

For Patricia Ann Miller-Giffen

This Advent moon

SATB divisi, a cappella

We weep because the night is long,
We laugh for day shall rise,
We sing a slow contented song
And knock at Paradise.

~ Christina Rossetti

Text: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)
from the poem *Advent* (1858)

Music: Charles H. Giffen, 2009

Notes: (1) The text is from *Advent* by the Victorian poet Christina Rossetti. The underlay for the first six measures comprises lines five & six of the third stanza, and the remaining underlay consists of stanzas one through three (omitting lines five & six of the third stanza). (2) Except for final cadences, the first two sections appear later in strict (chromatic) inversion. Also, part of the chorale melody 'Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme' appears in inversion.

Moderato (♩ = c. 88-96), flexible

S
The days are e - vil look - ing back, the com - ing days are dim: _____

A
The days are e - vil look - ing back, the com - ing days are dim: _____

T
The days are e - vil look - ing back, the com - ing days are dim: _____

B
The days are e - vil look - ing back, the com - ing days are dim: _____

Reh.
only.

7 *mp*

This Ad - vent moon _____ shines cold and clear, these Ad - vent

mp

This Ad - vent moon shines cold and clear, these

mp

8 This Ad - vent moon _____ shines cold and clear, these Ad - vent

mp

This Ad - vent moon shines cold and clear, these

12

rit. *p* *tempo primo*

nights, _____ these nights are long; Our _____ lamps have burned

p

Ad - vent nights are long; Our lamps have burned

p

8 nights, _____ these nights are long; Our lamps _____ have burned

p

Ad - vent nights are long; Our _____ lamps have burned

rit. *tempo primo*

17 *mp* *f* *mp*
year af - ter year and still their flame is strong. 'Watch - man, what
mp *f* *mf*
year af - ter year and still their flame is strong. 'Watch-man, what
mp *f*
year af - ter year and still their flame is strong.
mp *f*
year af - ter year and still their flame is strong.

23 *p* *pp* *mp*
of the night?' we cry, 'What of the night?' we cry, heart - sick with hope de - ferred, heart -
mp
of the night, the night?' we cry, heart - sick with hope de - ferred, with
mp
heart - sick with hope de - ferred, heart -
mf
heart-sick, heart - sick with

28

sick with hope de - ferred:

hope de - ferred:_____

sick with hope de - ferred: 'No speak - ing signs are in the sky,' is

hope de - ferred; No speak - ing signs are in the sky,' is

34

More slowly
mf

Optional solo The Por-ter watch-es at the gate, the serv-ants watch with-

mp

Oo..._____

mp

still the watch-man's word. Oo..._____

mp

still the watch-man's word. Oo..._____

More slowly
p

39 *mp* *mf* *rit.* *p*

in; the watch is long be-times and late, the prize is slow to win.

p *mp* *pp*

p *mp* *pp*

p *mp* *pp*

rit.

tempo primo 44 *mf*

'Watch - man, _____ what of the night?' But still his

mf

'Watch - man, what of _____ the night?' But still his _____ an - swer

mf

'Watch - man, _____ what of the night?' But still his

mf

'Watch - man, what of _____ the night?' But still his _____ an - swer

tempo primo

49

an - swer sounds the same: _____ 'No_ day-break tops _____ the ut-most

sounds _____ the same, the same: 'No day - break tops _____ the ut-most

an - swer sounds the same: _____ 'No day - break tops the ut-most

sounds _____ the same, the same: 'No_ day-break tops _____ the ut-most

55

hill, nor_ pale our lamps of flame.' _____ One to an - oth - - -

hill, nor pale our lamps of flame.' _____ One to an - oth - er

hill, nor_ pale our lamps of flame.' _____ One to an - oth - - -

hill, nor_ pale our lamps of flame.' _____ One to an - oth - er

p *rallentando* *pp* *a tempo mp*

p *pp* *mp*

p *pp* *mp*

p *pp* *mp*

rallentando *a tempo*

62

- - er hear them speak the pa-tient, pa - - - - - tient vir-gins wise:

hear them speak the pa-tient vir-gins wise:_____

- - er hear them speak the pa-tient, pa - - - - - tient vir-gins wise:

hear them speak the pa-tient vir-gins wise:_____

rit.

68

a tempo

'Sure - ly He is not far _____ to seek.' 'All ___ night we

'Sure - ly He is not far _____ to seek.' 'All ___ night we

'Sure - ly He is not far _____ to seek.' 'All night we

Sure - ly He is not far _____ to seek.' 'All ___ night we

a tempo

73 *rit.* **Maestoso** *mf* *f* *ff* *fff* *pp* **Andante** *rit.*

watch and rise.' Rise! — Rise! — Rise! Yet count we not His pro - mise

watch and rise.' Rise! — Rise! Rise! Rise! Yet count we not His pro - mise

watch and rise.' Rise! — Rise! — Rise! Yet count we not His

watch and rise.' Rise! — Rise! Rise! Rise! Yet — count we — not His

79 *mp* **Lento** *p* *pp* *ppp* *mm* *rallentando*

slack, but watch and wait, we watch and wait for Him. — ...mm

slack, but watch and wait, we watch and wait for Him. — ...mm

pro-mise slack, but watch and wait, we watch and wait for Him. — ...mm

pro-mise slack, but watch and wait for Him. — ...mm

Lento *rallentando* Him. — ...mm