

# *Invocation*

from *This Night*

*a cappella* version  
for SATB Choir (divisi)

Music by  
**John Muehleisen**

Text from  
**Carmina Gadelica**

*Commissioned by the Dale Warland Singers  
for Echoes of Christmas 2003*

*A cappella arrangement prepared for  
and premiered by Seattle Pro Musica,  
Karen P. Thomas, Artistic Director  
December, 2011*

## ***Invocation***

God of the moon, God of the sun,  
God of the globe, God of the stars,  
God of the waters, the land, and the skies,  
Who ordained to us the King of promise.

It was Mary fair who went upon her knee,  
It was the King of life who went upon her lap,  
Darkness and tears were set behind,  
And the star of guidance went up early.

Illumed the land, illumed the world,  
Illumed doldrum and current,  
Grief was laid and joy was raised,  
Music was set up with harp and pedal-harp.

God of the moon, God of the sun,  
Who ordained to us the Son of mercy.  
The fair Mary upon her knee,  
Christ the King of life in her lap.  
I am the cleric established,  
Going round the founded stones,  
I behold mansions, I behold shores,  
I behold angels floating,  
I behold the shapely rounded column  
Coming landwards in friendship to us.

– from the *Carmina Gadelica*

## **Program Notes for *Invocation***

John Muehleisen's "Invocation" is from his celebratory Christmas cycle entitled *This Night*—originally for choir and harp—which was commissioned and premiered by the Dale Warland Singers during their farewell season (2003-2004) when Muehleisen served as the group's final composer-in-residence. Like the other movements in the work, the text for "Invocation" is drawn from the *Carmina Gadelica*, a voluminous anthology of ancient Celtic texts gathered by English tax collector and amateur ethnographer Alexander Carmichael while he carried out his governmental duties in the Scottish Highlands. "Invocation" describes the Nativity of Christ through mystical images of nature, of light piercing darkness, and of grief being replaced by joy, accompanied by allusions to the star of Bethlehem and the heavenly angelic host announcing the birth. The *a cappella* version of this movement was created especially for Karen P. Thomas and Seattle Pro Musica and was premiered by them in Dec. 2011.

*John Muehleisen (Sept. 2011)*

# This Night

Commissioned by the Dale Warland Singers  
for Echoes of Christmas 2003

## 1. Invocation

John Muehleisen

2003, a cappella version 2011

Carmina Gadelica

Andante  $\text{♩} = 84$

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano\*

*mp non cresc.*

God of the moon,

God of the sun,

*mp non cresc.*

God of the stars,

globe,

the land, and the

the land,

*mp*

God of the wa - ters,

*mp*

God

*mp non cresc.*

*mp*

accel. -----

accel. -----

\*for rehearsal only

2 **a tempo** ♩ = 84

S *f* *mf* *mf*  
 skies, Who or - dained to us the King of prom - ise. It was

A *f* *mf*  
 Who or - dained to us the King of prom - ise.

T *f* *mf*  
 Who or - dained to us the King of prom - ise.

B *f* *mf*  
 Who or - dained to us the King of prom - ise.

Pno *f* *mf* *mf*

16 **poco rall.** -----

S Mar - y fair

A *mf*  
 who went up - on her knee,

T *mf* *mp*  
 It was the King of

B *mp*  
 King of  
 King of

Pno *mp*

21 *Slower* ♩ = 74

S  
A

(dynamics for all men)  
life *mf* *mp* *p*  
life who went up - on her lap,

B  
life who went up - on her lap,

Pno  
21 *Slower* ♩ = 74  
*mf* *mp* *p*

26 *Somewhat slower* ♩ = 72 *a tempo* ♩ = 84

S  
A

*mf* *molto marcato* *f*  
Dark - ness and tears were set be - hind,  
Dark - - - ness and tears were set be - hind,

B  
*mf* *molto marcato* *f* *mf*  
Dark - ness and tears were set be - hind, And the

