

James
Lavino

Peaceful was the night
for SATB a cappella

Vocal score

Words by John Milton

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Music setting after the composer's original

BOOSEY & HAWKES

from *On the Morning of Christ's Nativity*
John Milton (1608–74)

Peaceful was the night
Wherein the Prince of Light
 His reign of peace upon the earth began:
The winds with wonder whist
Smoothly the waters kissed,
 Whispering new joys to the mild ocean,
Who now hath quite forgot to rave,
While birds of calm sit brooding on the charmed wave.

The stars with deep amaze
Stand fix'd in steadfast gaze,
 Bending one way their precious influence;
And will not take their flight,
For all the morning light,
 Or Lucifer that often warn'd them thence;
But in their glimmering orbs did glow,
Until their Lord himself bespake, and bid them go.

Peaceful was the night
Wherein the Prince of Light
 His reign of peace upon the earth began.

Duration: c4 minutes

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to MFH

PEACEFUL WAS THE NIGHT

Words by
JOHN MILTON
(1608–74)

JAMES LAVINO
(b 1973)

Largo, tranquillo ♩ = 44 *p legato*

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass

Peace - ful was the
Peace - ful, peace - ful, peace - ful, was the
Peace -
Peace - ful, peace - ful, peace - ful was the

Largo, tranquillo ♩ = 44 *p legato*

Piano (for rehearsal only)

5
night Where - in the Prince of Light His
night Where - in the Prince of Light His
ful, peace - ful the night Where - in the Prince of Light His
night Where - in the Prince of Light His

2

Andante, leggiero $\text{♩} = 56$

9 *mf* rall *pp*

reign of peace upon the earth began:

mf *pp*

reign of peace upon the earth began:

mf

reign

mf *pp*

reign

The

mf rall *pp* Andante, leggiero $\text{♩} = 56$

15 *p*

The winds with wonder whist

p

The winds, the winds, the winds with wonder whist

pp *p*

The winds with wonder whist

p

winds, the winds, the winds with wonder whist

19

Smooth - ly the wa-ters kissed, Whis-per - ing new

Smooth - ly the wa-ters kissed, Whis - per - ing,

Smooth - ly the wa-ters kissed, Whis-per - ing

Smooth - ly the wa-ters kissed, Whis-per - ing new joys,

23

joys, whis-per - ing new joys to the mild -

whis-per - ing joys, new joys to the

new joys, new joys,

whis - per - ing joys, whis - per - ing joys,

26 **Meno mosso** ♩ = 66 (♩=♩)

o - cean, _____

o - cean, _____ While birds _____ of _____

Who now hath quite for - got to rave, _____

Who now hath quite for - got to rave, _____

Meno mosso ♩ = 66

30 (♩=♩) **rall**

calm sit brood - ing on the charm - ed

calm sit brood - ing on the charm - ed

calm sit brood - ing on the charm - ed

calm sit brood - ing on the charm - ed

rall

Liberamente, quasi recitativo ♩ = c96

33

p ethereal

The stars with deep a-maze stand fix'd in stead-fast gaze,

p ethereal

wave. The stars with deep a-maze stand fix'd in stead-fast gaze,

p (stagger breathing)

Ah...

p (stagger breathing)

Ah...

Liberamente, quasi recitativo ♩ = c96

p

37

Bend-ing one way their pre - cious in - flu-ence; And

Bend-ing one way their pre - cious in - flu-ence; And

Bend-ing one way their pre - cious in - flu- Ah... (stagger breathing)

Bend-ing one way their pre - cious in - flu- Ah... (stagger breathing)

39

will not take their flight, For all themorn-ing light, Or Lu - ci - fer that of - ten

will not take their flight, For all themorn-ing light, Or Lu - ci - fer that of - ten

(Ah...)

(Ah...)

42

warn'd them thence; But in theirglimm'r-ing orbs did glow,

warn'd them thence; But in theirglimm'r-ing orbs did glow,

(Ah...)

(Ah...)

44 **Meno mosso** ♩ = 80 *dolce* **rall**

Un - til their Lord him - self be - spake, and bid them

Un - til their Lord him - self be - spake. — Peace

Un - til their Lord him - self be - spake, and bid them

Un - til their Lord him - self be - spake, and bid — them

Meno mosso ♩ = 80 *dolce* **rall**

47 **Largo, tranquillo** ♩ = 44 *p legato*

go. ————— Peace - ful —

— ful, peace - ful, peace - ful, peace - ful, peace - ful,

go. ————— Peace - ful, — peace - ful, —

go. ————— Peace - ful, —

Largo, tranquillo ♩ = 44 *p legato*

52

— was the night Where - in

was the night Where - in

peace - ful, peace - ful, Where - -

peace - ful was the night Where -

55

— the Prince of Light his reign of peace u -

the Prince of Light his reign of peace u -

- in the Prince of Light his reign u -

- in the Prince of Light his reign u -

59

- pon the earth, u - pon the earth

pon earth, u - pon the earth

pon the earth, u - pon the earth

- pon earth, u - pon the earth

dim

dim

dim

dim

dim

63

rall

be - gan.

be - gan, be - gan, be - gan.

be - gan.

be - gan.

rall

p

p

p

p