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!

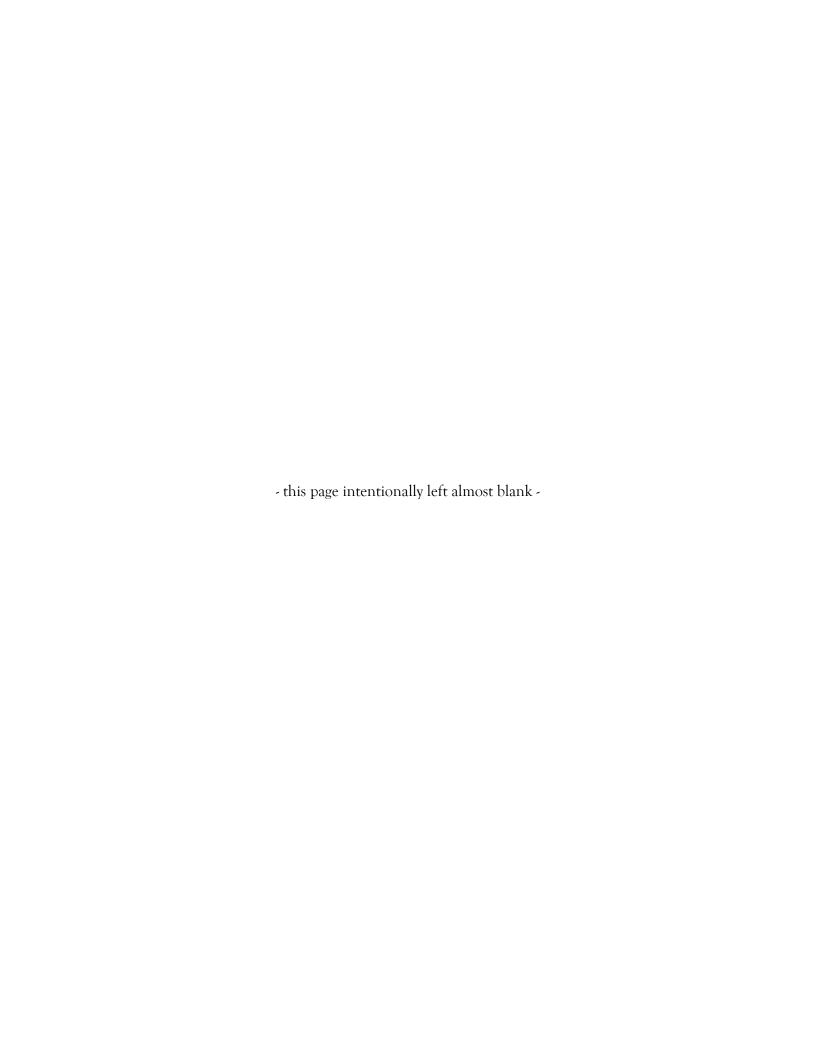
God said, "Let there be light!"

And true light from true light was born;

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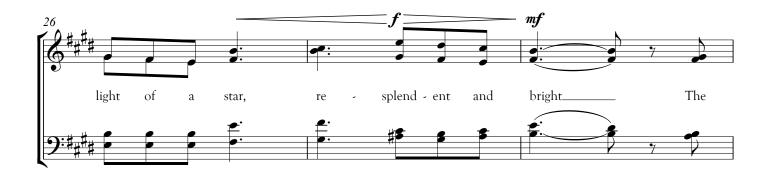


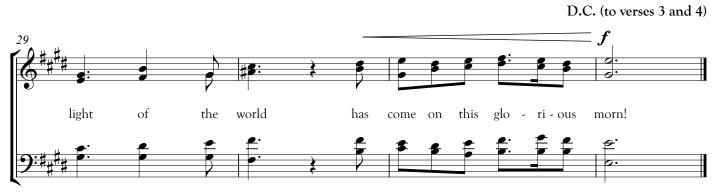






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Costa Mesa, CA