

*(Editor's note: When appropriate, it is suggested that the following paragraph be read aloud or printed in your concert program.)*

Evening settled quickly in the little village of Oberndorf, Austria. As the bright winter sun began to set, it was apparent that tonight was very different from any other night. Tonight was that special night that occurs only once each year—tonight was Christmas Eve! Not just any December 24th, mind you, but Christmas Eve, 1818, at St. Nicholas Church. This night would see the premier performance of the newly composed carol, *SILENT NIGHT*.

As the story goes, the old church organ that had finally ceased to play was causing a major crisis. Instead of the glorious sounds of music, this special night would be silent! Frantically, Father Joseph Mohr wrote lyrics expressing his feelings about the evening's importance. Church organist Franz Gruber quickly set those lyrics to music arranged for voice and guitar, ready just in time for the evening's festivities.

*SILENT NIGHT*, enjoyed around the world, was written by two people who did not have the slightest pretense of being great poets or composers, or any knowledge of the impact their last minute rush of creativity would have!

Our performance of *ONCE UPON A SILENT NIGHT* touches upon the history of the beloved carol and cleverly interweaves a new, original melody with it. At the appropriate time, you will be asked to join in singing *SILENT NIGHT*, which is unquestionably the most celebrated of all Christmas carols!

# ONCE UPON A SILENT NIGHT

SATB with Piano

## SILENT NIGHT

Words by JOSEPH MOHR  
Music by FRANZ GRUBER

Words and Music by  
JERRY RAY

Moderately (♩ = 84 - 88)

Piano

*mf* L.H.

9

*mf*

S  
A

1.) Once up-on a si - lent night years a - go,  
2.) Gath-er all a - round and hear what we say, as

*mf*

T  
B

9

*mp*

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there was no mu - sic and there was no song.  
we sing the mu - sic from that night long a - go.

17 But this si - lent night was in spe - cial that by far, with the  
And for you we wish in all that you do with the

Oo

17

thoughts of the sea - son and the Beth - le - hem  
prom - ise of peace and Mer - ry Christ - mas to

*to Coda* ♪

*to Coda* ♪

*mf* 26

star. Once up - on this \_\_\_\_\_

26

*mf*

ho - ly night, when all is calm \_\_\_\_\_ we light a thou - sand

*mf*

35

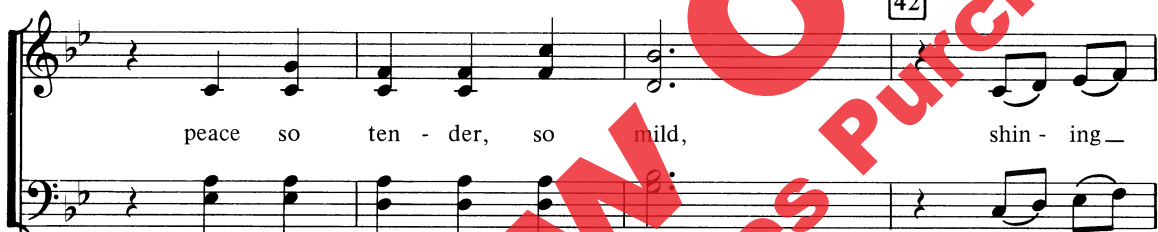
can - dles bright. \_\_\_\_\_ Lights, shin - ing

35

hope so far, bring— peace,



peace so ten - der, so mild, shin - ing—



joy, love and peace, a

*cresc.* *f* *mf*



*D.S. al Coda*

thou - sand can - dles of peace.

*D.S. al Coda*

*mf*

**Coda**

53

*Sop., Ten.*

*mf*

you. Si - lent night!

*Alto, Bass mp*

Once up - on

this

53

*mp*

Ho - ly night! All is calm,

ho - ly night, when all is calm we bring a thou - sand

61

all is bright 'round you vir - gin  
 gifts to night. Lights, shin - ing

61

moth - er and Child. Ho - ly In - fant, so  
 hope so far, bring peace, peace so

69

ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
 ten - der, so mild, shin - ing joy, love and

69

peace, \_\_\_\_\_ sleep \_\_\_\_\_ in

peace, \_\_\_\_\_ a thou - sand

heav - en - ly peace. \_\_\_\_\_

gifts \_\_\_\_\_ of peace. \_\_\_\_\_

*cresc.*

**80** *poco rit.* *a tempo*

*poco rit.* *mf* *a tempo* Si - lent night! Ho - ly

Once up - on this \_\_\_\_\_ ho - ly \_\_\_\_\_

**80** *poco rit.* *mf a tempo*

\*At this point, ask the audience to join in by singing "Silent Night".



night! All is calm, all is  
 night, when all is calm we sing a thou - sand songs — to -

88  
 bright 'round yon vir - gin moth - er and  
 night. Lights, shin - ing hope so

88

Child. Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,  
 far, bring - peace, peace so ten - der, so mild,

sleep in heav - en-ly peace,

shin - ing joy, love and peace, a

sleep in heav - en-ly peace.

thou - sand songs of peace.

*rit.* \*

*rit.* \*

**103** *mp freely*

*mp freely*

**105** *freely*

heav - en-ly peace.

*mp*

*slowly*

\*Audience participation ends. Choir should sing the remainder of the piece alone.

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