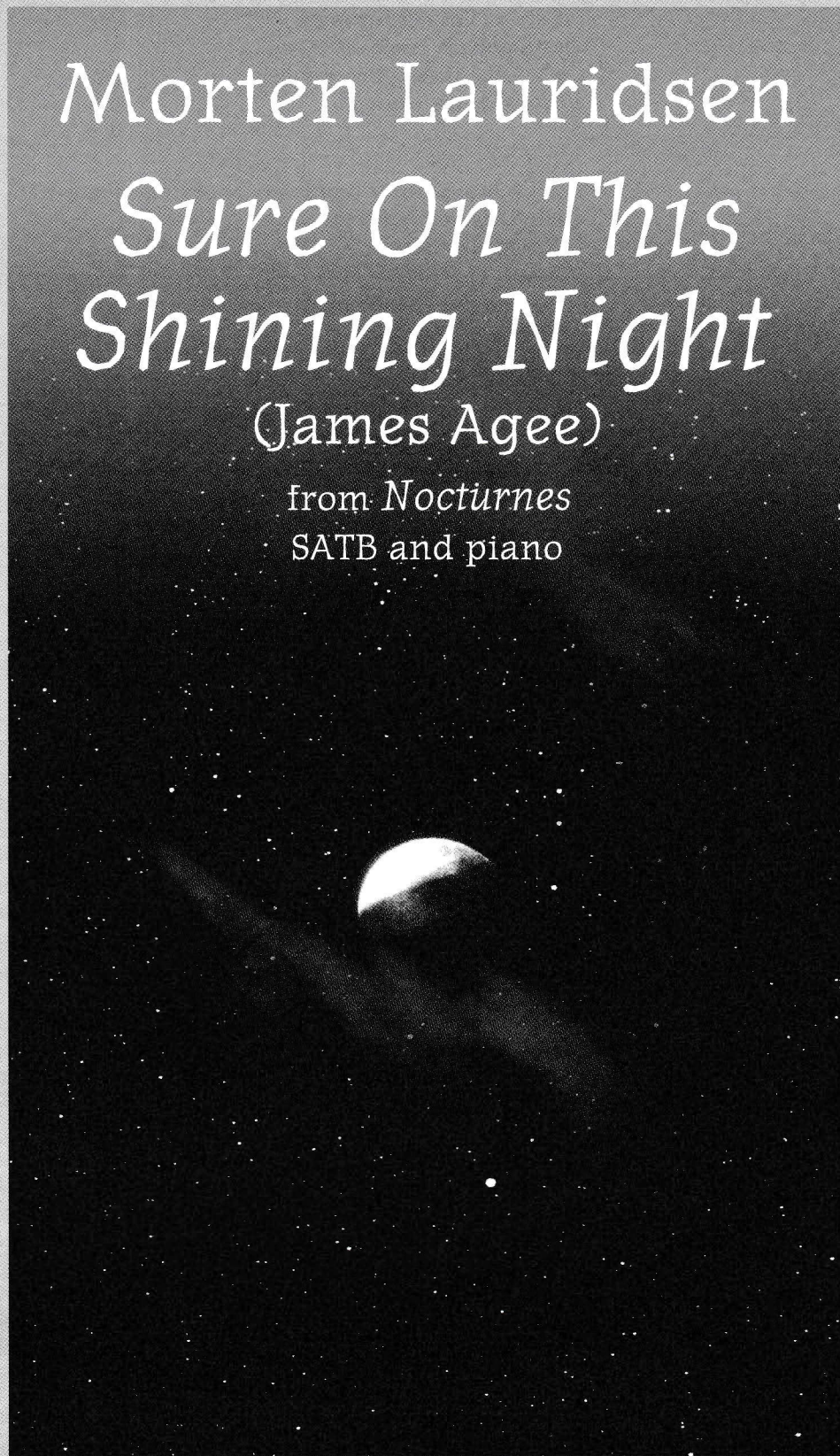


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Morten Lauridsen
*Sure On This
Shining Night*
(James Agee)

from *Nocturnes*
SATB and piano



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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 ACDA Los Angeles National Convention,
February, 2005 by the Donald Brinegar Singers and Morten Lauridsen, piano

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*, premiered by the Los Angeles Master Chorale at Walt Disney Concert Hall conducted by Grant Gershon with the composer at the piano, 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. I set poet James Agee's marvelous verse very much like a song from the American musical theater and it should be sung in that manner.

