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A Darkness Covers Bethlehem
SATB Choir, Keyboard, Guitar,
Violin, Cello, and Assembly

Joseph Davisson and Kevin Keil/Kate Bluett



*Christmas
Series*

A Darkness Covers Bethlehem

Music by
Joseph Davisson and Kevin Keil

Text by
Kate Bluett

SAMPLE

A Darkness Covers Bethlehem

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Kate Bluett
Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876, alt.

Joseph Davisson and Kevin Keil

INTRO *With grace and mystery* (♩ = ca. 84)

Em Cmaj7 D Bm7 Cmaj7 B7

Keyboard

VERSE 1

Soprano

Alto

Tenor *unison*

Bass

1. A dark - ness cov - ers Beth - le - hem; no stars we see on
 (Alternate text) *It came up - on the mid-night clear, That glo - rious song of*

Em B7 Em Em/D C G/B Am Em/B B7

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unison

1. We search in vain for sight of them, as hope be-gins to
 From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of

1. high.
old,

Em B7 Em B7/D# G/D Em/C# F/C C/F F

1. die. A dis-tant un-on as of war dis-turbs our sleep-less
 gold: "Peace on the earth, good-will to all From heav'n's all gra-cious

1. A dis-tant of war dis-turbs our sleep-less
 "Peace on the earth, good-will to all From heav'n's all gra-cious

Bsus4 B C D Em Am Am/F#

1. night. We whis-per in our hearts ever more, "Come, Lord, and bring us
 King;" The world in sol-enn still-ness lay, To hear the an-gels

Bsus4 B B7 C D Em Em/D Am/C Em/B B7

1. light.”
sing.

Em Cmaj7 D Bm7 Cmaj7 B7

VERSE 2

2. The road we took to be - le - hem was dif - fi - cult and
Still through the clo - ven skies they come, With peace - ful wings un -

Em Em G/D G/B Am Em/B B7

2. long, from our first steps in E - der - glen, when we were whole and
furled, And still their heav'nly mu - floats O'er all the wea - ry

Em Em B7/D# G/D Em/C# F/C

2. strong. _____ We now ap-proach with bro-ken steps and
 world: _____ A - bove its sad and low - ly plains They

2. We now with bro - ken steps and
 A - bove and low - ly plains They

Bsus4 B C D G Cmaj7

2. stum - bling through the night the sta - ble where a
 bend on hov - 'ring wings, And ev - er o'er its

Am Fmaj7 Bsus4 B C D

2. fam - 'ly sleeps worn out in search of light.
 Ba - bel sounds The ble - ed an - gels sing.

rit.

Em Am Em/B B7 Em

rit.

VERSE 3 *Slower, with some rubato*

3. In sor - row through - out Beth - le - hem, we keep our watch and
 And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, Whose forms are bend - ing

3. In sor - row we keep watch and
 And ye whose forms are bend - ing

3. pray. But from the sta - ble comes a gleam of
 low, Who toil a - long the climb - ing way With

3. pray. But from the sta - ble
 low, Who toil a long way,

3. long - a - wait - ed day.
 pain - ful steps and slow,

A ba - by cries, and
 Look now! for glad and

3. long - a - wait - ed day.
 pain - ful steps and slow,

A
 Glad,

3. light shines out to chal - lenge sor - row's night. And
 gold - en hours Come swift - ly on the wing: O

3. light shines out to chal - lenge sor - row's night. And
 gold - en hours Come swift - ly on the wing: O

3. A light shines to chal - lenge sor - row's night. And
 Gold - en hours Come swift - ly on the wing: O

3. light shines out to chal - lenge sor - row's night. And
 gold - en hours Come swift - ly on the wing: O

3. from the skies we hear in praise of new - born
 rest be - side the wea - ry road And hear the an - gels

3. from the skies praise of new - born
 rest be - side, hear the an - gels

a tempo

3. light.
 sing.
a tempo

3. light.
 sing.

