

DIRGE FOR THE SAVIOR

From *"A Christmas Canticle"

Mixed Voices S.A.T.B.

Duration 4 mins.

Text from "A Christmas Antiphony" by
ALGERNON CHARLES SWINBURNE

Music by
JOHN BIGGS
a.s.c.a.p.

Andante sostenuto $\text{♩} = 80$

Tabor (small hand drum)

pp
Finger Cymbals

TENOR

BASS

pp

Thou whose birth on earth

pp

Thou whose birth on earth

Andante sostenuto $\text{♩} = 80$

PIANO

ff

f

mf

Angels sang to men, While thy stars made mirth, Sa-vior at thy birth,—

Angels sang to men, While thy stars made mirth, Sa-vior at thy birth,—

* The three sections of "A Christmas Canticle" are available either as one work or separately.

SOPRANO [A] *pp*

ALTO

God whose heart hath part
pp
 God whose heart hath part

This day born a - gain. *pp*
 God whose heart hath part —

This day born a - gain. *pp*
 God whose heart hath part —

loco *mf*

In all grief that is, Was not man's the dart — That went thru thine heart, —

In all grief that is, Was not man's the dart — That went thru thine heart, —

continue throughout the piece following singer's dynamics.

In all grief that is, — Was not man's the dart That went thru thine heart, —

In all grief that is, — Was not man's the dart That went thru thine heart, —

*Use this pattern in all $\frac{3}{2}$ measures.
 (Percussionists must read from choral score)

And the wound not his? Where the pale souls wail,

And the wound not his? Where the pale souls wail,

And the wound not his? Where the pale souls wail,

And the wound not his? Where the pale souls wail,

loco

p

p (falsetto)

Held in bonds of death, Where all spi - rits_ quail — Came thy God-head pale —

Held in bonds of death, Where all spi - rits_ quail — Came thy God-head pale —

Held in bonds of death, Where all spi - rits_ quail — Came thy God-head pale —

Held in bonds of death, Where all spi - rits_ quail — Came thy God-head pale —

p

C *mf*

Still from hu-man breath. Pale from life and strife,

Still from hu-man breath. Pale from life and strife,

till from hu-man breath. Pale from life and strife,

Still from hu-man breath. Pale from life and strife,

loco

mf

Wan with man-hood came, Faith of mor-tal life Pierced as with a knife,

Wan with man-hood came, Faith of mor-tal life Pierced as with a knife,

Wan with man-hood came, Faith of mor-tal life Pierced as with a knife,

Wan with man-hood came, Faith of mor-tal life Pierced as with a knife,

(*mf*)

Scarred as with a flame. Thou the Word and Lord

Scarred as with a flame. Thou the Word and Lord

Scarred as with a flame. Thou the Word and Lord

Scarred as with a flame. Thou the Word and Lord

loco

loco

In all time and space, Heard, be-held, a-dored With all a-ges poured

In all time and space, Heard, be-held, a-dored With all a-ges poured

In all time and space, Heard, be-held, a-dored With all a-ges poured

In all time and space, Heard, be-held, a-dored With all a-ges poured

Forth be-fore thy face. O Lord, what worth on earth

Forth be-fore thy face. O Lord, what worth on earth

Forth be-fore thy face. O Lord, what worth on earth

Forth be-fore thy face. O Lord, what worth on earth

ff E

8

Drew thee down to die, What there-in was worth, Lord, thy death and birth,

Drew thee down to die, What there-in was worth, Lord, thy death and birth,

Drew thee down to die, What there-in was worth, Lord, thy death and birth,

Drew thee down to die, What there-in was worth, Lord, thy death and birth,

ff

vc

8

F

What be-neath the sky? From the height of night,

What be - neath the_ sky? From the_ height of_ night,

What be-neath the sky? From the_ height of_ night,

What be - neath the_ sky? From the height of night,

(ff)

Was not thine the_ star — That led forth with might — By no world-ly light,

Was not_ thine the_ star — That led forth with might_ — By no world-ly light, —

Was not thine the_ star That led forth with might — By no world-ly light,

Was not thine the_ star That led forth with might_ — By no world-ly light, —

p *loco*

Wise men from a - far! Yet the wise men's eyes

Wise men from a - far! Yet the wise men's eyes

Wise men from a - far! Yet the wise men's eyes

Wise men from a - far! Yet the wise men's eyes

loco

f

Saw thee not more clear Than they saw thee rise Who, in shep-herd's guise,

Saw thee not more clear Than they saw thee rise — Who, in shep-herd's guise,

Saw thee not more clear Than they saw thee rise Who, in shep-herd's guise,

Saw thee not more clear Than they saw thee rise — Who, in shep-herd's guise,

Drew as poor men near. Thou whose ways we praise,

Drew as poor men near. Thou whose ways we praise, —

Drew as poor men near. Thou whose ways we praise,

Drew as poor men near. Thou whose ways we praise, —

loco

loco

mf

Clear a-like and dark, Keep our works and ways— This and all thy days—

Clear a-like and dark, Keep our works and ways— This and all thy days—

Clear a-like and dark, Keep our works and ways— This and all thy days—

Clear a-like and dark, Keep our works and ways— This and all thy days—

p

ritard. Safe in - side thine ark. *p a tempo* Light not born with morn -

ritard. Safe in - side thine ark. *p a tempo* Light not born with morn -

ritard. Safe in - side thine ark. *p a tempo* Light not born with morn

ritard. Safe in - side thine ark. *p a tempo* Light not born with morn

rit. *p a tempo*

Or her fires a - bove, - Je - sus, Vir - gin born, Held of men in scorn, -

Or her fires a - bove, - Je - sus, Vir - gin born, Held of men in scorn, -

Or her fires a - bove, Je - sus, Vir - gin born, - Held of men in scorn, -

Or her fires a - bove, Je - sus, Vir - gin born, - Held of men in scorn, -

Turn thy scorn to love. From the grave-deep wave,

Turn thy scorn to love. From the grave-deep wave,

Turn thy scorn to love. From the grave-deep wave,

Turn thy scorn to love. From the grave-deep wave,

sub. *fff*

From the sword and flame, Thou, even thou, shalt save — Souls of king and slave —

From the sword and flame, Thou, even thou, shalt save — Souls of king and slave —

From the sword and flame, Thou, even thou, shalt save — Souls of king and slave —

From the sword and flame, Thou, even thou, shalt save — Souls of king and slave —

On-ly by Thy name. [K] *fp* >
 Bid _____

On-ly by Thy name. *mf*
 Bid our peace in-crease,

On-ly by Thy name. *fp* >
 Bid _____

On-ly by Thy name. *mf*
 Bid our peace in-crease,

loco

fp > Bid _____ *mf*
 Bid op-press-ions cease; _____

Thou that mad-est-morn; *fp* >
 Bid _____

fp > Bid _____ *mf*
 Bid op-press-ions cease; _____

Thou that mad-est-morn; *fp* >
 Bid _____

(*p*) *pp*

* Percussion uses this pattern until the downbeat of $\frac{3}{2}$ bar.

p rallentando

Bid the night be peace; — Bid — Bid op-pressions cease;

fp *p rallentando*

Bid — Bid the night be peace; Bid —

p rallentando

Bid the night be peace; — Bid — Bid op-pressions cease;

fp *rallentando*

Bid — Bid the night be peace; Bid —

rallentando

rallentando

pp *morendo*

Bid the day be — born.

pp *morendo*

Bid the day — be — born.

(Percussion out after first beat)

pp *morendo*

Bid the day be — born.

pp *morendo*

Bid the day be — born.

(pp) *morendo*