

Light of the World

Perusal Score

Not for performance

AJ Harbison

This is a perusal score only.
For performance materials, please send a request to store@ajharbison.com.
Thank you for your interest in my music!

Program Notes

This Christmas carol was composed for the 2009 American Composers Forum/VocalEssence Welcome Christmas Carol Contest, with text written by the composer's brother, Mark Harbison. The text describes various appearances of light in the Christmas story (the light of the archangel Gabriel appearing to Mary, the light of the angels appearing to the shepherds, the star that appears to the Magi, and ultimately the light of the open tomb of the Resurrection), and the music seeks to portray light through the bright chords written for the chorus.

Performance Notes

The dynamics above the staff apply to the chorus as a whole.

The form of the piece, as notated, should be:
Verse 1, Verse 2, Refrain, Verse 3, Verse 4, Refrain.

Duration

ca. 3 minutes

Light of the World

by Mark Harbison

Overwhelming, all-encompassing light:
The archangel who frightens Mary, meek and mild,
But proclaims, "Behold! The impossible happens tonight!
The savior of all shall be born unto you as a child!"

Overwhelming, all-encompassing light:
The angels of heaven who cause the shepherds' fears,
Who announce the grace of the God who will banish the night
And answer all Israel's prayers in the fullness of years.

God said, "Let there be light!"
And true light from true light was born;
The light of the angels rejoicing at night,
The light of a star, resplendent and bright;
The light of the world has come on this glorious morn!

Overwhelming, all-encompassing light:
A star in the East that leads wise men on their way
To a lowly babe, as they bring him their gifts shining bright;
The Magi bring praise to the King who will save them one day.

Overwhelming, all-encompassing light:
A crack in the wall as the stone is rolled away;
Light now floods the tomb as the darkness flees his risen might,
The light of the world brings salvation to all on this day!

God said, "Let there be light!"
And true light from true light was born;
The light of the angels rejoicing at night,
The light of a star, resplendent and bright;
The light of the world has come on this glorious morn!

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Light of the World

Mark Harbison (2009)

A Christmas Carol

AJ Harbison (2009)

Andante con moto ♩. = 58

p *f* *mp*

Soprano Alto

1. O - ver - whel - ming, all - en - com - pass - ing light: _____ The
 2. O - ver - whel - ming, all - en - com - pass - ing light: _____ The
 3. O - ver - whel - ming, all - en - com - pass - ing light: _____ A
 4. O - ver - whel - ming, all - en - com - pass - ing light: _____ A

Tenor Bass

5

arch - an - gel who fright - ens Mar - y, meek and mild _____
 an - gels of heav - en who cause the shep - herds' fears _____
 star in the East that leads wise men on their way _____
 crack in the wall as the stone is rolled a - way _____

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY

8

mf *f* *mf* *p*

But pro - claims, "Be - hold! The im - pos - si - ble hap - pens to - night! The
 Who an - nounce the grace of the God who will ban - ish the night And
 To a low - ly babe as they bring him their gifts shin - ing bright The
 Light now floods the tomb as the dark - ness flees his ris - en might The

12

mp *mf* *p* *p*

sav - ior of all shall be born un - to you as a child!" _____
 an - swer all Is - ra - el's prayers in the full - ness of _____ years.
 Ma - gi bring praise to the King who will save them one day. _____
 light of the world brings sal - va - tion to all on this _____ day.

17 *f* *ff* *mf*

Refrain. God said, "Let there be light!"— And true light from true light was born The

23

light of the an - gels re - joic - ing at night— The

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY

26 *f* *mf*

light of a star, re - splend - ent and bright— The

D.C. (to verses 3 and 4)

29 *f*

light of the world has come on this glo - ri - ous morn!