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

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Star of the East

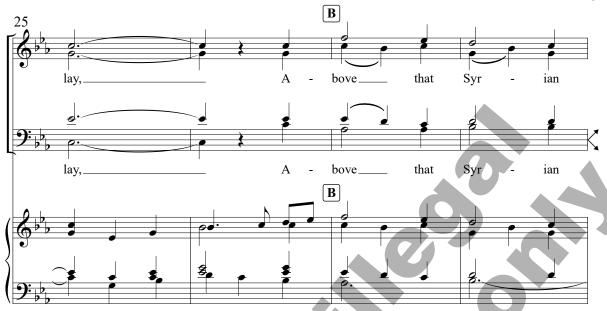
for SATB Chorus and Organ or Piano, with opt. Children's Chorus and Trumpet



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).































^{*} A smaller choir may omit the cue-sized notes.



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