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In Deepest Night Above the Earth
SSATB Choir, Harp or Piano,
Cello, Assembly (includes Hymn Version)

Steven Ottományi/M.D. Ridge



In Deepest Night Above the Earth

Music by
Steven Ottományi

Text by
M.D. Ridge

In Deepest Night Above the Earth

M.D. Ridge, 1938–2017

DEEPEST NIGHT, CMD

Steven Ottományi

Misterioso (♩ = ca. 76)

Harp
(or Piano)

p

5

VERSE 1

Tenor/Bass *p*

1. In deep - est night a - bove the earth, the

9

mp

1. dark - ened skies re - sound: a hymn of glo - ry joy - ous - ly pro -

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Parts for Violin I, Violin II, Viola and Handbells (ed. 30149030) are available online. Visit ocp.org.

13

Soprano *pp* *cresc.*

1. Ooh, _____ oh, _____

Alto *pp* *cresc.*

1. Ooh, _____ oh, _____

mf

1. claims a love pro - found. Where - star-tled shep - herds - rouse from sleep to -

17

div. *unis. f* *p*

1. ah, _____ "Rise - up and - leave your flock be - hind; come -

f *p*

1. ah, _____ "Rise - up and leave your flock be - hind; come -

cresc. *f* *p*

1. hear the an - gels sing, "Rise - up and - leave your flock be - hind; come -

cresc. *f* *p*

21

mp

1. see the new - born King." 2. No

mp

1. see the new - born King." 2. No

1. see the new - born King."

mf *dim.* *mp*

VERSE 2

26

mf

2. pal - ace fine and fair — for — him, but low - ly man - ger — bed. The

mf

mf

30

div.

2. wise will find — him by the star that blaz - es o - ver - head.

S1 *mp*
2. Ooh, _____ while

S2 *mf*
2. The Prom-ised One lies sleep - ing in a sta-ble filled with light, while -

A *mp*
2. Ooh, _____ while

The first system of the musical score features three vocal parts and piano accompaniment. S1 (Soprano 1) is marked *mp* and has the lyrics "2. Ooh, _____ while". S2 (Soprano 2) is marked *mf* and has the lyrics "2. The Prom-ised One lies sleep - ing in a sta-ble filled with light, while -". A (Alto) is marked *mp* and has the lyrics "2. Ooh, _____ while". The piano accompaniment is in the key of B-flat major and 4/4 time, with a *mp* dynamic. The system concludes with a double bar line.

38

2. Beth - le - hem lies slum - ber - ing, un - a - ware, in deep - est night.

2. Beth - le - hem lies slum - ber - ing, un - a - ware, in deep - est night.

2. Beth - le - hem lies slum - ber - ing, un - a - ware, in deep - est night.

The second system of the musical score begins at measure 38. It features three vocal parts and piano accompaniment. All three vocal parts (S1, S2, and A) have the lyrics "2. Beth - le - hem lies slum - ber - ing, un - a - ware, in deep - est night." The piano accompaniment is in the key of B-flat major and 4/4 time. The system concludes with a double bar line.

42

dim. *p*

The third system of the musical score begins at measure 42. It features piano accompaniment in the key of B-flat major and 4/4 time. The system includes dynamic markings *dim.* and *p*. The system concludes with a double bar line.

47 **Altos or S/A** *mp* **VERSE 3**

3. Two thous - and years— the an - gels' song still ech - oes in our —

mp

51

3. ear. Two thous - and years— the wise still seek the love that casts out fear.

Tenors or T/B *mf*

mf

All *f*

3. Time — mea-sures not a — sin-gle breath in — God's e - ter - nal sight, so —

f

f

60

S
3. we will keep our faith - ful watch through - out the deep - est

A
3. we will keep our faith - ful watch through - out the deep - est night, through -

T
3. we will keep our faith - ful watch through - out the deep - est

B
3. we will keep our faith - ful watch through -

64

3. night, the deep - est night. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, A - men.

3. out the deep - est night. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, A - men.

3. night, the deep - est night. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, A - men.

3. out the deep - est night, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, A - men.

