

*For the combined choirs of Augsburg University, Advent Vespers 2018.
The creation of this piece is a direct result of a grant from the Finlandia Foundation National.*

PROGRAM NOTES

The tune is taken from *Piae cantiones*, a collection of medieval Latin songs compiled by Jacobus Finno, headmaster of the Cathedral School in Turku (Swedish Åbo), Finland. The collection was first published in 1582. This tune was paired with the Latin text *In vernali tempore* (“*Kaunis koittaa taas*” or “*Tullos, kevät armahin*” in Finnish) which was translated by Steuart Wilson as “Now the Spring Has Come Again” in the *Oxford Book of Carols*.

Captivated by its haunting quality, Mark Sedio used the tune as the basis for this arrangement

which was sung by the combined choral ensembles at Augsburg University’s Advent Vespers in December 2018. The new text by Sedio reflects the Vespers’ theme, “Wonder Incarnate.”

When the Central Choir was preparing to perform the piece the at Christmas the following year, Nick Mordal, a tenor in the choir and a fine classical guitarist, suggested creating a guitar accompaniment. The choir performed the piece with Nick playing his accompaniment, with great success.

TEXT

In a still, cold winter night
Wonder now unfolds.

In a still, cold winter night,
In a lowly manger
All of heav’n and earth unite
In this infant stranger.

Angel choirs proclaim the birth;
Joy and peace now fill the earth,
Fear and death dispelling.

In the child’s most radiant face
God has shown abundant grace:
Love has found a dwelling.

Tender mercy here unfolds.
Humbly we behold it.

O what mercy here unfolds!
Prophets had foretold it.

God with us is here made known,
Humbly we behold it.

In our midst the babe now dwells;
God with us, Emmanuel;
Gift so great to ponder.

Praise and honor, glory be
To the blessed Trinity
Wrapped within this wonder!

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thanks to a grant from the Finlandia Foundation National

In a Still, Cold Winter Night

for SATB Chorus unaccompanied*

Mark Sedio

In vernali tempore
 arr. Mark Sedio (ASCAP)

Lyricaly ♩ = 122

p *rit.*

Soprano
 In a still, cold win - ter night won - der now un - folds.

Alto
p *rit.*
 In the night won - der now un - folds.

Tenor
rit.

Bass
rit.

5 *mp a tempo*

S
 A
 In a still, cold win - ter night, in a low - ly

T
 B
mp a tempo
 In a still, cold win - ter, win - ter night, a low - ly

*Optional Guitar accompaniment by Nick Mordal is also available.

Search for the product number 8916 and find the link under More Information tab.

Music: *In vernali tempore* (Tullus, kevät armahin), from *Piae Cantiones* (1582) (PD).

8

man - ger all of heav'n and earth u - nite

man - ger all of heav'n and earth u - nite in

11

in this in - fant strang - er. An - gel choirs pro -

this in - fant strang - er. Choirs pro -

14

claim the birth; joy and peace now fill the earth,

claim the birth; joy and peace now fill, now fill the

claim the birth, joy and peace now fill, now fill the

17

fear and death dis - pell - ing. In the child's most ra - diant face

earth, death dis - pell - ing. In the child's most ra - diant face

earth, death dis - pell - ing. In the child's most ra - diant face

21

God has shown_ a - bun - dant grace: love_ has found_ a

God has shown_ a - bun - dant grace: love has found_ a

24

molto rit. *a tempo*

dwel - ling. Ten - der mer - cy here_ un - folds.

dwel - ling. Ten - der mer - cy, ten - der mer - cy here un - folds.

28

Sopranos *mp* O_ what mer - cy

Hum - bly, we_ be - hold it.

Hum - bly we_ be - hold, we_ be - hold it.

31 here un - folds! Proph - ets had fore - told it.

mp
Mer - cy un - folds, lo proph - ets fore - told, proph - ets fore - told it.

Altos

34 *mf*
God with us is here made known, hum - bly we be -

mf
God with us is here made known, hum - bly we be -

Somewhat brighter

37
hold it. In our midst the babe now dwells; God

hold it. In our midst the babe now dwells; God

40 God with us, Em - man - u - el; gift so great to

with us, Em - man - u - el; gift so great to

God with us, Em - man - u - el; gift so great to

43 pon - der. Praise and hon - or, glo - ry be
 pon - der, pon - der. Praise and hon - or, glo - ry be ___ to ___

f

46 to the bless - - èd Trin - - i - ty
 the bless - - èd Trin - - i - ty

rit.

48 **A bit slower**
 wrapped with in this won - - der!
 wrapped with - in this won - - der!

mp *rit.* *pp*