

For Patricia Ann Miller-Giffen

# This Advent moon

SATB divisi, a cappella

We weep because the night is long,  
We laugh for day shall rise,  
We sing a slow contented song  
And knock at Paradise.

~ Christina Rossetti

**Text:** Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)  
from the poem *Advent* (1858)

**Music:** Charles H. Giffen, 2009

**Notes:** (1) The text is from *Advent* by the Victorian poet Christina Rossetti. The underlay for the first six measures comprises lines five & six of the third stanza, and the remaining underlay consists of stanzas one through three (omitting lines five & six of the third stanza).  
(2) Except for final cadences, the first two sections appear later in strict (chromatic) inversion. Also, part of the chorale melody 'Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme' appears in inversion.

Moderato (♩ = c. 88-96), flexible

S  
The days are e - vil look - ing back, the com - ing days are dim: \_\_\_\_\_

A  
The days are e - vil look - ing back, the com - ing days are dim: \_\_\_\_\_

T  
The days are e - vil look - ing back, the com - ing days are dim: \_\_\_\_\_

B  
The days are e - vil look - ing back, the com - ing days are dim: \_\_\_\_\_

Reh.  
only.

*mp*

This — Ad - vent moon ——— shines cold and clear, these — Ad - vent

*mp*

This Ad - vent moon shines cold and clear, these

*mp*

<sup>8</sup> This — Ad - vent moon ——— shines cold and clear, these — Ad - vent

*mp*

This Ad - vent moon shines cold and clear, these

<sup>12</sup> *rit.* *p* *tempo primo*

nights, ——— these nights are long; Our — lamps have burned

*p*

Ad - vent nights are long; Our lamps have burned

*p*

<sup>8</sup> nights, ——— these nights are long; Our lamps ——— have burned

*p*

Ad - vent nights are long; Our — lamps have burned

*rit.* *tempo primo*

17 *mp* *f* *mp*  
year af - ter year and — still their flame is strong. 'Watch - man, what  
*mp* *f* *mf*  
year af - ter year and — still their flame is strong. 'Watch-man, what  
*mp* *f*  
year af - ter year and still their flame is strong.  
*mp* *f*  
year af - ter year and — still their flame is strong.

23 *p* *pp* *mp*  
of the night?' we cry, 'What of the night?' we cry, heart - sick with hope de - ferred, heart -  
*mp*  
of the night, — the night?' we cry, heart - sick with hope de - ferred, with  
*mp*  
heart - sick with hope de - ferred, heart -  
*mf*  
heart-sick, heart - sick with

28

sick with hope de - ferred:  
 hope de - ferred:  
 sick with hope de - ferred: 'No speak - ing signs are in the sky,' is  
 hope de - ferred; No speak - ing signs are in the sky,' is

34

*More slowly*  
*mf*

*Optional solo*  
 The Por-ter watch-es at the gate, the serv-ants watch with-

*mp*  
 Oo...

*mp*  
 still the watch-man's word. Oo...

*mp*  
 still the watch-man's word. Oo...

*More slowly*

39 *mp* *mf* *rit.* *p*

in; the watch is long be - times and late, the prize is slow to win.

*p* *mp* *pp*

*p* *mp* *pp*

*p* *mp* *pp*

*rit.*

44 *tempo primo* *mf*

'Watch - man, \_\_\_\_\_ what of the night?' But still his

*mf*

'Watch - man, what of \_\_\_\_\_ the night?' But still his \_\_\_\_\_ an - swer

*mf*

'Watch - man, \_\_\_\_\_ what of the night?' But still his

*mf*

'Watch - man, what of \_\_\_\_\_ the night?' But still his \_\_\_\_\_ an - swer

*tempo primo*

49

an - swer sounds the same: \_\_\_\_\_ 'No\_ day-break tops \_\_\_\_\_ the ut-most  
 sounds \_\_\_\_\_ the same, the same: 'No day - break tops \_\_\_\_\_ the ut-most  
 an - swer sounds the same: \_\_\_\_\_ 'No day - break tops the ut-most  
 sounds \_\_\_\_\_ the same, the same: 'No\_ day-break tops \_\_\_\_\_ the ut-most

55

hill, nor\_ pale our lamps of flame.' \_\_\_\_\_ One to an - oth - - -  
 hill, nor pale our lamps of flame.' \_\_\_\_\_ One to an - oth - er  
 hill, nor\_ pale our lamps of flame.' \_\_\_\_\_ One to an - oth - - -  
 hill, nor\_ pale our lamps of flame.' \_\_\_\_\_ One to an - oth - er

*p* *rallentando* *pp* *mp* *a tempo*

*p* *pp* *mp*

*p* *pp* *mp*

*p* *pp* *mp*

*rallentando* *a tempo*



73 *rit.* **Maestoso** *mf* *f* *ff* *fff* **Andante** *pp* *rit.*

watch and rise.' Rise! — Rise! — Rise! Yet count we not His pro - mise

watch and rise.' Rise! — Rise! Rise! Rise! Yet count we not His pro - mise

watch and rise.' Rise! — Rise! — Rise! Yet count we not His

watch and rise.' Rise! — Rise! Rise! Rise! Yet count we not His

*rit.* **Maestoso** **Andante** *rit.*

79 *mp* **Lento** *p* *rallentando* *pp* *ppp* *mm*

slack, but watch and wait for, Him. — ...mm

slack, but watch and wait, we watch and wait for Him. — ...mm

pro-mise slack, but watch and wait for, Him. — ...mm

pro-mise slack, but watch and wait for Him. — ...mm

**Lento** *rallentando* *pp* *ppp* *mm*