

Sure On This Shining Night
SATB, Secular

Morten Lauridsen

Morten Lauridsen
*Sure On This
Shining Night*
(James Agee)

from *Nocturnes*
SATB and piano

Sure On This Shining Night

Sure on this shining night
Of starmade shadows round,
Kindness must watch for me
This side the ground.

The late year lies down the north.
All is healed, all is health.
High summer holds the earth.
Hearts all whole.

Sure on this shining night
I weep for wonder
Wand'ring far alone
Of shadows on the stars.

—James Agee

Copyright © 1968 by The James Agee Trust.

From *Nocturnes*, The American Choral Directors Association
2005 Raymond W. Brock Memorial Commission

Premiere performance of the *Nocturnes* at the 2005 ACDA National Convention by the
Donald Brinegar Singers and Morten Lauridsen, piano

I originally composed *Sure On This Shining Night* as the third movement for my choral cycle *Nocturnes* on poems by Rilke, Neruda and Agee. I set the verse very much like a song from the American musical theater stage and it should be sung in that manner. The first three *Nocturnes*—*Sa Nuit d'Été* (R.M. Rilke), *Soneto de la Noche* (Pablo Neruda) and *Sure On This Shining Night*—may be performed either separately or as a cycle (in that order and including the *Epilogue*). The *Epilogue: Voici le soir*, is only to be performed if the entire cycle is done, following *Sure On This Shining Night*. In that case, the final chord of *Sure On This Shining Night* is held with a fermata and then the chorus begins the *Epilogue* without a break between these two movements.

In addition to the original SATB/piano and TTBB/piano versions, *Sure On This Shining Night* is also available as a duet for soprano/mezzo-soprano and tenor/baritone with piano and as a solo song for baritone and piano combined with Dana Gioia's "Prayer," published by Peermusic as "Two Songs on American Poems." The complete *Nocturnes* are recorded on *Sure On This Shining Night - Voce Sings Lauridsen* and on *Lauridsen - Mid-Winter Songs* by The Singers - Minnesota Choral Artists, both accompanied by the composer at the piano.

—Morten Lauridsen

The music of Morten Lauridsen, Distinguished Professor of Composition at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, occupies a permanent place in the standard vocal repertoire of the Twenty-First Century. He was Composer-in-Residence of the Los Angeles Master Chorale from 1994-2001 and is currently Honorary Artistic President of INTERKULTUR/World Choir Games. His works, including eight vocal cycles and a series of sacred motets, are regularly performed throughout the world and have been recorded on over 200 CDs, several of which have received Grammy nominations. An award-winning documentary by filmmaker Michael Stillwater, *Shining Night: A Portrait of Composer Morten Lauridsen*, was released in 2012. Information about the film is at songwithoutborders.net.

Named an "American Choral Master" by the National Endowment for the Arts in 2005, he was awarded the 2007 National Medal of Arts, the highest artistic award in the United States, by the President in a White House ceremony "for his composition of radiant choral works combining musical beauty, power, and spiritual depth."

For more about Morten Lauridsen:
www.peermusicClassical.com
www.mortenlauridsen.net

Sure On This Shining Night

James Agee

Morten Lauridsen

Flowing, tempo rubato (♩ = ca. 72) *poco rit.* a tempo

Piano *p* *espressivo*

4 *rit.* a tempo *mp*

T Sure on this shin - ing

B Sure on this shin - ing

7 *poco rit.* *

night of star-made shad-ows round, kind-ness must watch for me this side—the ground, on this

night of star-made shad-ows round, kind-ness must watch for me this side—the ground, on this *poco rit.*

*Omit if the low As are out of range.

Poem Copyright © 1968 by The James Agee Trust.
Used by Permission.

10 **a tempo** *rit.* **a tempo**

shin - - - ing night, this shin - - -

shin - - - ing night, this shin - - -

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.*

13 *rit.* **a tempo** *rit.*

- ing night.

- ing night.

rit. **a tempo** *rit.*

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.*

16 **B** **a tempo** *mp*

Sure on this shin-ing night of star-made shad-ows round, kind-ness must watch for me this

Sure on this shin-ing night of star-made shad-ows round, kind-ness must watch for me this

Sure on this shin-ing night, sure on this shin - - - ing -

Sure on this shin-ing

mp

B **a tempo**

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.*

19

side the ground, on this shin - - - - - ing night, this

side the ground, on this shin - - - - - ing night, this

night, sure on this shin-ing night, this

night, sure on this shin - - - - - ing night, this

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.*

rit.

