

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 ♩ = 84

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano*

mp non cresc.

God of the moon,

mp non cresc.

God of the stars,

mp non cresc.

globe,

mp non cresc.

God of the waters,

mp non cresc.

God

the land, and the

the land,

accel.

accel.

*for rehearsal only

2 **a tempo** ♩ = 84

f *mf* *mf*

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

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

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

B 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* It was the King of *mp* King of

B *mp* King of

Pno *mp* **poco rall.** -----

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,

T
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*

accel. -----

31 *mf*

S And the star of guid - ance

A *mf*
And the star of guid - ance went up

T *mf*
And the star of guid - ance went up ear - ly,

B *mf*
star of guid - ance went up ear - ly, And the

31 accel. -----

Pno

36

S went up ear - ly, And the star went up

A ear - ly, And the star went up ear - ly,

T And the star went up ear - ly, went up

B star went up ear - ly, went up ear - ly,

36

Pno

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 *rall.* ----- *a tempo* ♩ = 84

f *molto marcato* *ff* *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*

61 *ff* *f*

S harp and ped - al - harp. God of the

A ped - al - harp. God of the moon,

T God of the

B God of the moon,

Pno

66 *mf* *mf*

S sun, Who or - dained to us the Son of mer-cy. The fair Mar-y

A Who or - dained to us the Son of mer-cy. up -

T sun, Who or - dained to us the Son of mer-cy.

B Who or - dained to us the Son of mer-cy.

Pno

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

PERUSAL COPY

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 found - ed stones, *f* _____

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

101 *decresc.* **rall.** ----- *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.* **rall.** ----- *p*

105 **Slower** ♩ = 72 **molto rall.** ----- *p*

S Oh

A Oh

T *p*
Oh

B *p*
Oh

Pno 105 **Slower** ♩ = 72 **molto rall.** ----- *p*