

In the Lonely Midnight

(Theodore Chickering Williams)

SATB and piano



Elizabeth Alexander

In the Lonely Midnight

In the lonely midnight on the wintry hill,
Shepherds heard the angels singing, "Peace, good will."
Listen, O ye weary, to the angels' song,
Unto to you the tidings of great joy belong.

Though in David's city angels sing no more,
Love makes angel music on earth's darkest shore;
Though no heavenly glory meet your wondering eyes,
Love can make your dwelling bright as paradise.

Though the Child of Mary, sent from heaven on high,
In His manger cradle may no longer lie,
Love is King forever, though the proud world scorn;
If ye truly seek Him, Christ your King is born.

Theodore Chickering Williams

Theodore Chickering Williams (1855-1915) was a Unitarian minister, writer and translator, publishing several books of poetry and sermons, as well as Latin translations of Virgil. He wrote the lyrics to 20 hymns, some of which are still in standard usage.

A graduate of Harvard School of Divinity and Western Reserve University, Williams served as minister of the Unitarian Church of Winchester, Massachusetts and All Souls Church in New York City. He was the first headmaster of Hackley School in Tarrytown, NY and was later headmaster of Roxbury Latin School.

"In the Lonely Midnight" was originally set to music by Alonzo P. Howard (1838-1902), but was more often sung to the hymn tune, *Lyndhurst*. In recent years, the lyric has received other musical treatments, including a Solesmes plainsong setting and a pop song adaptation.

Growing up in the Carolinas and Appalachian Ohio, **Elizabeth Alexander** gained her first love of language and music from her parents, a minister and a piano teacher. These twin passions are reflected in her catalogue of over 100 choral and vocal pieces, which have received over 20 national and international awards, and which have been performed by over 1000 choirs.

Reviewers have commented on "the close personal resonance between the composer and the words," her music's "delicacy and sincerity," and its "elegance, subtle unexpected harmonic turns, and...freshness within a well-known language."

Elizabeth lives in St. Paul, MN, where her frequent commissions include works for orchestra, chorus, chamber ensembles and soloists. She reads voraciously, shamelessly encourages her teenagers' jokes, and tends her garden during the three month period in Minnesota that is not winter. She believes she has the best job in the world.

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In the Lonely Midnight

Theodore Chickering Williams

Elizabeth Alexander

(♩ = 88-92)

Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B) staves are currently silent. Piano accompaniment includes a right-hand melody and a left-hand accompaniment. Pedal markings (Ped.) are present below the piano part.

Vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) enter with the lyrics "In the" on a note marked *pp*. Piano accompaniment continues with a right-hand melody and a left-hand accompaniment. Pedal markings (Ped.) are present below the piano part.

* Faith Partners is underwritten by the American Composers Forum with funds provided by The Otto Bremer Foundation.
Premiered by Watertown Evangelical Free Church, under the direction of Merijo Strandquist.

9

S lone - - ly mid - night on the win - - try hill,

A lone - - ly mid - night on the win - - try hill,

T lone - - ly mid - night on the win - - try hill, —

B lone - - ly mid - night on the win - - try hill, Shep - herds

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

13

S Shep - herds heard the an - gels sing - ing "Peace, — good will." Lis - ten *mp*

A Shep - herds heard the an - gels sing - ing "Peace, — good will." — Lis - ten *mp*

T Shep - herds heard the — an - gels sing - ing "Peace, — good will." —

B heard — the an - gels sing - ing "Peace, — good will."

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

17

S O ye wear - y, to the an - - gels' song,

A O ye wear - y, to the an - - gels' song,

T

B

mp

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

21

S Un - to you the ti - dings of great joy be - long. Lis - ten *mf*

A Un - to you the ti - dings of great joy be - long. Lis - ten *mf*

T Lis - ten *mf*

B Lis - ten *mf*

mf

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

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34

S
A
T
B

Though in
Though in

pp
pp

growing darker

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

A

40

S
A
T
B

Da - - vid's ci - ty an - gels sing no more,
Da - - vid's ci - ty an - gels sing no more,

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

S *mp* Though no

A *mp* Though no

T Love makes an - gel mu - sic on earth's dark - - est shore; Though no

B Love makes an - gel mu - sic on earth's dark - - est shore; Though no

mp

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

S heav'n - - ly glo - ry meet your won - - d'ring eyes,

A heav'n - - ly glo - ry meet your won - - d'ring eyes,

T heav'n - - ly glo - ry meet your won - - d'ring eyes,

B heav'n - - ly glo - ry meet your won - - d'ring eyes,

mp

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

52

S Love can make your dwell - ing bright as pa - ra - dise. Though no *mf*

A Love can make your dwell - ing bright as pa - ra - dise. Though no *mf*

T Love can make your dwell - ing bright as pa - ra - dise. Though no *mf*

B Love can make your dwell - ing bright as pa - ra - dise. Though no *mf*

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *mf*

56

S hea - ven - ly glo - ry meet your won - - d'ring eyes, _____

A hea - ven - ly glo - ry meet your won - - d'ring eyes, _____

T hea - ven - ly glo - ry meet your won - - d'ring eyes, _____

B hea - ven - ly glo - ry meet your won - - d'ring eyes, _____

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.*

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69

S *with mystery pp*
Though the

A *with mystery pp*
Though the

T *with mystery pp*
Though the

B *with mystery pp*
Though the

with mystery

Ped.

pp

B

73

S Child of Ma - ry, sent from heav'n on high,

A Child of Ma - ry, sent from heav'n on high,

T Child of Ma - ry, sent from heav'n on high,

B Child of Ma - ry, sent from heav'n on high,

77

S *mp*
In His man - ger cra - dle may no long - - er lie, Love is

A *mp*
In His man - ger cra - dle may no long - - er lie, Love is

T *mp*
In His man - ger cra - dle may no long - - er lie, Love is

B *mp*
In His man - ger cra - dle may no long - - er lie, Love is

mp

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

81

S King for - - ev - er, though the proud world

A King for - - ev - er, though the proud world

T King for - - ev - er, though the proud world

B King for - - ev - er, though the proud world

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

84

S
scorn.

A
scorn.---

T
scorn.

B
scorn.

Ped. Ped. Ped.

88

S
If ye tru - ly seek Him, Christ your King is born. Love is *f*

A
If ye tru - ly seek Him, Christ your King is born. Love is *f*

T
If ye tru - ly seek Him, Christ your King is born. Love is *f*

B
If ye tru - ly seek Him, Christ your King is born. Love is *f*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

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100

rit. molto

S
A
T
B

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

meno mosso

104

pp

S
A
T
B

If ye tru - ly seek Him, Christ your King is born.

If ye tru - ly seek Him, Christ your King is born.

O, Christ your King is born.

O Christ your King is born.

Ped.

Ped.