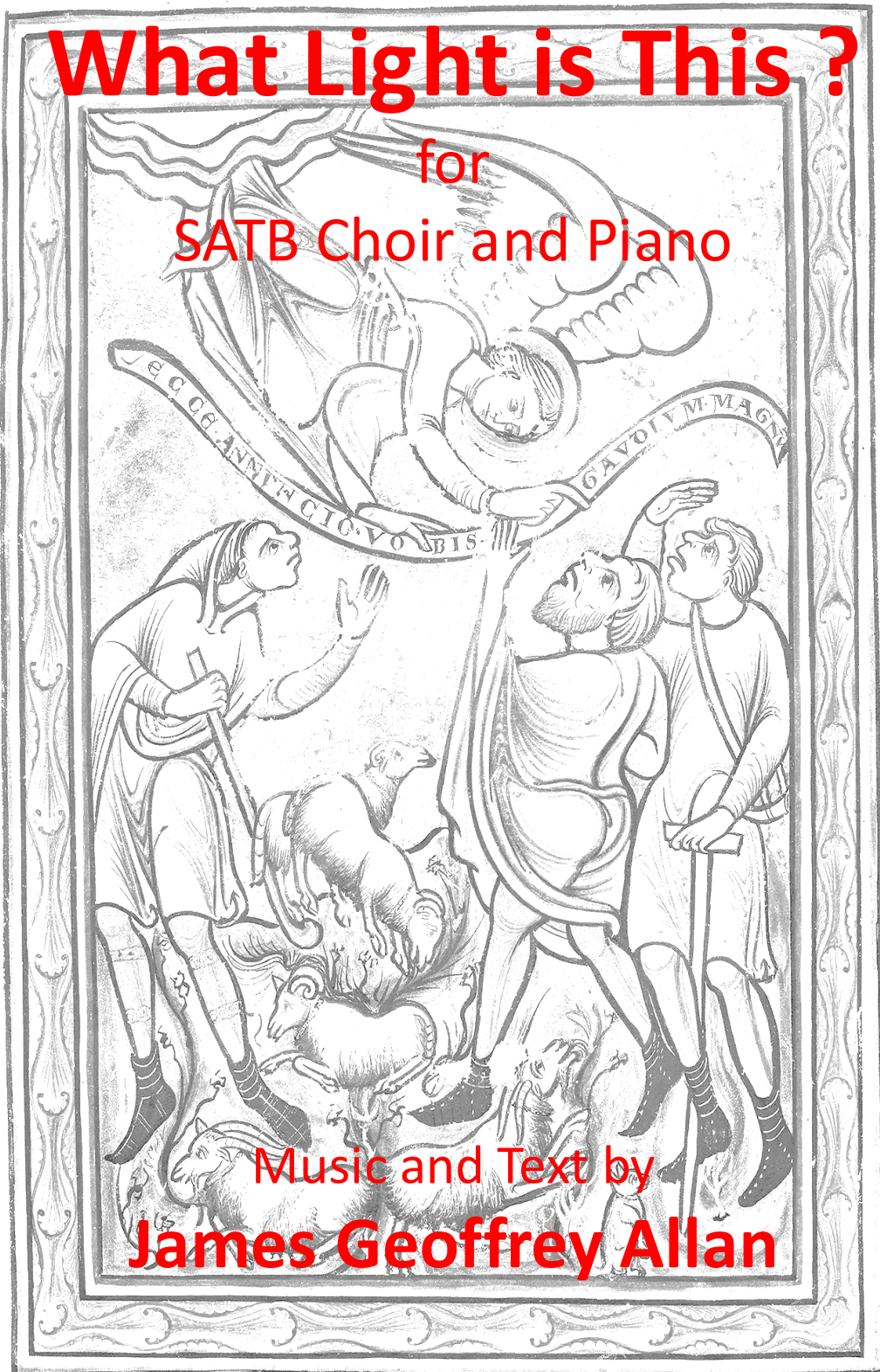


What Light is This ?

for
SATB Choir and Piano



Music and Text by
James Geoffrey Allan

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What Light is This ?

for Choir and Piano

Music and English Text : James Geoffrey Allan (1953-)

Latin Text : Anon, (Office Hymn for Lauds on the Feast of the Transfiguration)

Think of the Latin words being sung by the Angels while the English words are sung by the Shepherds and Wise Men

O Nata lux de lumine (O Light born of Light)
What light is this we see so clear
O'er hills afar ?
Not moon nor sun, not planet bright,
But shining star.