In Deepest Night Above the Earth

CELLO

DEEPEST NIGHT
Steven Ottományi

Misterioso (♩ = ca. 76)

VERSE 1

8

15

4 2

...come see the newborn...

mp *dim.*

VERSE 2

26

mf

34

40

f *p*

VERSE 3

48

mp *mf*

53

59

3

rit.

p

Composer Notes

The joyous music of Christmas, echoing the song of the angels that holy night, does not tell the entire story of the Incarnation Narrative. That narrative has a darker side—one that evokes darker music. This repertoire has always fascinated me, especially its dissonance with the general festivity of the season. In the Infancy Narrative, not all is joyous. The Holy Family must face many hardships: a lack of lodging, the circumstance of our Lord's birth, the massacre of the Holy Innocents, and the flight into Egypt. But the grimmer music of the season suggests a deeper sorrow in the world before the coming of the Messiah, and a longing for wholeness that only the Redeemer can provide.

A bit of that primeval longing remains in humanity's brokenness. Often, pain and loss, rather than the joy of salvation, come to characterize our perception of existence. Sorrowful events in people's lives can disconnect them from the joy of the season, and so perhaps music that speaks to that darkness can be helpful. Music lifts the mind to higher things, but it can also accompany us on a journey marred with sorrow. It is for this reason that "dark" Christmas carols are so important.

The music and original text of "In Deepest Night" were written during a particularly dark time in my life, shortly after my mother was killed. It was then that I discovered the joy of the holidays could elicit a uniquely exquisite pain. And yet, in our deepest distress, God always walks with us and carries us forward with boundless love.

Dell and I hope that this anthem will serve people in distress and be a reminder of the hope to which we are all called in the Incarnation. Though called to Calvary, Jesus took up his Cross so that we might live and rose again that we might live eternally and be raised by the One who makes all things new, to that glorious New Heaven and New Earth, where "He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain." May it be so for us all. Amen! Marana tha—come, Lord Jesus!

—Steven Ottományi

Preview

In Deepest Night Above the Earth

(Hymn Version)

M.D. Ridge, 1938–2017

DEEPEST NIGHT, CMD

Steven Ottományi

Misterioso (♩ = ca. 76)

Melody

1. In deep - est night a - bove the earth the
 2. No pal - ace fine and fair for him, but
 3. A thou - sand years— the an - gels' song still

Keyboard

Dm Am/C B♭ C F Gm

1. dark - ened skies re - sound;
 2. low - ly man - ger— bed.
 3. ech - oes in our ear.

Am7 Gm/B♭ F/A Gsus4 G Gm F Am/C

1. joy - ous - ly pro - claims a love pro - found. Where—
 2. by the star that blaz - es o - ver - head. The—
 3. wise still seek the love that casts out fear. Time—

Am7 Am/D F Gm B♭/F F B♭

1. star - tled shep - herds ___ rouse from sleep to ___ hear the an - gels
 2. Prom - ised One lies ___ sleep - ing in a ___ sta - ble filled with
 3. mea - sures not a ___ sin - gle breath in ___ God's e - ter - nal

F/A B \flat F/A Dm B \flat Dm F

1. sing, "Rise ___ up and ___ leave your flocks be - hind; come ___
 2. light, while ___ Beth - le - hem lies slum - ber - ing, at ___
 3. sight, so ___ we will ___ keep our faith - ful ___ watch through -

Am Dm Dm/E Dm/F C/E F G A G/A

1. see the new - born king."
 2. peace in deep - est night.
 3. out the deep - est night.

Gm/B \flat Am/C Dm

Assembly Edition

IN DEEPEST NIGHT ABOVE THE EARTH

Steven Ottományi

1. In deep - est night a - bove the earth the dark - ened
 2. No pal - ace fine and fair for him, but low - ly
 3. A thou - sand years—the an - gels' song still ech - oes

1. skies re - sound: a hymn of glo - ry joy - ous - ly pro -
 2. man - ger bed. The wise will find him by the star that
 3. in our ear. Two thou - sand years—the wise still seek the

1. claims a love pro - found. Where star - tled shep - herds
 2. blaz - es o - ver - head. The Prom - ised One lies
 3. love that casts out fear. Time mea - sures not a

1. rouse from sleep to hear the an - gels sing, "Rise up and
 2. sleep - ing in a sta - ble filled with light, while Beth - le -
 3. sin - gle breath in God's e - ter - nal sight, so we will

1. leave your flocks be - hind; come see the new - born king."
 2. hem lies slum - ber - ing, at peace in deep - est night.
 3. keep our faith - ful watch through - out the deep - est night.

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