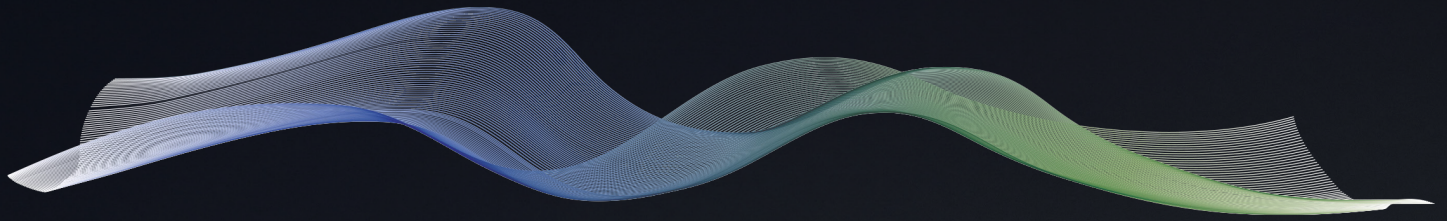


The North Star Carol  
SATB (div.), harp

Timothy C. Takach

pdf download - \$2.15  
printed - \$3.85



# Timothy C. Takach

## The North Star Carol

for SATB (div.) choir and harp

Commissioned for True Concord's 2025 Lessons & Carols by Candlelight Concerts

■ Timothy C. Takach

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## Text:

Starlight on my mother's face  
Gold and incense on the floor  
The universe in this humble space  
Men and angels kneel and adore

I came not to receive your gifts  
Or worship, though your hearts be true;  
I came to teach, to heal, to lift,  
To make this broken world anew.

My gifts to you are love and peace  
My wish: the hope  
That your seeking soul might find release;  
That my father's kingdom might increase,  
That poverty and strife will cease  
And all the world could know joy.

- *Charles Anthony Silvestri*

## The Poet



Catherine Norwood

Described as “the preeminent choral lyricist of our time,” poet, author, composer, and speaker **Charles Anthony Silvestri** has worked with other artists from all over the world to create texts tailor-made for their commissions and specific artistic needs. He enjoys the challenge of solving these creative problems and has provided custom choral texts, opera libretti, program

notes and other writing for composers including Eric Whitacre, Ola Gjeilo, Kim Arnesen, Christopher Tin, and Dan Forrest; and for ensembles ranging from high schools to the Houston Grand Opera, from the King's Singers to the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, from Westminster Choir College to Westminster Abbey.

Having retired from the classroom after 38 years, now as a clinician Silvestri speaks to choirs, classes, and concert audiences about his works, the creative process, the marriage of words and music, and about his collaborative relationships with composers. He is the author of three books, several published essays, and scores of choral octavos. He currently lives, writes, and makes music in Lawrence, KS.

## From the Composer:

In our lives, we often encounter lessons that ring true yet fail to take root. They make sense, they feel right, and still—because they require effort and persistence—we forget, we falter, and we lose our way.

Christmas is a season of gifts: the gifts we share with one another, and the gift of Jesus, born into the world. But do we also remember the gifts of his teachings? That he calls us not to grand displays of devotion, but to something quieter and more difficult—treating others with respect, practicing kindness, and choosing altruism over selfishness.

Charles Anthony Silvestri's commissioned poem offers us this gentle reminder. It asks us to look inward, to notice where we have strayed, and to set our course again toward empathy and compassion. In its quiet way, it is both a reflection and a call to action.

The title “The North Star Carol” references Jesus' gifts of teaching and guidance as a compass. In the tradition of the Wexford and Sussex carols, it also nods to Minnesota, the “North Star State,” where this carol was composed.

- *Timothy C. Takach, 2025*

# The North Star Carol

Charles Anthony Silvestri

for SATB (div.) and harp

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♩ = 88

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Harp *mf*

7

*pp* Star - light on my moth - er's face Gold and in - cense

Star *p* - light. On,

*pp* Star - light on my moth - er's face Gold and in - cense

Star light... On,



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12

on the floor, floor, floor. On the floor, floor, floor. The un - i - verse  
*p* *p* *mp*

on the floor, floor, floor. On the floor, floor, floor. An - - gels  
*p* *mp*

on the floor, floor, floor. On the floor, floor, floor. The un - i - verse  
*p* *p*

on the floor, floor, floor, on the floor, floor. An - - gels  
*mp*



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18

in this hum - ble space Men and an - gels kneel and a - dore, a - dore, a - dore and a -  
*mp*

kneel and, and a - dore, a - dore, a - dore, and a -

in this hum - ble space Men and an - gels kneel and a - dore, Oh... Oh... and a -  
*mp*

kneel and, and a - dore Oh... Oh... and a

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23

Musical score for measures 23-26. The score is in 3/4 time and features four vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: -dore, a - dore, a - dore. Ah... The dynamics range from *p* (piano) to *mf* (mezzo-forte). A watermark "For perusal purposes only: Do not use, copy, or distribute." is overlaid on the score.



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27

Musical score for measures 27-30. The score continues with four vocal parts and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: Ah... The dynamics range from *f* (forte). A watermark "For perusal purposes only: Do not use, copy, or distribute." is overlaid on the score.

