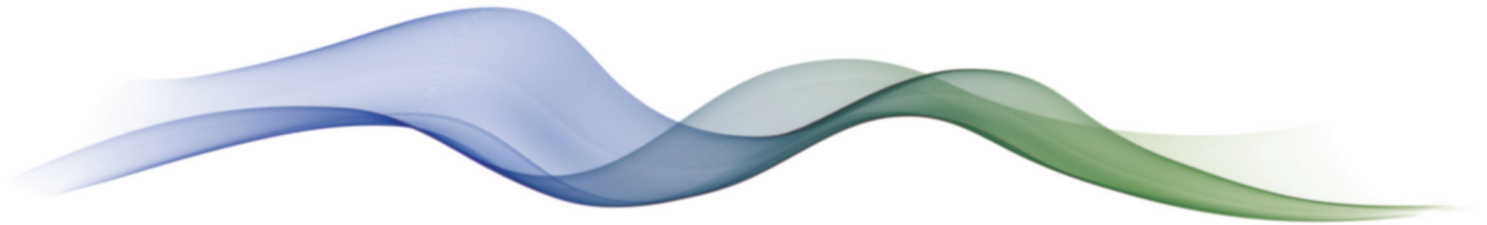


O Holy Child of Bethlehem
SATB a cappella

Timothy C. Takach

pdf download - \$1.60
printed - \$3.00



Timothy C. Takach

O Holy Child of Bethlehem

for SATB a cappella choir



Timothy C Takach.com

Text:

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee to-night.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem!
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us to-day.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

-Phillips Brooks

From the composer:

So I'm now one of "those guys." As a singer, I would complain when I saw a composer reusing past material that they wrote. As a composer, I would complain about composers repurposing old pieces for new projects. And now I've joined the club.

Way back when, I wrote a piece for Anton Armstrong and the St. Olaf Choir called "The Darkling Thrush," on a poem by Thomas Hardy. It was one of my first pieces for mixed choir, and I was pretty happy (still am) with the melodies I wrote for that piece. One day near Christmas, a decade later, I found myself humming the melody in the car, but for some reason I substituted the words for "O Little Town of Bethlehem." And it worked! The text stress, the cadence, all of it! I decided on the spot that I wanted to reuse "The Darkling Thrush" for a setting of the Christmas text. I treated "Thrush" as raw material, and molded it to my new purpose.

I pitched the idea around a bit to people in the business, but ended up finishing it in my free time. Although the premiere of the piece was in 2016 at The Schubert Club in St. Paul, MN, the real premiere (in my mind) was with 3 of my friends, sitting around my kitchen table, singing it through. And so again, as I find so often, musical moments that stick with you do not take place on stage. This was one of those moments, and I'll always remember it.

- Timothy C. Takach, 2017



Reviewed as "gorgeous" (Washington Post) and "stunning" (Lawrence Journal-World), the music of Timothy C. Takach has risen fast in the concert world. Applauded for his melodic lines and rich, intriguing harmonies, Takach has received commissions from the St. Olaf Band, Cantus, Pavia Winds, Lorelei Ensemble, VocalEssence, the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, The Rose Ensemble, and numerous other organizations. His compositions have been performed on A Prairie Home Companion, The Boston Pops holiday tour, multiple All-State and festival programs and at venues such as the Library of Congress, Kennedy Center and Royal Opera House Muscat. He is a co-creator of the theatrical production of All is Calm: the Christmas Truce of 1914, by Peter Rothstein.

Takach studied music composition at St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN, where he graduated with honors. He has frequent national work as a composer-in-residence, presenter, clinician and lecturer. He is a full-time composer and lives in Minneapolis with his wife and two sons.

For my quartet of friends at Christmas, 2015.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem

SATB a cappella

Phillips Brooks (1868)

Timothy C. Takach

$\text{♩} = 76$ *mp*

Soprano *p* *3*
O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem How still we see thee

Alto *p* *3*
O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem How still we see thee

Tenor *p* *3*
O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem How still we

Bass *p* *3*
O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem How still we see thee