Pno  
26 *Somewhat slower* ♩ = 72 *a tempo* ♩ = 84  
*mf* *molto marcato* *mf*



**Gioioso** ♩ = 88

**S**  
ear - ly. Il - lumed the land, il - lumed the

**A**  
went up. Il - lumed the land, il - lumed the

**T**  
ear - ly. Il - lumed the land, il - lumed the

**B**  
went up. Il - lumed the land, il - lumed the

**Pno**

**S**  
world, Il - lum'd dol - drum and cur - rent,

**A**  
world, Il - lum'd dol - drum and cur - rent,

**T**  
world, Il - lum'd dol - drum and cur - rent,

**B**  
world, Il - lum'd dol - drum and cur - rent,

**Pno**

6 *Somewhat slower* ♩ = 80 *molto marcato* *rall.* ----- *ff* *a tempo* ♩ = 84

S *f* Grief \_\_\_\_\_ was laid and joy was raised, *ff*

A *f* Grief \_\_\_\_\_ was laid and joy was raised, *ff*

T *f* Grief \_\_\_\_\_ was laid and joy was raised, *ff*

B *f* Grief \_\_\_\_\_ was laid and joy was raised, *ff* *p*

Grief \_\_\_\_\_ was laid and joy was raised, Mu - sic was

Pno *Somewhat slower* ♩ = 80 *molto marcato* *rall.* ----- *ff* *a tempo* ♩ = 84

*f* *p*

S *f* *cresc. poco a poco*

Mu - sic was set up with

A *mf* *f* *cresc. poco a poco*

Mu - sic was set up with harp and

T *mp* *f* *cresc. poco a poco*

Mu - sic was set up with harp and ped - al - harp.

B *f* *cresc. poco a poco*

set up with harp and ped - al - harp.

Pno *mp* *mf* *f* *cresc. poco a poco*





8

poco rall. ----- Slower ♩ = 74

S *mf* the King of

A *mf* on her knee, *mf* Christ the King of life, *p* the King of

T *mf* Christ the King of life, *p* the King of

B *mf* King of life, *p* King of life, the King of

Pno *mf* *p*

71

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poco rall. ----- Slower ♩ = 74

Con Moto ♩ = 82

S Sop. 2 *p* life in her lap. *p* Ooo stagger breathing

A *p* life in her lap. *p* Ooo

T *p* life in her lap.

B *p* life in her lap.

Pno *p*

76

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Con Moto ♩ = 82

Sop. 1 Ooo \_\_\_\_\_ 9

81 *p* *Tutti* Ooo \_\_\_\_\_ Go-ing round \_\_\_\_\_

Sop. 2 *p* Ooo \_\_\_\_\_ Go-ing round \_\_\_\_\_

A *p* \_\_\_\_\_ Go-ing round \_\_\_\_\_

T *mf* \_\_\_\_\_ *mf* *f* *mf* \_\_\_\_\_

8 I am the cler-ic es - tab - lished, \_\_\_\_\_ Go-ing round \_\_\_\_\_ the

B *mf* \_\_\_\_\_ *mf* *f* *mf* \_\_\_\_\_

I am the cler-ic es - tab - lished, \_\_\_\_\_ Go-ing round \_\_\_\_\_ the

Pno 81 *mf* \_\_\_\_\_ *f* \_\_\_\_\_

86 *mf* the stones, *f* \_\_\_\_\_

S \_\_\_\_\_ the stones, I be - hold man - sions, I be - hold \_\_\_\_\_

A *mf* \_\_\_\_\_ *f* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ the stones, I be - hold man - sions, I be - hold \_\_\_\_\_

T 8 *f* \_\_\_\_\_

found - ed stones, I be - hold man - sions, I be - hold \_\_\_\_\_

B *f* \_\_\_\_\_

found - ed stones, I be - hold man - sions, I be - hold \_\_\_\_\_

Pno 86 *mf* \_\_\_\_\_ *f* \_\_\_\_\_

91 *f* *ff* *mf*

S shores, I be-hold an - gels float-ing, I be -

A shores, I be-hold an - gels float-ing,

T shores, I be-hold an - gels float-ing,

B shores, I be-hold an - gels float-ing,

Pno

96 *mf* *mf* *mf*

S hold the shape-ly round - ed col - umn Com-ing land - wards in friend - ship to

A I be - hold the shape-ly round - ed col - umn Com-ing land - wards in

T I be - hold the shape-ly round - ed col - umn Com-ing

B I be - hold the shape-ly round - ed

Pno

rall. -----

101 *decresc.* *p*

S us. -----

A *decresc.* *p*  
friend - ship to us. -----

T *decresc.* *p*  
land - wards in friend - ship to us. -----

B *decresc.* *p*  
col - umn Com - ing land - wards in friend - ship to us.

Pno 101 *decresc.* *p*

DO NOT COPY

molto rall. -----

105 **Slower**  $\text{♩} = 72$  *p* **molto rall.** -----

S Oh -----

A *p* Oh -----

T *p* Oh -----

B *p* Oh -----

Pno 105 **Slower**  $\text{♩} = 72$  *p* **molto rall.** -----