Em Cmaj7 D Bm7 Cmaj7 B7

a tempo

W
 R
 N
 A
 S

VERSE 4

unison

4. We jour - ney on from Beth - le - hem; a - bove us — shines a
 For, lo, the days are has-t'ning on, By proph - et — bards fore-

unison

4. We jour - ney on, a - bove us shines a
 For, lo, on, By proph - et bards fore-

Em B7 Em Em/D Cmaj7 G/B Am Em/B B7

4. star. With - in hearts, be -
 told, When wi years Comes

4. star. With - in hearts, an-sw'ring flame be -
 told, When with the - er - cir - cling years Comes

Em B7 Em B7/D# G/D Em/C#

4. gins to fight the dark. We — see our road leads
 'round the age of gold, When — peace shall o - ver

4. gins to fight the dark. We see our road leads —
 'round the age of gold, When peace shall o - ver —

F/C C/F F B sus4 B C D

4. on through gloom; we dare to walk its night for
 all the earth Its an - cient splen - dors fling, And

4. on through gloom; we walk its night for
 all the earth Its splen - dors fling. And

G Em Am Am/F# B sus4 B B7

4. at its end an emp - ty tomb pours forth a flood of light.
 all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

4. at its end an emp - ty tomb pours forth a flood of light.
 all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

C D Em Am Em/B B7 E

A Darkness Covers Bethlehem

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

(Guitar/Vocal)

Kate Bluett

Joseph Davisson and Kevin Keil

Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876, alt.

INTRO *With grace and mystery* (♩ = ca. 84)

Em Cmaj7 D Bm7 Cmaj7 B7

(Kbd)

VERSE 1

Em B7 Em Em/D Cmaj7 G/B Am Em/B B7

1. A dark - ness cov - ers Beth - le - hem; — no stars we — see on
 (Alternate text) *It came up - on the mid-night clear, — That glo - rious — song of*

Em B7 Em B7/D# G/D Em/C# F/C C/F F

1. high. We search in vain for sight of them, — as hope be - gins to
 old, From an - gels bend - ing near the earth — To touch their harps of

Bsus4 B C D G Em Am Am/F#

1. die. — A dis - tant thun - der as of war — dis - turbs our sleep - less
 gold: — “Peace on the earth, good - will to all — From heav’n’s all gra - cious

Bsus4 B B7 C D G Em Em/D Am/C Em/B B7

1. night. — We whis - per in our hearts once more, — “Come, Lord, and — bring us
 King;” — The world in sol - emn still - ness lay, — To hear the — an - gels

VERSE 2

Em Cmaj7 D Bm7 Cmaj7 B7 Em Em G/D

1. light.” —
 sing. —

2. The road we took to
Still through the clo - ven



2. Beth - le - hem___ was dif - fi - cult and long, from our first steps in
 skies they come,___ With peace - ful___ wings un - furled, And still their heav'n - ly



2. E - den's glen,___ when we were whole and strong.___ We now ap - proach with___
 mu - sic floats___ O'er all the vea - ry world:___ A - bove its sad and___

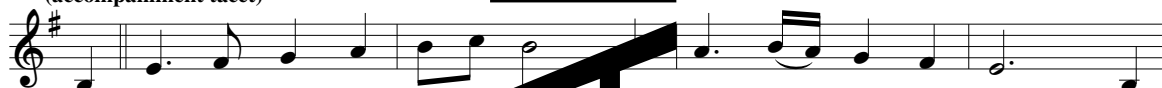


2. bro - ken steps___ and stu - pid___ through the night,___ the
 low - ly plains___ They bend on hov - 'ring wing,___ And



2. sta - ble where a fam - 'ly slept worn out in___ search of light.
 ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds The bless - ed___ an - gels sing.

VERSE 3 *Slower, with some rubato*
 (accompaniment tacet)



3. In sor - row through - out Beth - le - hem, we keep our___ watch and pray. But
 And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing toils, whose forms are___ bend - ing low, Who



3. from the sta - ble comes a glo - ri - ous___ long - a - wait - ed day. A
 toil a - long the climb - ing way With pain - ful steps and slow, Look



3. ba - by cries, and___ light shines out to chal - lenge sor - row's night. And
 now! for glad and___ gold - en hours Come swift - ly on___ the wing: O

(accompaniment resumes:) Em Cmaj7
a tempo

3. from the skies we hear a shout in praise of new-born light.
rest be-side the wea-ry road And hear the an-gels sing.