22

shin - - - - - ing night.

shin - - - - - ing night.

shin - - - - - ing night.

shin - - - - - ing night.

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *mp* *Ped.*

a tempo *molto rit.* *a tempo*

a tempo *molto rit.* *a tempo*

C *C*

*Omit if the low As are out of range.

25

T *mp* The late year lies—

B *mp* The late year lies—

Ped.

28

(no breath)

down the north, All— is healed, all— is health. High

down the north, All— is healed, all— is health. High

Ped.

31

S *mp* The late year lies— down the north, All— is

A *mp* The late year lies— down the north, All— is

T sum-mer holds the earth— Hearts all whole. All— is healed,—

B sum-mer holds the earth— Hearts all whole. All— is healed,—

Ped.

34 (no breath) *mf*

healed, all is health. High sum-mer holds the earth. Hearts all

healed, all is health. High sum-mer holds the earth. Hearts all

all is health, all is health. High sum-mer holds the earth. Hearts all

all is health, all is health. High sum-mer holds the earth. Hearts all

mf

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

37 *meno mosso rit. a tempo f*

whole. Sure on this shin - ing night, sure on this shin - ing,

whole. Sure on this shin - ing night, sure on this

whole. Sure on this shin - ing night, sure on this

whole. Sure on this shin - ing night, sure on this

meno mosso rit. a tempo f

Ped. Ped.

40

rit. ***ff*** **a tempo**

shin - - ing night, — sure on this shin - -

shin - - ing night, sure on this shin - -

shin - - ing night, sure on this shin - -

shin - - ing night, sure on this shin - -

rit. ***ff*** **a tempo**

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

43

rit. ***mp*** **a tempo** ***p***

- ing night. I weep for won-der wan-d'ring far a - lone of

- ing night. I weep a - lone of

- ing night. I weep for won-der wan-d'ring far a - lone of

- ing night. I weep a - lone of

rit. ***mp*** **a tempo** ***p***

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

46

meno mosso rit. **E** *molto rit. molto lunga* **Molto meno mosso, with a sense of wonder** *ppp hushed*

shad - ows on the stars. Sure on this

shad - ows on the stars. Sure on this

shad - ows on the stars. Sure on this

shad - ows on the stars. Sure on this shin-ing

meno mosso rit. **E** *molto rit. molto lunga (no break)* **Molto meno mosso, with a sense of wonder** *ppp*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

49

shin-ing night, this shin - - - ing night, on this

ppp hushed Sure on this shin - - - ing night, on this

ppp hushed Sure on this shin-ing night, on this

night of star-made shadows round, kind - ness must watch for me this side the ground, on this

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

*Omit if the low As are out of range.

52

shin - - - ing night, this shin - -

shin - - - ing night, this shin - -

shin - - - ing night, this shin - -

shin - - - ing night, this shin - -

56

rit. **F** *Meno mosso*

- - - ing night,

- - - ing night,

- - - ing night,

- - - ing night,

rit. **F** *Meno mosso*

p

Ped. Ped.

59 **meno mosso** *rit.* **molto meno mosso**
p
 sure on this shin - ing
p
 sure on this shin - ing
p
 sure on this shin - ing
p
 sure on this shin - ing

meno mosso *rit.* **molto meno mosso**

ped.

62 **Tempo I** *rit.* **molto rit.** *lunga*

night.
 night.
 night.
 night.