5 *mp*
S lie A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The

A lie A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The

T see thee lie A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The

B lie A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The



Timothy C Takach.com

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8

mf *f*

S si - lent stars go by Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the

A si - lent stars go by Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the

T si - lent stars go by Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the

B si - lent stars go by the

mf *f* *p*

12

p **ritard**

S ev - er - last - ing light The hopes and fears of all the years are

A ev - er - last - ing light The hopes of all the years are

T ev - er - last - ing light The hopes of all the years are

B ev - er - last - ing light The hopes and fears of all the years

p *p* *p*

16

a tempo

S met in thee to night. How si - lent-ly how si - lent - ly The

A met to - night. How si - lent-ly how si - lent - ly The

T met in thee to - night. How si - lent-ly how si - lent - ly The

B met in night. How si - lent-ly how si - lent - ly The

p *p* *p* *p*

20

mp

S won - drous gift is giv'n So God im parts to hu - man hearts The

A won - drous gift is giv'n So God im parts to hu - man hearts The

T won - drous gift is giv'n So God im parts to hu - man hearts The

B won - drous gift is giv'n So God im parts to hu - man hearts The

mp

mp

mp

24

mf

f

S bless - ings of his heav - en. No ear may hear His com - ing, But

A bless - ings of his heav - en. No ear may hear His com - ing, But

T bless - ings of his heav - en. No ear may hear His com - ing, But

B bless - ings of his heav - en. No ear may hear His com - ing, But

mf

f

f

p

28

p

S in this world of sin, Where meek souls will re - ceive Him still, The

A in this world of sin, Where meek re - ceive Him still, The

T in this world of sin, Where meek re - ceive Him still, The

B in this world of sin, Where meek souls will re - ceive Him still,

p

p

p

32 **ritard** ----- **a tempo**

S dear Christ en - ters in. *p* ho - ly child of

A dear en - ters in. *mf* O ho - ly child of

T dear Christ en - ters in. *p* O ho - ly child of

B en - ters in. *p* ho - ly child of

35

S Beth - le - hem de - scend to us we pray *p* Cast out _____ and

A Beth - le - hem de - scend to us we pray *mp* Cast out _____ our sin and

T Beth - le - hem de - scend to us we pray *p* Cast out _____ our sin and

B Beth - le - hem de - scend to us we pray *p* Cast out _____ our sin and

39

S en - ter in, Be born in us to day *mp* We hear _____ the Christ-mas *mf*

A en - ter in, Be born in us to day *mf* We hear _____ the Christ-mas *mf*

T en - ter in, Be born in us to day *mp* We hear _____ the Christ-mas *mf*

B en - ter in, Be born in us to day *mp* We hear _____ the Christ-mas *mf*

43

mf

S an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell *mf* O

A an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell *mf* O

T an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell *mf* O

B an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell *mf* O

46

ritard *mf* **a tempo** **ritard**

S Come to us, a - bide with us Our Lord *mp*

A Come to us, a - bide with us Our Lord *mp*

T Come to us, a - bide with us Our Lord *mp*

B Come to us, a - bide with us Our Lord *mp*

49

p *mp* *p*

S Our Lord Em - man - u - el. *p* *mp* *p*

A Our Lord Em - man - u - el. *p* *mp* *p*

T Our Lord Em - man - u - el. *p* *mp* *p*

B Our Lord Em - man - u - el. *p* *mp* *p*

Selected vocal works by Timothy C. Takach:

Mixed Voices

A Depth We Cannot Sound		SATB, vibraphone, marimba, large tom
A Worshipper and a Man		SATB a cappella
All the Beautiful Names		SATB a cappella
All Sisters and Brothers		SATB, 2 trumpets, organ
And I Saw		SATB div. a cappella
As the Sunflower Turns on Her God		SSAATBB div, Sop. solo, SSATB soli, a cappella
The Darkling Thrush	(earthsongs)	SATB, SAT soli, a cappella
Epitaph		SATB, viola
Listen to the Apples		SATB div. a cappella
Neither Angels, Nor Demons, Nor Powers	(Graphite Publishing)	SSATBB a cappella
Nubes Oriebatur: the eruption of Vesuvius		SSATBB a cappella
One Boy Told Me		SATB, piano
Something There is Immortal		SSATBB a cappella
Su Rahva Koda (The House of Your Kindred)		SSAATTBB a cappella
This Alien Landscape		SATB, crotales, suspended cymbal, bass drum
This Amazing Life		SA(T)B, piano
To Live Forever		SSATB a cappella
'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (arr. Huron Carol)	(Graphite Publishing)	SATB a cappella
We Are Lost, We Are Lucky		SATB, piano

Treble Voices

And I Saw		SSAA div. a cappella
Cassiopeia		SSA a cappella
Duende		SSAA, floor toms
Goodbye, Then		SSA choir, Bb clarinet, piano
Home on the Range (arr. American Folk Song)	(Graphite Publishing)	2-part treble, piano
Queen of the Range	(Graphite Publishing)	SA choir, piano
Serenade	(Graphite Publishing)	SSAA a cappella
There is No Rose	(Lorelei Ensemble)	SSAA, SS soli, a cappella
The Streets of Laredo (arr. American Folk Song)	(Graphite Publishing)	Unison, TTB, piano
Torn Map	(Graphite Publishing)	2-part treble, piano

Men's Voices

All Natures, Even Mine		TTTBB a cappella
Empty		TB (opt. div), piano, opt. djembe
Go		TB, hand drum, wood block or clapping
Goodbye, Then		TBB choir, Bb clarinet, piano
I Will Howl		TBB choir, piano or cello
It Is Not the Fact That I Will Die That I Mind		TB, piano
Luceat Eis		TTTBB a cappella
Mad		TBB, piano
Rough Beast	(Jeremy D. Jones Male Choral Series)	TTBB, percussion
Salve Regina	(Graphite Publishing)	TBB semi-chorus, TTBB a cappella
She Moved Through the Fair (arr. Irish Ballad)	(Neil A. Kjos Music Co.)	TBB a cappella
Things I Didn't Know I Loved	(Graphite Publishing)	TTBB a cappella
'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (arr. Huron Carol)	(Graphite Publishing)	TTBB a cappella
Veni Creator Spiritus	(Graphite Publishing)	TTBB a cappella
What I Have Done (arr. Amazing Grace/House of the Rising Sun)		TTTBBB a cappella

Large Works

The Longest Nights (ca. 21')		SATB, piano or string quartet
True North (ca. 16')		SATB, chamber orchestra
We Made a Grave For Him, And Her Smoke Rose Up Forever (ca. 10')		TTBB a cappella
Where Beauty Comes From (ca. 16')		TBB, 2-part, SSAA, SATB; piano