VERSE 4

D Bm7 Cmaj7 B7 Em B7 Em Em/D
4. We jour-ney on from
For, lo, the days are

Cmaj7 G/B Am Em/B B7 Em B7
4. Beth-le-hem; a-bove us shines a star. With-
has-t'ning on, By pre-et-bards fore-told, When

Em B7/D# G/D Em/C# F/C C/F F
4. in our hearts, an an-swer flame be-gins to fight the
with the ev-er-cir-cling yes. Comes 'round the age of

Bsus4 B C D G Em
4. dark. We see our end leads on through gloom; we
gold, When peace shall o-ver all the earth Its

Am Am/F# Bsus4 B B7 C D
4. dare to walk its night for at its end an
an-cient splen-dors fling, And all the world give

Em Am Em/B B7 E
rit. // *Freely* *rit.*
4. emp-ty tomb pours forth a flood of light.
back the song Which now the an-gels sing.

A Darkness Covers Bethlehem

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

VIOLIN

Joseph Davisson and Kevin Keil

INTRO *With grace and mystery* (♩ = ca. 84)

VERSE 1

The musical score is written for violin in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of five verses and an introduction. The introduction is marked 'With grace and mystery' with a tempo of approximately 84 beats per minute. Verse 1 begins with a triplet of eighth notes. Verse 2 includes a nine-measure rest, a pizzicato triplet, a two-measure rest, and an arco ritardando section. Verse 3 is marked 'Slower, with some rubato' and 'a tempo', featuring a fifteen-measure rest and a triplet. Verse 4 includes three-measure rests, arco and pizzicato markings, and a triplet. The final section is marked 'arco', 'Freely', and 'rit.', ending with a double bar line.

A Darkness Covers Bethlehem

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

CELLO

Joseph Davisson and Kevin Keil

INTRO *With grace and mystery* (♩ = ca. 84)

VERSE 1

VERSE 2

8

VERSE 3 *Slower, with some rubato*

15

a tempo

VERSE 4

3

3

pizz. #2

3

Assembly Edition

A DARKNESS COVERS BETHLEHEM

Joseph Davisson and Kevin Keil

1. A dark - ness cov - ers Beth - le - hem; no
 2. The road we took to Beth - le - hem was
 3. In sor - row through - out Beth - le - hem, we
 4. We jour - ney on from Beth - le - hem; a -

1. stars we see on high. We search in vain for
 2. dif - fi - cult and long, from our first steps in
 3. keep our watch and pray. But from the sta - ble
 4. above us shines a star. When - in our hearts, an

1. sight of them, as hope be - gins to die. A
 2. E - den's glen, when we were whole and strong. We
 3. comes a gleam of long a - wait - ed day. A
 4. an - sw'ring flame be gins to fight the dark. We

1. dis - tant thun - der of war dis -
 2. now ap - proach with bro - ken steps and
 3. ba - by cries, and light shines out to
 4. see our road leads through gloom; we

1. turbs our sleep - less night. We whis - per in our
 2. stum - bling through the night the sta - ble where a
 3. chal - lenge sor - row's night. And from the skies we
 4. dare to walk through night for at its end an

1. hearts once more, "Come here, and bring us light."
 2. fam - 'ly sleeps worn out in search of light.
 3. hear a shout in praise of new - born light.
 4. emp - ty tomb pours forth a flood of light.

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Assembly Edition

A DARKNESS COVERS BETHLEHEM *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

Joseph Davisson and Kevin Keil

1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, That
 2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, With
 3. And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, Whose
 4. For, lo, the days a - gain be - gin, By

1. glo - rious song of old, From an - gels bend - ing
 2. peace - ful wings un - furled, And still their heav'n - ly
 3. forms are bend - ing low, Whose toil a - long the
 4. proph - et bards fore - told, Who with the ev - er -

1. near the earth To touch their harps of
 2. mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry
 3. climb - ing way With pain - ful steps and
 4. cir - cling years Comes 'round the age of

1. gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to all From
 2. world: A - bove its sad and low - ly plains They
 3. slow, Look now! for glad and gold - en hours Come
 4. gold, When peace shall e - ver all the earth Its

1. heav'n's all gra - cious King The world in sol - emn
 2. bend on hov - 'ring wing And ev - er o'er its
 3. swift - ly on - ward wing O rest be - side the
 4. an - cient splen - dors And all the world give

1. still - ness lay, To hear the an - gels sing.
 2. Ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.
 3. wea - ry road And hear the an - gels sing.
 4. back the song Which the an - gels sing.

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