Tempo I *rit.* **molto rit.** *lunga*

mp *p*

ped. *ped.* *ped.* *arco*

(for Jama)
 (ca. 4'45")

**The Vocal Music of
Morten Lauridsen**

<i>A Backyard Universe (Witt)</i>	Tenor and Piano
<i>Agnus Dei (from Lux Aeterna)</i>	SATB Chorus and Organ
<i>Ave Maria</i>	SATB Chorus a cappella
<i>Ave Dulcissima Maria</i>	TTBB Chorus a cappella
<i>Be Still, My Soul, Be Still (Housman)</i>	High Voice, Clarinet, Cello and Piano
<i>Canticle/O Vos Omnes (antiphon)</i>	Women's Voices, Chimes and Clarinet
<i>Les Chansons des Roses (Rilke)</i>	SATB Chorus and Piano
<i>Chanson Éloignée (Rilke)</i>	SATB Chorus a cappella
<i>Cuatro Canciones (Lorca)</i>	High Voice, Clarinet, Cello and Piano
<i>Dirait-on (Rilke)</i>	SATB Chorus and Piano
.....	TTBB or SSAA Chorus and Piano
.....	High or Medium Voice and Piano
.....	Mixed Duet (High or Medium Voices) and Piano
.....	High Voice and Guitar
<i>I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes</i>	SATB Chorus a cappella
<i>Lux Aeterna</i>	SATB Chorus and Chamber Orchestra or Organ (orchestral parts available on rental)
<i>Madrigali: Six "Firesongs" on Italian Renaissance Poems</i>	SATB Chorus a cappella
<i>Mid-Winter Songs on Poems by Robert Graves</i>	SATB Chorus and Orchestra (Piano/Vocal Score Available from Opus Music Publishers, Inc.)
<i>Nocturnes (Rilke, Neruda, Agee)</i>	SATB Chorus and Piano
<i>O Come, Let Us Sing Unto the Lord</i>	SATB Chorus and Organ, Brass Quintet or Piano
<i>O Magnum Mysterium</i>	SATB or TTBB Chorus a cappella Medium Voice and Piano or Organ
<i>O Nata Lux (from Lux Aeterna)</i>	SATB Chorus a cappella
<i>Prayer (Gioia)</i>	SATB Chorus and Piano
.....	Mixed Duet (High or Medium Voices) and Piano
<i>Prayer (Gioia, from Two Songs on American Poems)</i>	Baritone and Piano
.....	Mixed Duet (Medium Voices) and Piano
<i>Sure On This Shining Night (Agee)</i>	SATB Chorus and Piano
.....	TTBB Chorus and Piano
.....	Medium Voice and Piano
.....	Mixed Duet (Medium Voices) and Piano
<i>Sure On This Shining Night (Agee, from Two Songs on American Poems)</i>	Baritone and Piano
<i>Ubi Caritas et Amor</i>	SATB Chorus a cappella
<i>Where Have the Actors Gone (Lauridsen)</i>	Voice and Piano
.....	SATB Chorus and Piano
.....	Jazz Chorus a cappella
<i>A Winter Come (Moss)</i>	Medium Voice and Piano

All - Morten Lauridsen Recordings

"Lauridsen: Lux Aeterna," Los Angeles Master Chorale, Sinfonia Orchestra and Morten Lauridsen (piano), Paul Salamunovich conducting, on the Grammy-nominated RCM CD 19705

"Lauridsen: Nocturnes," Polyphony, Britten Sinfonia, Andrew Lumsden (organ) and Morten Lauridsen (piano), Stephen Layton conducting, on Hyperion CD 67580

"Lauridsen: Lux Aeterna," Polyphony, Britten Sinfonia, Stephen Layton conducting, on the Grammy-nominated Hyperion CD 67449

"Lauridsen: O Magnum Mysterium," Chamber Choir of Europe, Jörg Halubek (organ) and Morten Lauridsen (piano), Nicol Matt conducting, on Hänssler Classic CD 98272

"Lauridsen: Northwest Journey," Donald Brinegar Singers and the Viklarbo Chamber Ensemble with Ralph Grierson, Jane Thorngren, Sunny Wilkinson, Shelly Berg, James Drollinger, Anne Marie Ketchum and Morten Lauridsen on RCM 12001

"Sure On This Shining Night," Voce and the Voce Chamber Artists, Mark Singleton conducting, voceinc.org

"Lauridsen - Mid-Winter Songs," The Singers - Minnesota Choral Artists, Matthew Culloton conducting, singersmca.org

U.S. \$1.90



6 80160 49592 4

HL00229069

peermusic
CLASSICAL NEW YORK · HAMBURG

EXCLUSIVELY DISTRIBUTED BY
HAL·LEONARD
CORPORATION
7777 W. BLUEMOUND RD., P.O. BOX 13819 MILWAUKEE, WI 53213