

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

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

mp

This Ad - vent moon shines cold and clear, these

12

rit. *p* *tempo primo*

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

p

Ad - vent nights are long; Our lamps have burned

8

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* *Him. — ...mm*