

Silent Night

Music by

FRANZ XAVER GRUBER

Arranged by

DARMON MEADER

German Lyrics by

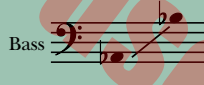
JOSEPH MOHR

English translation by

JOHN FREEMAN YOUNG

SATB Voices a cappella

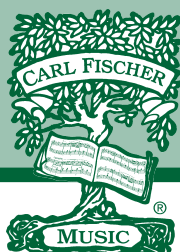
RANGES:



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Performance Notes

This arrangement is a contemporary interpretation of the timeless, German Christmas carol, which the ensemble New York Voices has been performing for many years. One of our most concise and simple arrangements, it contains some nice harmonic colors.

I would approach this piece in a traditional choral style, but would use light vibrato only. In addition to addressing the vertical chords, it is important to bring out the lyrical, somewhat “string-like” lines in the inner voices. There are a lot of passing notes in the alto, tenor and bass parts that are as important as the melody, so attention to these inner lines will give more life and energy to the performance.

To contrast the German verse, consider featuring a female soloist on the first eight measures of the second verse (in English), while the other voices either hum or sing on an “ooh.”

Programming Note

New York Voices often uses this piece as an encore during the holiday season. We sometimes include a “sing-along” verse for the whole audience to join us on the second verse, or we add a third verse, with everyone singing in unison for sixteen measures, and then have the choir join in on “Sleep in heavenly peace” at m. 17 in full harmony.

I hope you enjoy this arrangement.

—Darmon Meader



Silent Night

for SATB Voices, *a cappella*

German Lyrics by Joseph Mohr (1792–1848)
English Translation by John Freeman Young

FRANZ XAVER GRUBER (1787– 1863)
Arranged by Darmon Meader

Adagio

Soprano *mp*
Stil - le nacht, — hei - li - ge nacht. — Al - les schläft,

Alto *mp*
Stil - le nacht, — hei - li - ge nacht. — Al - les schläft,

Tenor *mp*
Stil - le nacht, — hei - li - ge nacht. — Al - les schläft,

Bass *mp*
Stil - le nacht, — hei - li - ge nacht. — Al - les schläft,

Adagio

Keyboard
(for rehearsal only) *mp*

7

ein - sam wacht. Nur das trau - te hoch hei - li - ge paar, —

ein - sam wacht. — Nur das trau - te hoch hei - li - ge paar, —

ein - sam wacht. — Nur das trau - te hoch hei - li - ge paar, —

ein - sam wacht. Nur das trau - te hoch hei - li - ge paar, —

Keyboard accompaniment for the second system.

mf

Hol - der kna - be im lock - i - gen haar, _____ Schlaf in himm - li - scher

mf

Hol - der kna - be im lock - i - gen haar, _____ Schlaf in himm - li - scher

mf

Hol - der kna - be im lock - i - gen haar, _____ Schlaf in himm - li - scher

mf

Hol - der kna - be im lock - i - gen haar, _____ Schlaf in himm - li - scher

rall.

ruh', _____ Schlaf in himm - li - scher ruh', _____

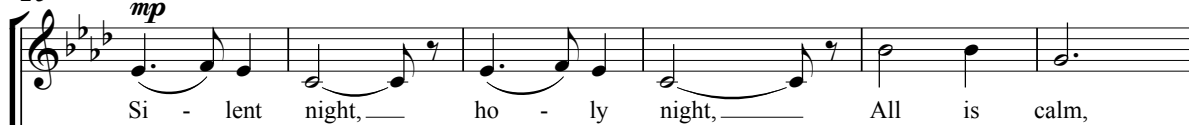
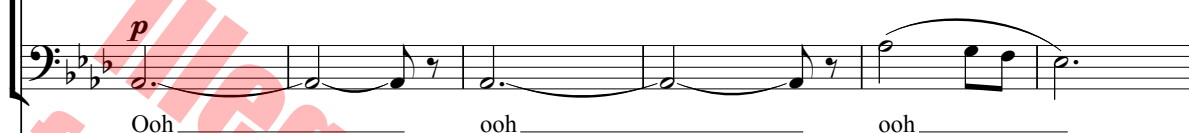
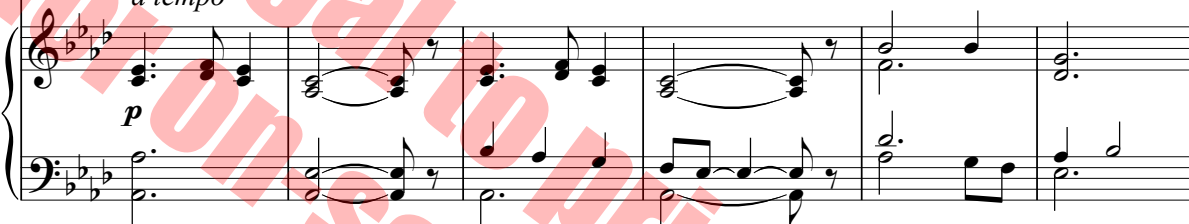
ruh', _____ Schlaf in himm - li - scher ruh', _____

ruh', _____ Schlaf in himm - li - scher ruh', _____

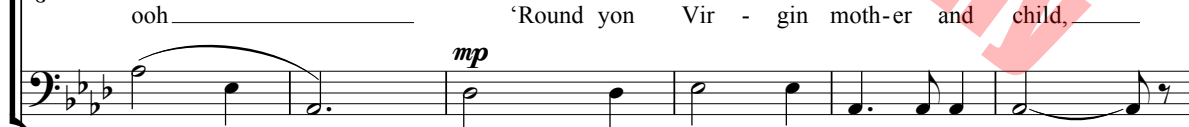
ruh', _____ Schlaf in himm - li - scher ruh', _____

rall.

25

*a tempo**mp**p**p**p**a tempo**p*

31

mp*mp**mp**mp*

mf
Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild. Sleep in hea - ven-ly

mf
Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild. Sleep in hea - ven-ly

mf
Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild. Sleep in hea - ven-ly

mf
Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild. Sleep in hea - ven-ly

mf

rall.
mp peace Sleep in hea - ven-ly *pp* peace.

mp peace Sleep in hea - ven-ly *pp* peace.

mp peace Sleep in hea - ven-ly *pp* peace.

mp peace Sleep in hea - ven-ly *pp* peace.

rall.
mp

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