

from Kim André Arnesen's *Nordic Christmas*, a collection of seven carols from Nordic countries arranged for SATB or SSAA with piano or ensemble (see last page).

This movement also available separately.

6 – Lovely is the dark blue sky (Deilig er den himmel blå)

English by
CHARLES ANTHONY SILVESTRI (b 1965),
KIM ANDRÉ ARNESEN & ANONYMOUS
Original Danish by
NIKOLAI F S GRUNDTVIG
Norwegian adaptation by
MAGNUS BROSTRUP LANDSTAD

Melody by
JACOB GERHARD MEIDELL (1778–1857)
Arranged by
KIM ANDRÉ ARNESEN

Tender and dreamlike ♩ = 68

p legato sempre *poco a poco cresc*

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

PIANO (optional)★

pp legato sempre *poco a poco cresc*

con Ped

★ This movement may be performed unaccompanied. If unaccompanied, the small vocal notes should be sung.

★★ stagger breathing through *mm* and *oo* sections

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rit

A a tempo

SOPRANO SOLO

9 SOPRANO SOLO

mp

Love - ly is the dark blue sky, Joy to see for e - v'ry eye; How the gold - en
Dei - lig er den him - mel blå, Lyst det er å se der - på, Hvor de gyl - ne

p

S

mm

p

A

mm

p

T

mm

p

B

mm

A a tempo

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in a grand staff format, featuring a treble and bass clef. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 8/8. The piece begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The score consists of five measures, each containing a single note or chord. The notes are: a half note G4 in the first measure, a half note A4 in the second, a half note B4 in the third, a half note C5 in the fourth, and a half note D5 in the fifth. The bass line consists of a half note G3 in the first measure, a half note A3 in the second, a half note B3 in the third, a half note C4 in the fourth, and a half note D4 in the fifth.

14

stars are blink - ing, How they're smil - ing, how they're wink - ing From the earth to
 stjer - ner blin - ker, Hvor de smi - ler, hvor de vin - ker Oss fra jor - den

(mm)

(mm)

(mm)

(mm)

mp

18

Hea - ven high, from the earth to Hea - ven high!
 opp til seg, oss fra jor - den opp til seg.

p

p poco a poco cresc

p poco a poco cresc

p poco a poco cresc

p poco a poco cresc

p poco a poco cresc

p poco a poco cresc

poco rit

23

mf *p*,

(oo)

A1

A2

(oo)

mf *p*,

(oo)

mf *p*,

(oo)

mf *p*,

(oo)

7

poco rit

B a tempo

SOPRANO SOLO (or group)

28

mp

In the midst of Christ-mas night, Through the dark a glim-m'ring light;
 Det var midt i ju - le - natt, Hver en stjer - ne glim - tet matt,

p

(oo)

p

(oo)

p

(oo)

p

(oo)

B a tempo

8

p

Sud - den-ly we saw ap-pear-ing Bright - est flame, the hea - vens clear-ing,
Da med ett der ble å sku - e En så klar på him - lens bu - e,

mp

 $(oo).$

mp

(00)

mp

 $(oo).$

mp

$$(oo).$$

mp

36

mf

Like a lit - tle star - sun bright, like a lit - tle star - sun
Somen li - ten stjerner - ne - sol, som en li - ten stjerner - ne

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

40

mf

bright.

sol.

mp poco a poco cresc

ah

mp poco a poco cresc

ah

Like
Soma
enlit
stjer- tle
- ne*mp poco a poco cresc*Like a lit tle star,
Som en stjer ne sol,*mp poco a poco cresc*

ah

mp poco a poco cresc

Ped.

42 (ah)

star, like a lit - tle
sol, som en li - ten

like a lit - tle star,
som en stjer ne sol,

(ah)

44 (ah) **rit**

Like a lit - tle star - - - sun
Som en li - ten stjer - - - ne

star - - - sun.
stjer - - - ne

star - - - sun.
stjer - - - ne

Star - - - sun.
Stjer - - - ne

rit

Ped.

