



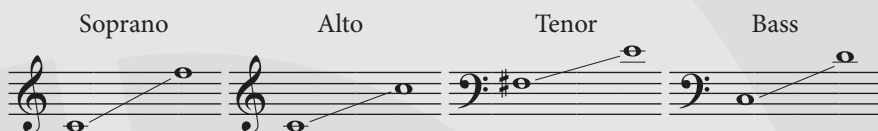
On This Silent Night

Words and Music by **STEVE PARSONS**



PREVIEW ONLY

Vocal Ranges



On This Silent Night

On This Silent Night is a beautiful winter holiday concert selection, written with occasional simple contemporary chord clusters and only one accidental. While it touches on the general spiritual and celebratory nature of the holidays, the focus is on the traditional peaceful images of a winter's night vigil, awaiting the morning light with anticipation.

One of my favorite parts of the holiday season has always been those moments of quiet contemplation. I remember sitting by our living room window on many childhood winter nights, watching the illuminated decorations cast beautiful reflections on the snow, and feeling a sense of peace and contentment. There is something about the "season of light" that brings joy to our spirits and enables us to endure darkness with a sense of hope and wonder.

In writing this piece, I have tried to capture these feelings for the listener by focusing on the emotional experience found in the imagery. The festive sights and sounds of December merely provide the backdrop for a heartfelt evening vigil, surrounded by candlelight and snowy landscapes. My family has always been central to the holidays, particularly my parents, so more than anything I have tried to honor the idea of people drawing together and gaining strength from the shared bond. Whether it be family, friends, or other community, we all can appreciate the togetherness found at this special time of year.

When preparing to perform *On This Silent Night*, make sure the momentary chord clusters are balanced so they have a proper "shimmer." The Piano should also watch the dynamics and expressiveness closely to support the choral texture rather than overwhelm (as a pianist and accompanist myself, I know this is always a challenge, but it CAN be done!) Overall, keep the interpretation lyrical and flowing even in the louder moments, so there's expressive shape and sincerity rather than anything too bombastic.

Ultimately, it is my sincere wish that hearing and performing this work brings peace to your holiday season!



Recordings are available on all major streaming services.

On This Silent Night

for SATB Voices with Piano Accompaniment

Words and Music by
STEVE PARSONS

Gently (♩ = 84)
8^{va}

Piano

p *mp*

loco

3

p *mp*

Soprano/Alto

mp unis.

Sil - ver snow - flakes, tossed and turn - ing catch the gleam of

p

Soprano/Alto

9

can - dles burn - ing. Stars glow through the snow

Tenor/Bass *mp unis.*

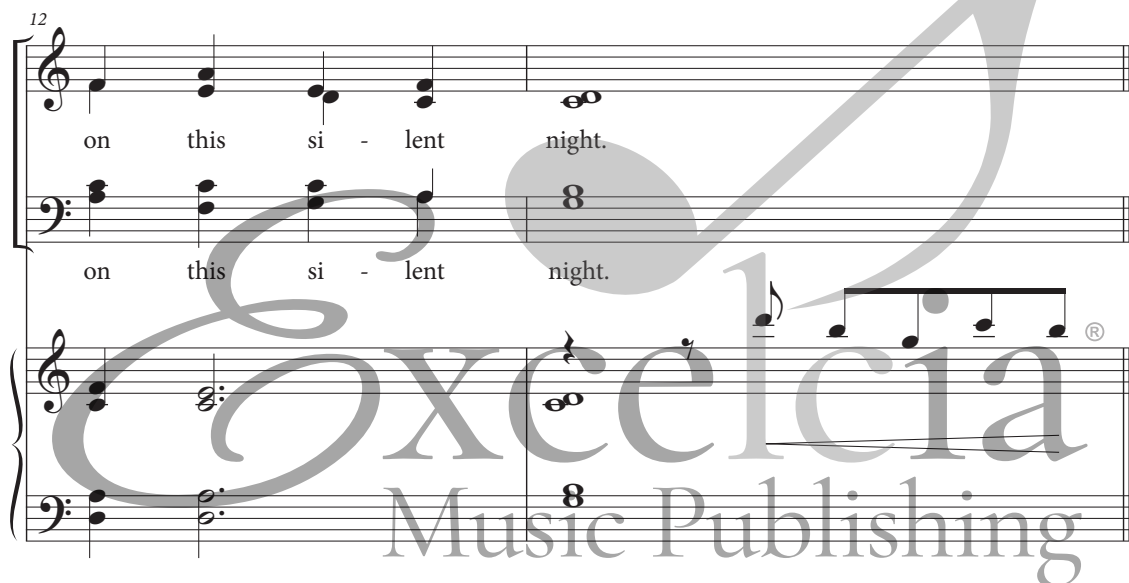
Stars glow through the snow



12

on this si - lent night.

on this si - lent night.



14

unis. Ves - per bells are soft - ly toll - ing, call - ing out with

unis. Ves - per bells are soft - ly toll - ing, call - ing out with

mp



17

gen - tle roll - ing "shine bright,

gen - tle roll - ing "shine bright,

19

love's pure light" on this si - lent night.

love's pure light" — on this si - lent night.

22 **Soprano** *mf*

Qui-et car - ols, low and tran - quil fill the

Alto *mf*

Low car - ols

Tenor *mf*

Low car - ols

mf

25

air, ten-der songs our grate-ful hearts em -

fill the air,

fill the air,

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28

ploy. _____

our hearts em - ploy. _____

our hearts em - ploy. _____

30

Chil - dren sleep 'til morn - ing

Chil - dren sleep 'til morn - ing

Tenor/Bass
unis.

Chil - dren sleep in wond - rous rap - ture for the bless - ed

33 *mp* *cresc.*

comes. They dream of gifts and

mp *cresc.*

comes. They dream of gifts and

mp *cresc.*

day to come. They dream of gifts — and

36 *rit.*

times of joy.

rit.

times of joy.

rit.

times of joy.

Soprano/Alto *f*
a tempo

38 *unis.*

In the dark - ness light is break - ing, with the dis - tant

Tenor/Bass *f*

unis.

In the dark - ness light is break - ing, with the dis - tant

f *a tempo*

41 *mf*

morn - ing wak - ing. Hope reigns, peace re - mains

mf

morn - ing wak - ing. Hope reigns, peace re - mains

mf

44

on this si - lent night.

on this si - lent night.

on this si - lent

8va - - - - -

8

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46 *mp unis.*

In the star - light, calm and gen - tle, bring-ing still - ness

p oo oo

night. oo

p like a music box

49

tran - scen-den - tal, dream on 'til the dawn on this si - lent

mp unis.

oo dream on 'til the dawn

53 *cresc.*

on this si - lent night, *rit.*

night, this si - lent,

mf on this si - lent *rit.*

night,

mf this si - lent,

cresc.

rit.

56 *mp* *a tempo* *rit.*

on this si - lent night.

mp *rit.*

on this si - lent night.

mp *a tempo* *rit.*

60 **Rubato** *p* *Slower than before* (♩ = 76)

On this si - lent night.

p *Slower than before* (♩ = 76)

On this si - lent night.

Rubato *p* *8va* *mp*

64 *p* *mp* *rit.*



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Steve Parsons

Steve's music is energetic and fun. Student's will be captivated by his heroic film-score like music. He has a wealth of experience composing outside of educational music that brings an exciting freshness to his pieces.

On This Silent Night

A new contemporary holiday piece by composer Steve Parsons that can function in any winter concert. Striking dissonances and perfect unisons will make audiences fall in[®] love with this piece.

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