

SAMPLE COPY

# Under Silent Starlight

music for SATB voices

David Archer

## Under Silent Starlight

how long we wait  
under silent starlight  
and deep fields of fire

keep watch  
our shining eyes break  
waves of gentle light  
and cold cold wind

in hope, O Adonai  
love, Oriens  
Emmanuel

(poetry by David Archer)

### Program Notes

The world, in all its turmoil, waits for a miracle. When will the light come?

The last stanza of the text uses three names for God found in the "O Antiphons," ancient Advent texts that describe attributes of Christ. Adonai, a Hebrew name for God, Oriens, meaning "East" or "morning star," and Emmanuel, meaning "God is with us." These words connect us to the very human struggles of those who have waited for Christ and the salvation of the world across the centuries.

### Performance Notes

The instructions about tone are meant to help the choir show contrast between ideas in the text. Often, phrases end with an echo of a few words, as in measure 15-16 ("we wait") or measure 37-38 ("our shining eyes"). Treat the echoes gently.

Many sections of this piece build gradually in volume. For example, the opening bars grow until measure 14-15 with "we wait." The same is true in the 6/4 sections later on. Be aware of this ebb and flow.

Duration: ~ 3'45"

See, hear, purchase, and read about more choral music at [www.soundstone.ca](http://www.soundstone.ca). You can contact me at [david@soundstone.ca](mailto:david@soundstone.ca). I'd love to hear from you!

# SAMPLE

## Under Silent Starlight

music for SATB voices

music and text by David Archer (1985 - )

Moderato, affettuoso ♩ = 84-90

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

How long how long

How long how long how

How long how long how

How long how long how

6

S

A

T

B

how long we wait how long how long

long, how long we wait how long how long

long, how long we wait how long, how long, how long

long, how long we wait how long how long

12

S

A

T

B

how long, how long we wait, we wait un-der

how long, how long we wait, we wait un-der

how long, how long we wait, we wait

how long, how long we wait, we wait

# SAMPLE

## Under Silent Starlight

17 *mf*

S si - lent star - - light, un - der si - lent star -

A si - lent star - - light, un - der si - lent star -

T *mp* un - der si - lent star - - light, *mf* si - lent star -

B *mf* un - der si - lent star - light, un - der si - lent star -

22 with steady strength and warm tone

S *mp* light, si - lent star - light and deep, *mf* deep fields fields of

A *mp* light, si - lent star - light and deep, *mf* deep fields fields of

T *mp* light, si - lent star - light deep, deep fields of

B *mp* light, si - lent star - light and deep, deep fields of

26 like a warm hug *mp*

S fire, deep fields of fire, fields of fire

A fire, deep, deep fields of fire, fields of fire

T *mf* fire, deep, deep fields of fire, fields of fire

B *mf* fire, deep, deep fields of fire, fields of fire

30

S *p* keep watch *mp* keep watch our shin - ing

A *p* keep watch *mp* keep watch our shin - ing

T *p* keep watch *mp* keep watch our shin - ing

B *p* keep watch *mp* keep watch our shin - ing

36

S *mf* eyes break, *p* our shin - ing eyes break *mp* waves, break waves, waves of

A *mf* eyes break, *p* our shin - ing eyes break *mp* waves, break waves, waves of

T *mf* eyes break, *p* our shin - ing eyes *mp* waves, break waves of

B *mf* eyes break, *p* our shin - ing eyes *mp* break waves of

*delicately* *with steady strength and warm tone*

41

S *mf* gen - tle light *f* and cold, cold wind, *mp* cold wind.

A *mf* gen - tle, gen - tle light *f* and cold, and cold, cold wind, *subito mp* cold wind.

T *mf* gen - tle, gen - tle light *f* and cold, and cold, cold wind, *mp* cold wind.

B *mf* gen - tle, gen - tle light *f* and cold, and cold, cold wind, *mp* cold wind.

# SAMPLE

6

## Under Silent Starlight

with a brighter sound

S  
O Ad - o - nai, O Ad - o - nai, love

A  
O Ad - o - nai, O Ad - o - nai, love

T  
O Ad - o - nai, in hope Ad - o - nai, love

B  
in hope Ad - o - nai, love

50  
S  
Or - i - ens, in hope, O Ad - o - nai

A  
Or - i - ens, in hope, O Ad - o - nai, O Ad - o - nai,

T  
Or - i - ens, hope, O Ad - o - nai, O Ad - o - nai,

B  
Or - i - ens, O Ad - o - nai, O Ad - o - nai,

56  
S  
O Ad - o - nai, O Ad - o - nai, love, Or -

A  
O Ad - o - nai, O Ad - o - nai, O Ad - o - nai,

T  
O Ad - o - nai, in hope, Ad - o - nai, love, Or -

B  
O Ad - o - nai, Ad - o - nai, love, Or -

# SAMPLE

## Under Silent Starlight

7

S  
i - ens, How long how long how

A  
Or - i - ens, Em man - u - el, Em - man - u - el,

T  
i - ens, How long, Em - man - u - el. Em - man - u - el,

B  
i - ens, How long, Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el,

*p* *mp* *mp* *mp*

68  
S  
long how long we wait, how long, Em - man - u - el.

A  
Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el.

T  
Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el.

B  
Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el.

*mf* *rit.* *mf* *rit.* *mp* *mf* *rit.* *mp*