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30

*mf* Ah... I came\_ not

*mf* Ah... I came\_ not

*mf* Ah... I came\_ not

*mf* Ah... I came\_ not

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34

*f* *mf*

to re - ceive your gifts Or wor - ship, though your hearts be true; true,

to re - ceive your gifts Or wor - ship, though your hearts be true; true,

to re - ceive your gifts Or wor - ship, though your hearts be true; true,

to re - ceive your gifts Or wor - ship, though your hearts be true; true,





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54

you are love and peace; My wish: the hope

you are love and peace; My wish: the hope

gifts to you are love and peace; My wish: the hope

gifts to you are love and peace; My wish: the hope

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59

That your seeking soul might find release;

That your seeking soul might find release;

That your seeking soul might find release;

That your seeking soul might find release;

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64

$\text{♩} = 76$

*p*

$\text{♩} = 88$

That my\_ fa - ther's king - dom could in - crease,  
*p*

That my\_ fa - ther's king - dom could in - crease,  
*p*

That my\_ fa - ther's king - dom could in - crease,  
*p*

*mp*



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69

*pp*

*mp*

That pov - er - ty and strife will cease And all\_ the world could know  
*pp* *mp*

That pov - er - ty and strife will cease And all\_ the world could know  
*pp* *mp*

That pov - er - ty and strife will cease And all\_ the world could know  
*pp* *mp*

That pov - er - ty and strife will cease And all\_ the world could know  
*pp* *mp*

*p* *mp*

74

joy, joy, joy. Joy.

joy, joy, joy. Joy.

joy, joy, joy. Joy.

joy, joy, joy. Joy.

*mf mp mf mp mf*



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78

Joy.

Joy.

Joy.

Joy.

*mp p mp f*



Inspired by captivating narrative, speculative fiction and making humans better through art, the music of Timothy C. Takach is a mainstay in the concert world. Applauded for his melodic lines, thoughtful text choices and rich, intriguing harmonies, Takach has received commissions and performances from GRAMMY Award-winning ensembles Roomful of Teeth and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the St. Olaf Band, Lorelei Ensemble, True Concord Voices and Orchestra, and numerous other organizations. His compositions have been performed on A Prairie Home Companion, The Boston Pops holiday tour and at venues such as the Library of Congress, Kennedy Center and Royal Opera House Muscat. Takach is a co-creator of the theatrical production of *All is Calm: the Christmas Truce of 1914*, by Peter Rothstein, and won the 2024 Domenic J. Pellicciotti Opera Composition Prize for *Computing Venus* with librettist Caitlin Vincent.

Takach's a cappella choral symphony *Helios* is "larger than life, as if the piece were accompanied by an orchestra" and is "complemented with brilliant visuals created by CandyStations" (Tucson.com). In 2023 the James Sewell Ballet premiered his ballet *Unfashioned Creature* in St. Paul, MN. Takach was a co-founder, singer and Artistic Co-Director of the vocal ensemble Cantus and has frequent national work as a composer-in-residence, clinician and lecturer. He lives in Minneapolis with his wife and two sons.

## Selected vocal works by Timothy C. Takach:

### Mixed Voices

And I Saw		SATB div. a cappella
Crossroads		SATB, piano
Even in My Time		3-part treble, piano
Fragile		SATB, hand drum
I Am Growing Flowers		SSATB, a cappella
I Belong in My Skin		SATB, piano
Joseph		SATB a cappella
Luminous Beings		SATB a cappella, opt. SATB soli
Mantra	(Graphite Publishing)	SATB, piano
MOMENTS IN FILM: A Mural of Change		SATB, piano
MOMENTS IN FILM: Flying Solo		SATB, piano
Neither Angels, Nor Demons, Nor Powers	(Graphite Publishing)	SSATBB a cappella
One Boy Told Me		SATB, piano

### Treble Voices

And I Saw		SSAA div. a cappella
Bahihii Waaliidkay Dhaqay		2-part, piano
Cassiopeia		SSA a cappella
How to Triumph Like a Girl	(Graphite Publishing)	SSA, piano
There is No Rose	(Lorelei Ensemble)	SSAA, SS soli, a cappella
Together, Unafraid		SSA, piano
She Tore a Map	(Graphite Publishing)	SA, piano

### TB Voices

Empty		TB (opt. div), piano, opt. djembe
Every Fire		TTBB, piano
Goodbye, Then		TBB choir, Bb clarinet, piano
Kin		TB, piano
Mad		TB, piano
Original Harmony	(Colla Voce)	TTBB a cappella
Rough Beast		TTBB, percussion
Salve Regina	(Graphite Publishing)	TBB semi-chorus, TTBB a cappella

### Large Works

At Home (ca. 15')		SATB, flute, clarinet
Born For This (ca. 16')		SATB and piano, chamber ensemble, or concert band
Changed by Beauty (ca. 18')		SATB, cello
Helios (ca. 65')		SATB a cappella
Rose Ever Blooming (ca. 55') composed with Jocelyn Hagen		SATB, orchestra
The Longest Nights (ca. 21')		SATB, piano or string quartet
This is How You Love (ca. 35') composed with Jocelyn Hagen		SATB div. a cappella
True North (ca. 16')		SATB, chamber orchestra
Unfashioned Creature (ca. 41'), a ballet		SATB, cello, percussion, dancers
We, the Unknown (ca. 40')		TTBB, soloists, chamber orchestra