Composer Morten Lauridsen is most noted for his seven vocal cycles—*Les Chansons des Roses*, *Madrigali*, *Mid-Winter Songs*, *Cuatro Canciones*, *A Winter Come*, *Nocturnes*, and *Lux Aeterna*—and his series of a cappella motets (including *O Magnum Mysterium* and *O Nata Lux*) which are regularly performed and recorded by distinguished ensembles and vocal artists throughout the world. The first three *Nocturnes* have been recorded by Polyphony, conducted by Stephen Layton, on *Lauridsen – Nocturnes* (Hyperion); the entire cycle is recorded by Voce, on *Sure On This Shining Night* (available at voceinc.com) and *Lauridsen – Mid-Winter Songs* by The Singers – Minnesota Choral Artists. All three recordings are accompanied by the composer at the piano. Designated an “American Choral Master” by the National Endowment for the Arts in 2006, Mr. Lauridsen (b. 1943) is Distinguished Professor of Composition at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music and served as Composer-in-Residence of the Los Angeles Master Chorale from 1994 to 2001. In 2007, Lauridsen was awarded the National Medal of Arts for his “radiant choral works combining musical power, beauty and spiritual depth that have thrilled audiences worldwide.”

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

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 *mp* Sure on this shin - ing

A *a tempo*

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.

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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.

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

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

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

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

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

B Sure on this shin-ing

B *a tempo*

mp *mp* *mp* *mp*

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

19

rit.

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

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

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

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

rit.

Ped. Ped. Ped.

22

a tempo *molto rit.* **C** *a tempo*

shin — — — ing night.

shin — — — ing night.

8 shin — — — ing night.

shin — — — ing night.

a tempo *molto rit.* **C** *a tempo*

mp

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

*Omit if the low As are out of range.

25

T *mp* The late year lies—

B *mp* The late year lies—

Red.

28

(no breath)

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

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

Red.

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,—

Red.

34

(no breath)

mf

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

mf

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

mf

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

mf

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

mf

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

37

meno mosso *rit.* **D** *a tempo*

f

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

f

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

f

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

f

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

D *a tempo*

f

Ped. _____ Ped.

43

The musical score is for the song 'The Rose Tree'. It features five staves. The first four staves are vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass) with lyrics. The fifth staff is the piano accompaniment. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The score includes dynamic markings (*mp*, *p*), tempo markings (*rit.*, *a tempo*), and phrasing slurs. The lyrics are: 'ing night. I weep for won-der wan-d'ring far a - lone of'. The piano part includes a 'Ped.' (pedal) marking at the bottom.

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. *a tempo*

mp *p*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

46

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

shad - ows on the stars. Sure on this

shad - ows on the stars.

shad - ows on the stars.

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

meno mosso rit. *molto rit. molto lunga (no break)* **E** *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. 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

sure on this shin - ing

sure on this shin - ing

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.

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

The Vocal Music of Morten Lauridsen

<i>Agnus Dei (from Lux Aeterna)</i>	SATB Chorus and Organ
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<i>Ave Dulcissima Maria</i>	TTBB Chorus a cappella
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<i>Cuatro Canciones (Lorca)</i>	High Voice, Clarinet, Cello and Piano
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.....	TTBB or SSAA Chorus and Piano
.....	High or Medium Voice and Piano
.....	Mixed Duet (High or Medium Voices) and Piano
.....	High Voice and Guitar
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.....	Medium Voice and Piano or Organ
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<i>Sure On This Shining Night (Agee)</i>	SATB Chorus and Piano
.....	TTBB Chorus 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</i>	Voice and Piano
.....	SATB Chorus and Piano
<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

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"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

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