

O Holy Night

SSATB and Piano

HM2402

O HOLY NIGHT

Adolphe Adam

Brad Hansen
arranger

PROGRAM NOTES

About the Music

The lyrics to *O Holy Night* were written by Placide Cappeau in 1847, and the music by Adolphe Adam the same year. John S. Dwight translated the text into English in 1855, including the words: "His law is Love and His gospel is Peace. Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, and in His name all oppression shall cease." Extended jazz voicings reveal a vibrant reharmonization, with unexpected twists. Modern devices include modal harmony, Quartal planing, pedal tones, and nonfunctional progressions. The piano supports the choir with active rhythms, soloistic passages, and at times a Gospel feel. This arrangement is very creative, while sounding familiar and easy to grasp. This one is a joy for musicians and audiences alike.

It is drawn from Hansen's *Medley of Carols*. All arrangements in the medley feature the piano as an equal partner with the choir. The harmonic language is jazz oriented, cast in asymmetrical and mixed meters, with swing and Latin rhythms. Suitable for High School, College, Church, and Community choirs.

Vocal Ranges S: C4 – G5 A: G3 – C5 T: E3 – E4 B: G2 – C4. **Duration** approx. 5' 20".

Lyrics

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt it's worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Truly He taught us to love one another,
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His name, all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name.

Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices
Oh night, night divine.
Oh, night when Christ was born
Oh Holy night, Oh night divine.

Christ is the Lord! Oh, praise His Name forever
Oh night, night divine.
Oh, night when Christ was born
Oh Holy night, Oh night divine.

About the Composer

Brad Hansen is a pianist, composer, and Professor Emeritus at Portland State University where he teaches Theory and Composition. He previously taught at Ole Miss, Humboldt State (CA), and Ball State (IN). Hansen studied at Berklee, Grinnell, Cincinnati Conservatory, University of Northern Colorado, and the University of Oregon. His instrumental and choral works have been performed worldwide. The Oregon Regional Arts and Culture Council awarded him a grant to stage the *Medley of Carols* in 2025, sung by the PSU Chamber Choir accompanied by Darrell Grant.

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Arranged by Brad Hansen
for SSATB Voices and Piano

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Gently ♩ = 132

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano

mp

Gently ♩ = 132

5

(Solo) *mf*

(All Altos) *mp*

O ho - ly night! The stars are bright-ly shin - - ing, it is the

mp

it is the

p

10 *mp*

mm mm Long lay the

night of the dear Sav-ior's birth. Long lay the

night of the dear Sav-ior's birth. Long lay the

mp

mm mm mm Long lay the

15 16

world in sin and er-ror pin - - ing, till He ap-peared and the

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