C a tempo, broad

46 *f*

S

Bless-ed star, as bright as day, T'ward the Child you light the way;
Den - ne stjer - ne, lys og mild, Som kan ald - ri le - de vill,

f

bright _____ as _____ day, you light the way;
 - sol. _____ *Lys og mild, ald - ri le - de vill,*

A

f

Bless - - - ed as _____ day, you light the
 - sol. _____ *Lys og mild, ald - ri le - - - de*

T

f

Bless - - - ed as _____ day, you light the
 - sol. _____ *Lys og mild, ald - ri le - - - de*

B

f

Bless - - - ed as _____ day, you light the
 - sol. _____ *Lys og mild, ald - ri le - - - de*

C a tempo, broad

f

(con Ped)

50 *mp*

S Bright and glo - rious through the a - ges As fore-told in sa - cred pa - ges, Shine
 Er hans gud - doms - ord det kla - re, Som han lot oss å - pen-ba - re, For_

A way; glo - rious through the a - ges As fore-told in sa - cred pa - ges,
 vill, gud - doms - ord det kla - re, Som han lot oss å - pen-ba - re,

T way; glo - rious through the a - ges As fore-told in sa - cred pa - ges,
 vill, gud - doms - ord det kla - re, Som han lot oss å - pen-ba - re,

B way; glo - rious through the a - ges As fore-told in sa - cred pa - ges,
 vill, gud - doms - ord det kla - re, Som han lot oss å - pen-ba - re,

54 *f* Ped.

up - on our path, we pray, shine up - on our
 å ly - se for vår fot, for å ly - se

Shine up - on our path, we pray, shine up - on our
 For å ly - se for vår fot, for å ly - se

Shine up - on our path, we pray, shine up - on our
 For å ly - se for vår fot, for å ly - se

Shine up - on our path, we pray, shine up - on our
 For å ly - se for vår fot, for å ly - se

(con Ped)

57

poco rit***p* sub D un poco meno mosso*****mp* poco a poco cresc**path,
forwe
vârpray!
fot.

oo

path,
forwe...
vâr...***p* poco a poco cresc*****p* poco a poco cresc**path,
forwe...
vâr...

oo

path,
forwe...
vâr...

oo

poco rit**D un poco meno mosso**

62

poco rit**meno mosso e rit al fine*****mp******mf******sub p******mp******mf******sub p******mp******mf******sub p******mp******mf******sub p******mp******mf******sub p***

COMPOSER'S NOTE

Nordic Christmas is a collection of carols from Norway, Sweden, and Denmark – some well-known, some less so. The idea behind the project was to gather songs that have meant something to me personally, that I felt had potential in a larger choral setting, and that I believe deserve more attention internationally.

When I arrange rather than compose, I try to bring something new to the music. I often change the character of a piece quite drastically – through tempo, mood, or soundscape – to uncover new meanings or emotions in the text and melody. This process often makes the arrangement feel like a reinterpretation. For example, 'Lovely is the dark blue sky' has become a slow, dark, and nightly piece, while 'A Child is born in Bethlehem' blends polka, French baroque, and even elements from Middle Eastern music.

It was also fascinating to discover how many of our well-known Christmas carols have origins in other countries. 'O Yule, full of gladness,' for example, is very popular in Norway but the melody actually comes from Sweden, where it's not even known as a Christmas carol. As a small bonus, I've hidden three well-known English carols throughout the work.

I hope listeners feel the celebration, the mystery, and the spirit of Christmas in this work, and maybe even discover a new favourite carol to bring home, sing with their own choir, or share with others.

Kim André Arnesen

Duration: c25 minutes

This work may be performed with piano accompaniment, as found in this vocal score, or with ensemble. Full score and parts are available from the publisher.

A version for upper voices (SSAA) is also available.

See www.boosey.com/NordicChristmas

The carols may be performed as a suite or individually, in English or Norwegian (both are included), or in other Nordic languages where appropriate.

ENSEMBLE

Trumpet in C

Percussion (2) (optional) *

Piano **

Strings (min 2.2.2.2.1)

* glockenspiel, triangle, sleigh bells, shaker, mark tree, tambourine, suspended cymbal, frame drum with zills, 2 congas, djembe, side drum, timpani

** The piano part in the ensemble accompaniment is different to that found in this vocal score.

Available in print and digitally. SATB: bit.ly/4o1hJFK SSAA: bit.ly/4pQYLmL

