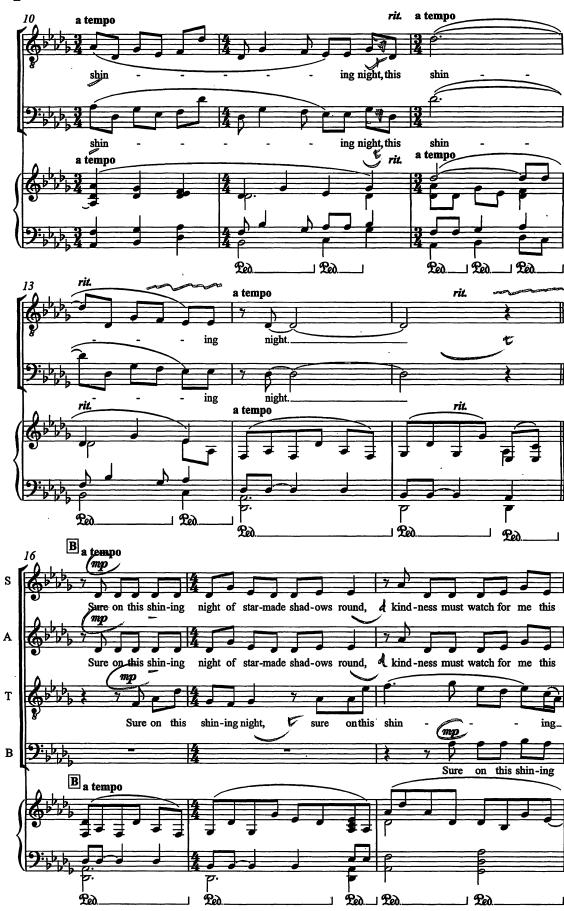
Sure On This Shining Night



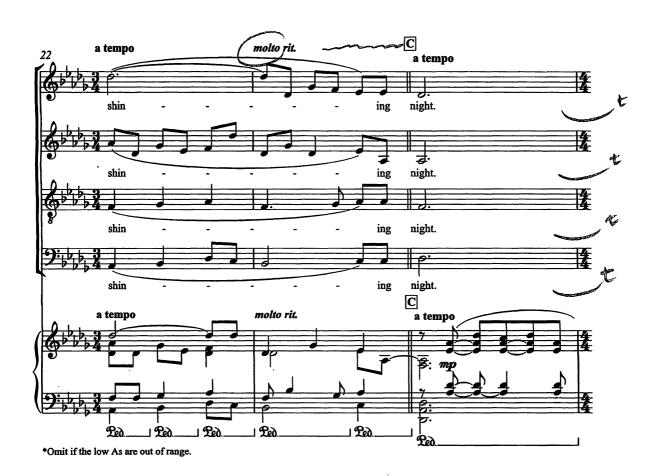
*Omit if the low As are out of range.

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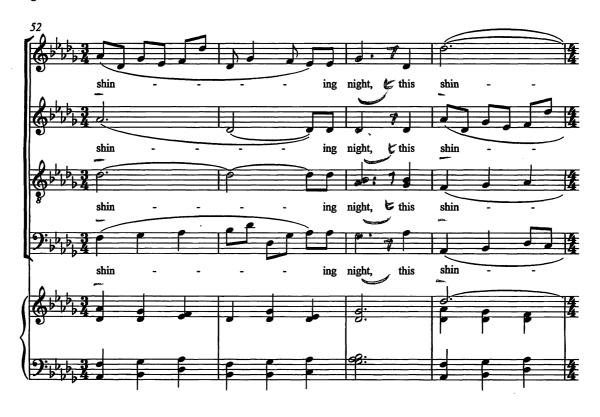
















Sure On This Shining Night

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

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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