

ABOVE THE WEARY WAITING WORLD

BLISS WILLIAM CARMAN
(1861–1929)

KIM ANDRÉ ARNESEN
(b 1980)

$\text{♩} = 86$

SOPRANO
ALTO

TENOR
BASS

PIANO

$\text{♩} = 86$
mp
con sord

4

SA unis
mp

A - bove the wea - ry wait - ing world, A - sleep _____ in

8

chill de - spair, There breaks a sound of joy - ous bells Up -

11

S *mf*
- on the frost - ed air. And o'er the

A *mf*
- on the frost - ed air. And o'er the

mf

15

mp
hum - blest roof - tree, lo, A

mp
hum - blest roof - tree, lo, A

mp

19

star is danc - ing on the snow.

star is danc - ing on the snow.

mp

22

S

A

T *mf*

B *mf*

What makes the yel - low star to

What makes the yel - low star to

mf

26

mf

ah.

dance Up - on the brink of night? What

dance Up - on the brink of night? What

ah

ah

8 makes the break-ing dawn to glow So ma - gi - c'ly

makes the break-ing dawn to glow So ma - gi - c'ly

32 *sost* *f*

And all the earth, all the earth to

f

And all the earth, the earth to

f

bright, - And all the earth, the earth to

f

bright, - And all the earth, the earth to

sost *f*

36

re - newed *mf*

be re - newed, re - newed *mf*

be re - newed *mf*

8 be re - newed *mf* With in - fi - nite be -

be re - newed *mf*

40

p *mp*

ah *mp*

p *mp*

ah *p*

8 - a - ti - tude? *mp*

44

ah

ah

poco rit

meno mosso

a tempo

48

p

The sing-ing bells, the throb - bing

p

The sing-ing bells, the throb - bing

p

The sing-ing bells, the throb - bing

p

The sing-ing bells, the throb - bing

meno mosso

a tempo

p

mp

p

52

star, The sun - beams on the snow, And the a - wake - ning heart that

star, The sun - beams on the snow, And the a - wake - ning heart that

star, The sun - beams on the snow, And the a - wake - ning heart that

star, The sun - beams on the snow, And the a - wake - ning heart that

sost

56

leaps New ec - sta - sy to know, - They

leaps New ec - sta - sy to know, - They

leaps New ec - sta - sy to know, - They

leaps New ec - sta - sy to know, - They

sost

59

f
all are danc - ing, are danc - ing in the

f
all are danc - ing, are danc - ing the

f
all are danc - ing, are danc - ing, the

f
all are danc - ing, are danc - ing, the

sost

63

morn Be - cause a lit - tle child is

morn Be - cause a lit - tle child is

morn Be - cause a lit - tle child is

morn Be - cause a lit - tle child is

sost

67 *ff* born, *ah* *ah* *ah*

ff born. *ah* *ah*

ff born. *ah*

ff born. *ah*

70 *mp* Be - cause a

mp

mp

mp

mp

74 *p* **poco rit**

lit - tle child is born,

p *mp* **poco rit**

78 **meno mosso** **rit** *Solo* *p*

Be - cause a lit - tle child is born.

meno mosso **rit** *pp*

8.1

★Alternatively octave lower for alto or tenor solo (using falsetto as necessary).

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Composer's note

Setting music to either very familiar Christmas poetry or more unknown or new poetry can be just as rewarding, but there is something special about finding an lesser-known beautiful poem. *Above the weary waiting world* (or 'Christmas Song', which is the original title of the poem) is one of those. To my surprise, few musical settings exist of this poem, and hopefully my setting of it can give it the attention it deserves. The author uses beautiful imagery which lends itself well to music and feels lovely to sing. I wanted to capture the hopefulness in its message by writing a piece that should not be too slow or sound like a ballad, so special attention to the tempo and energy is important, and at the same time making sure that it's not rushed.

Duration: c5 minutes

Text

Above the weary waiting world,
Asleep in chill despair,
There breaks a sound of joyous bells
Upon the frosted air.
And o'er the humblest rooftree, lo,
A star is dancing on the snow.
What makes the yellow star to dance
Upon the brink of night?
What makes the breaking dawn to glow
So magically bright,—

And all the earth to be renewed
With infinite beatitude?
The singing bells, the throbbing star,
The sunbeams on the snow,
And the awakening heart that leaps
New ecstasy to know,—
They all are dancing in the morn
Because a little child is born.

Bliss William Carman
(1861–1929)

Kim André Arnesen



Arnesen is one of the most frequently performed composers from Norway today. He grew up in Trondheim where he was a chorister in the Nidaros Cathedral Boys' Choir, later being educated at the Music Conservatory in Trondheim. With an interest in baroque music, contemporary classical music, and popular music, Kim could have taken many roads, but choral music became his greatest passion. As a composer, he had his first performance at the age of 18 with the boys' choir. Since then he has written music that has been performed and recorded by choirs all over the world. In 2015–16, Kim was Composer-in-residence for the Denver-based choral ensemble Kantorei and Artistic Director Joel Rinsema. The residency concluded with the recording of Kim's second CD album released in early 2018 on Naxos Records. He continues to enjoy a busy international schedule of commissions.

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Music setting derived from the composer's original by Anna Williams