Jesu redemptor saeculi (Jesus, redeemer of the world)
Should not we follow it, my friends,
Through desert sands,
Where will it lead, that orb, oh where ?
To what strange lands.

Dignare Clemens supplicum (with kindness deign to receive)
By dusty track, by stony road
We travel far,
Until we reach a stable small
With door ajar.

Laudes preces que sumere. (the praise and prayer of suppliants)
And shining radiance out-streams
As silent light,
And all is hushed here in this place,
On this most holy night.

Composed : 23-31 December 2015

What light is this?

JGA

JGA

Slowly (♩=60)

S

A

T

B

Piano

p

O Na - ta lux

O Na - ta lux

pp

Slowly (♩=60)

pp

4

S

A

T

B

Piano

de lu - mi - ne

de lu - mi - ne

mf

What light is this we see so clear

What light is this we see so clear

mf

7 *mf* *f*

A O'er hills a - far? Not moon nor sun, not pla-net bright, But shi-

T O'er hills a - far? Not moon nor sun, not pla-net bright, But shi-

B O'er hills a - far? Not moon nor sun, not pla-net bright, But

Piano

10

A - ning star.

T - ning star.

B shi - ning star.

Piano

pp

13 *p*

S Je su re - dem - ptor sae - cu - li

A Je - su re - dem - ptor sae - cu - li

Piano

simile *pp*

16

f 3

S Should not we fol³low it, my friends,

A

T Should not we fol³low it, my friends,

Piano

≡

18

S Through de - sert sands, —

A Through de - sert sands, — Where will it lead?, Where ³will it lead?, Where ³will it

T Through de - sert sands, — Where will it lead?, where will it ³

B Through de - sert sands, —

Piano

21

S that orb, Where ³will it lead, oh where? To what lands._

A lead?, that orb, Where ³will it lead?, oh where? To what strange lands._

T ⁸lead? Where ³will it lead?, oh where? To what strange lands._

B that orb, oh _____ where? strange lands._

Piano



24

S Dig - na - re__ Cle-

A Dig - na - re__ Cle-

T ⁸

B

Piano

pp *pp* *simile* *pp*

27

S
- mens sup - pli - cum

A
- mens sup - pli - cum

T
8

B
By

Piano

mf

mf

By

30

S
by sto - ny road, — sto - ny road We *f* tra - vel

A
by sto - ny road, — sto - ny road We *f* tra - vel

T
8
[3] dus - ty track, by sto - ny road, — sto - ny road We *f* tra - vel

B
[3] [3] [3] dus - ty track, by sto - ny road, — sto - ny road We *f* tra - vel

Piano

mf

f

35

S far. Un - til we reach

A far. Un - til we reach a sta -

T far, Un - til we reach a sta - ble small

B far, Un - til we reach a sta - ble small, a

Piano

38

S a sta - ble small With door a - jar. *p*

A - ble small, sta - ble small With door a - jar. *p*

T sta - ble small With door a - jar. *p*

B sta - ble small With door a - jar. *p*

Piano

42

S Lau - des pre - ces *p*

A Lau - des pre - ces *p*

Piano *simile*

45

S que su - me - re. And

A que su - me - re.

Piano

48

S shi - ning ra - di - ance out - streams As

A shi - ning ra - di - ance out - streams As

T *p* shi - ning ra - di - ance out - streams As

B *p* shi - ning ra - di - ance out - streams As

Piano

51

S si - lent light, And all is hushed, all is

A si - lent light, And all is hushed, all is

T *p* si - lent light, And all is hushed, all is

B si - lent light, And all is hushed, all is

Piano

56

S *pp*
hushed, here in this place,

A *pp*
hushed, here in this place,

T *pp*
hushed here in this place,

B *pp*
hushed here in this place,

Piano

59

S *mp*
On this most ho-

A *mp*
On this most ho-

T *mp*
On this most ho-

B *mp*
On this most ho-

Piano

simile

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