

JS 053
2 minutes, 45 seconds

Endless Night

SSSSAAAA, a cappella

Christmas carol

*Arranged by
Joshua Shank*

Note from the composer

I used a version of the tune based on the oldest known score, which dates to around 1820—two years after *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht* was originally composed. This autograph manuscript, written in the lyricist's own hand, was discovered in 1995 and is a bit different in the fifth phrase—the first “Sleep in heavenly peace!”—than the one we most commonly hear today. However, I liked it for this style of arrangement because the *very* subtle change makes the ear prick up a bit (and doesn't sound as shouty as the more familiar version as it rises into the upper range of the singer).

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Endless Night was written for Dr. Beth Willer and the incredible Lorelei Ensemble after a lengthy conversation over brunch and a visit to a local brewery with our husbands (to whom it is dedicated).

Performance notes

- This probably goes without saying but, when the harmonies are closer, shore up the vibrato where possible to let stuff shimmer a bit.

The carol

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht

Music by Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863)

Original German text by Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)

English translation by John Freeman Young (1820-1885)

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace!
Sleep in heavenly peace!

Written for the Lorelei Ensemble

Endless Night

Dedicated to Jonah and Robert

Words by
Joseph Mohr

Music by
Franz Xaver Gruber

English translation by
John Freeman Young

Arranged by
Joshua Shank

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quarter = 50ish

Choir 1 *p* Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! 9 *mp* All

Choir 2 *p* Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! *mp* All

Choir 3 *p* Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! *mp* All

Choir 4 *p* Si - lent night! Ho - ly night!

10 *mp* All is calm, all is bright Round *mf*

mp All is calm, all is bright Round you *mf*

mp All is calm, all is bright Round you *mf*

mp All is calm, all is bright Round you *mf*

20

mf

— yon vir - gin — mo - ther and child! Ho - ly in - fant so —

vir - gin mo - ther and child, child! Ho - ly in - fant

vir - gin — mo - ther and child! Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and

— vir - gin — mo ther and child! Ho - ly in -

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29

f

— ten - der and — mild! — Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace, — peace! —

so — ten - der and mild! — Sleep — in hea ven ly — peace! —

mild, — mild! — Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace, — peace! —

fant so — ten - der and mild! Sleep in — hea - ven ly — peace, — peace!

mp

Sleep — in hea - ven ly peace! (m) *poco rit. p lunga*

mp

Sleep — in hea - ven - ly peace! (m) *poco rit. p lunga*

mp

Sleep — in hea - ven - ly peace! (m) *poco rit. p lunga*

mp

Sleep — in hea - ven - ly peace! (m) *poco rit. p lunga*