

*Commissioned by the First Baptist Church, Shaker Heights, Ohio;  
Don Verkuijlen, Director of Music; in loving memory of Robert Schneider*

## PROGRAM NOTES

*Star of the East* was commissioned by the First Baptist Church of Shaker Heights, Ohio, in memory of Robert Schneider (1952–2018). Dr. Schneider served as Director of Music and Organist of the Church for 25 years. He was greatly loved and respected as an organist, conductor, and educator. The work was premiered on December 18th, 2022 at the First Baptist Church’s annual Lessons and Carols service.

Eugene Field (1850-1895) was an American writer best known for his children’s poetry

and humorous essays. He began publishing poetry in 1879. His poem “Star of the East” is a reference to the Christmas Star described in the gospel of Matthew in which wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, reporting to King Herod that the king of the Jews had been born. My setting includes insertions by the trumpet (which in the last section can be doubled by an optional children’s chorus) of the 15th century hymn “Puer Nobis” as adapted by composer Michael Praetorius.

—David Conte

## TEXTS

### STAR OF THE EAST

Star of the East, that long ago  
Brought wise men on their way  
Where, angels singing to and fro,  
The Child of Bethlehem lay—  
Above that Syrian hill afar  
Thou shinest out to-night, O Star!

Star of the East, the night were drear  
But for the tender grace  
That with thy glory comes to cheer  
Earth’s loneliest, darkest place;  
For by that charity we see  
Where there is hope for all and me.

Star of the East! show us the way  
In wisdom undefiled  
To seek that manger out and lay  
Our gifts before the child—  
To bring our hearts and offer them  
Unto our King in Bethlehem!

—Eugene Field (1850–1885)

### PUER NOBIS

’Tis now fulfilled what God decreed,  
“From Jacob shall a star proceed;”  
And lo! the Eastern sages stand  
To read in heaven the Lord’s command.

—*PUER NOBIS*; Trier MS, 15th C;  
*Adapted by Michael Praetorius (1571–1621)*  
*Text translated by Rev. John Chandler, 1837*

Trumpet part available separately: 9254A

**David Conte (b. 1955)**

For biographical information visit: [www.ecspublishing.com](http://www.ecspublishing.com)

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# Star of the East

for SATB Chorus and Organ or Piano,  
with opt. Children's Chorus and Trumpet

Eugene Field  
(1850–1895)

David Conte (b. 1955)  
(ASCAP)

**Andante con moto** (♩ = 84)

Trumpet in C

Organ or Piano

Ped.

7

Tpt.

S  
A

T  
B

Star of the East, that

Star of the East, that

**A**

*mp legato sempre*

Incorporating *PUER NOBIS*; Trier MS, 15th. C; adapted by Michael Praetorius (1571–1621); text by Charles Coffin (1676–1749); translation by Rev. John Chandler (1806–1876).

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13

S  
A

long a - go Brought wise men on their

T  
B

long a - go Brought wise men on their

17

way

Where, an - gels sing - ing

way

Where, an - gels sing - ing

21

to and fro, The Child of Beth - le - hem

to and fro, The Child of Beth - le - hem

25

**B**

lay, \_\_\_\_\_ A - bove \_\_\_\_\_ that Syr - ian

lay, \_\_\_\_\_ A - bove \_\_\_\_\_ that Syr - ian

**B**

29

S  
A

hill \_\_\_\_\_ a - far \_\_\_\_\_ Thou shin - est \_\_\_\_\_ out to - night, \_\_\_\_\_

T

8  
hill \_\_\_\_\_ a - far \_\_\_\_\_ Thou shin - est \_\_\_\_\_ out to - night, \_\_\_\_\_

B

hill \_\_\_\_\_ a - far \_\_\_\_\_ Thou shin - est \_\_\_\_\_ out to -

*f*

*f*

*f*

*mf*

33 *poco rit.*

O Star, O  
O Star, O  
night, O Star, O

*poco rit.*

37 **C** *a tempo* Trumpet \*  
*mp*

Tpt. *mp*

S  
A  
T  
B  
*p*

Star!  
Star!  
Star!

**C** *a tempo*  
*mp*

41

Tpt. *mf*

45

*poco rit.*

49 **D** *a tempo*

Tpt. *mp* *p*

T *mf*

B *mf*

Star of the East, the night were drear But for the

But for the

**D** *a tempo*

*mp*

54

T  
8 ten - der grace With thy

B  
ten - der grace That with thy glo - ry

59

T  
8 glo - ry comes to cheer Earth's dark - est

B  
comes to cheer Earth's lone - li - est, dark - est

63

A *Alto mf*

T  
8 place; For by that char - i - ty we

B  
place; For by that char - i - ty we

68 *Soprano mf* *f*

S Where there is hope for all, for

A see Where there is hope for all, for

T see Where there is hope for all, for

B see Where there is hope for all, is hope for

*f*

72 *poco rit.* **E** *a tempo* *p*

all and me.

all and me.

all and me.

all and me.

*p*

*poco rit.* **E** *a tempo* *mp*



77 Trumpet

Tpt. *mf*

81

Tpt.

85 *poco rit.* **F** *a tempo*

Tpt. *f* *mf*

S  
A

*unis. f*

Star of the East! show us the

T  
B

*unis. f*

Star of the East! show us the

*poco rit.* **F** *a tempo*

*mf*

89

Tpt. *mf legato sempre*

Children's Chorus *\*mf legato sempre*

'Tis now ful - filled what God de - creed,

S  
A way In wis - dom un - de - filed To

T  
B way In wis - dom un - de - filed To

94

"From Ja - cob

seek that man - ger out and lay Our gifts be -

seek that man - ger out and lay Our gifts be -

99

shall a star proceed;"

fore the child, To bring our

fore the child, To bring our

G

103

And lo! the East - ern sag - es

hearts and of - fer them Un - to our

hearts and of - fer them Un - to our

G

**H** A bit broader than Tempo I (♩ = 80)

107

Tpt. *f*

C.C. *f*  
stand \_\_\_\_\_ To read in heav'n the

S *ff*  
King in \_\_\_\_\_ Beth - le - hem, \_\_\_\_\_ in Beth -

A *ff*  
King \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ Beth - le - hem, \_\_\_\_\_ in Beth -

T *ff*  
King \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ Beth - le - hem, \_\_\_\_\_ in Beth -

B *ff*  
King in Beth - le - hem, \_\_\_\_\_ the King \_\_\_\_\_ in

**H** A bit broader than Tempo I (♩ = 80)

111 *rit.* **Still broader** (♩ = 72) *molto rit.*

Lord's com - mand.

le - hem! O Star, O

le - hem! O Star, O

le - hem! O Star, O Star, O

Beth - le - hem! O Star, O

*rit.* **Still broader** (♩ = 72) *molto rit.*

\* A smaller choir may omit the cue-sized notes.

116 *a tempo* *molto rit.*

*ff*

*f* *ff*

Star, O Star!

*f* *ff*

Star, O Star!

*f* *ff*

Star, O Star!

*f* *ff*

Star, O Star!

*a tempo* *molto rit.*

LH RH LH

*ff*

4:30  
 August 12–25, 2021  
 San Francisco, CA

\* A smaller choir may omit the cue-sized notes.  
 \*\*Cue-sized keyboard notes for piano only.