

Night of Wonder

A Cantata for Advent or Christmas

for S.A.T.B. Chorus and Narrator
with Optional Vocal Solos, Additional Speaking Parts,
Congregational Refrain and Instrumental Accompaniment

Written and Arranged by Jay Althouse and Sally K. Albrecht

This work may be performed with keyboard accompaniment alone, keyboard and instrumental accompaniment consisting of brass quartet, 2 clarinets, flute and drum, or with fully-orchestrated accompaniment cassette.

- ◆ Choral Score – (16129)
- ◆ Preview Pack – (16130) *Choral Score and Performance Cassette*
- ◆ InstruPax – (16131) *2 Trumpets, 2 Trombones, 2 Clarinets, Flute, Drum*
- ◆ Performance/Accompaniment Cassette – (16132)

Performance Time: Approximately 25 Minutes



Cover Art: Detail from *Adoration of the Shepherds* (1688) by Charles Le Brun (1619-1690).
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FOREWORD

Night of Wonder is an Advent or Christmas cantata for S.A.T.B. chorus, keyboard, narrator and speakers, with optional additional accompaniment by 2 trumpets, trombone, tuba (opt.), flute, 2 clarinets and drum. Six choruses and five readings trace the journey from the Advent prophecy to the annunciation of Mary, and from the birth of Jesus to the heavenly angel host proclaiming, “Glory to God in the highest.”

Approximately twenty-five minutes in length, this cantata is designed for incorporation into regular Christmas worship services. It may also be lengthened to create a special Christmas program or pageant by the addition of seasonal carols, costumes and simple staging. The five readings may be performed by a single narrator or by three or more speakers. Congregational participation is optional, but is encouraged, especially in the singing of the final chorus, “Angels We Have Heard on High.” A reproducible program may be found on page 48 for performance with congregation.

Readings 1, 3 and 5 are adapted from various scriptural sources by the composers. The narrator may perform these readings as written, or substitute the same scriptural references drawn from other sources, reflecting the preferences of the pastor and/or congregation.

Readings 2 and 4 are the texts from the beloved Advent and Christmas carols “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” and “What Child Is This?” These may be spoken by the narrator, by individual choir members, or by other solo voices. While the carol texts are spoken, musical arrangements of the carols may be played softly on keyboard or other solo instrument, or by an instrumental ensemble. If vocal soloists are available, they may sing Readings 2 and 4 or, where available, a unison children’s choir may sing these carols.

Optional brass accompaniment (2 trumpets, trombone, opt. tuba) is available for Choruses 1 and 6, and solo trumpet for Chorus 4. Optional woodwind accompaniment is available for Choruses 2 and 5, and drum for Chorus 3. This flexible instrumental scoring permits the use of brass only, woodwinds only, or drum only, with keyboard as accompaniment to the choir. An optional full performance/accompaniment cassette is also available (for a complete component listing, please see the title page).

Night of Wonder is designed with performance flexibility as one of its primary goals. It may be performed in its entirety on the fourth Sunday in Advent, on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day or the first Sunday after Christmas. It may also be presented in segments spanning several weeks, as follows:

- Advent Sunday 2 — Chorus 1, Reading 1, Chorus 2
- Advent Sunday 3 — Reading 2, Chorus 3
- Advent Sunday 4 — Reading 3, Chorus 4
- Christmas Eve or Day — Reading 4, Chorus 5, Reading 5, Chorus 6

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Additional Resources

Following are several fine Alfred keyboard, vocal solo and vocal duet collections which may serve as sources of additional music to incorporate into performances of **Night of Wonder**.

- **Carols for the Season** (#12231) — Anna Laura Page
5 intermediate organ solos for Christmas
- **Carols for Two** (#11536) — Jean Anne Shafferman
7 duets on traditional carols for Advent and Christmas
- **Christmas for Solo Singers** — Jay Althouse
14 seasonal favorites for for vocal solo and piano
Med. High Voice (#11676) • Med. Low Voice (#11677)
- **The Christmas Soloist** — Jay Althouse
9 unique settings of Christmas favorites for vocal solo and piano
Med. High Voice (#3385) • Med. Low Voice (#3386)
- **Come to the Manger** (#14711) — Anna Laura Page
7 early advanced piano solos for the Advent/Christmas season
- **Favorite Sacred Classics for Solo Singers** — Patrick M. Liebergen
18 popular masterwork vocal solos for the entire church year
Med. High Voice (#11481) • Med. Low Voice (#11482)
- **Hymn Solos for All Seasons** — William Cutter
10 popular hymn vocal solos for the entire church year
Med. High Voice (#4873) • Med. Low Voice (#4874)

1. ON A NIGHT OF WONDER

Words and Music by
JAY ALTHOUSE

Enthusiastically (♩ = ca. 116)

ACCOMP.

f
(+ brass)

⑤

SOPRANO & ALTO *unis.*

f

On a night of won - der, on a night filled with love,

TENOR & BASS *unis.*

f
(- brass)

9

God will send forth a Sav - ior from the heav'ns a - bove.

2. LET THE CHRIST CHILD IN

Words and Music by
JAY ALTHOUSE and
SALLY K. ALBRECHT

Tenderly (♩ = ca. 88)

ACCOMP.

mp (+ WW)

5

S.

A.

Do not be a - fraid, for God will send forth a Son. _____

T.

mp unis.

B.

8

mp unis.

A ti - ny Child will come to com - fort and love ev - 'ry -