

*for Jonathan Harris and Newport Pagnell Singers,
generously supported by Alison & Walter Hunt, and Laurence & Dianne Law*

REJOICE IN THE LIGHT

Words adapted from
JOSIAH GILBERT HOLLAND
(1819–81)

BEN PONNIAH
(b 1984)

Excited anticipation ♩ = 116

SOPRANO
ALTO

mp 1. *ah* _____
mf 2. *ah* _____

There's a star in the
o'er the won - der - ful

TENOR
BASS

mp 1. There's a song in the air! *ah* _____
mf 2. There's a tu-mult of great joy *ah* _____

7

sky! *ah* _____ and a ba-by's low_ cry!
birth, *ah* _____ is the Lord of all the earth.

There's a mo-ther's deep prayer _____ and a ba-by's low_ cry!
For the vir-gin's sweet boy _____ is the Lord of all the earth.

14

And the star rains its fire while the beau-ti-ful sing, _____ *ah* _____

ah _____ For the man-ger of Beth-le-hem

21 **Shining** ♩ = 76

1 2

p

3. In the light of that star

cra-dles a King! 3. In the light of that star

28

mf *mp*

lie the a - ges im - pearled; And that song from a - far

lie the a - ges im - pearled; And that song from a -

34 **molto accel** - - - - - *mf*

has swept

mp *mf*

has swept o'er all the world,

- far has swept o'er all the world, *p* *mp*

(accel) - - - - - **Rousing** ♩ = 116

40 *f*

o'er all the world, has swept o'er all the world, has swept o'er all the

f

45

world. Ev' - ry hearth is a - flame, and the beau - ti - ful sing

51 *mf*

In the homes of the na - tions that Je - sus is King!

mf

56 **Rhythmic and energetic**

4. We re - 4. We re - joyce in the light, we re - joyce in the light, we re -

f

61

-joyce in the light, and we e - cho the -joyce in the light, we re - joyce in the light, and we e - cho the

66

song, and we e - cho the song That comes down through the night song, and we e - cho the song That comes down through the night, that comes

71

from the hea - ven - ly throng, from the heav'n - ly
down through the night from the hea - ven - ly throng, from the heav'n - ly

76

S *ff* throng. Ay! we shout to the love - ly e - van-gel they bring,

A *ff* throng. Ay! we shout to the love - ly e - van-gel they bring,

T *ff* throng. Ay! we shout to the love - ly e - van-gel they bring,

B *ff* throng. Ay! we shout to the love - ly e - van-gel they bring,

82 **Prayerful, in awe** $\text{♩} = 76$ **rit** **Solo** *p*

King. And we greet in His cra - dle our Sa-viour and King.

Composer's note

Rejoice in the light was commissioned by Jonathan Harris for Newport Pagnell Singers, with the generous support of Alison & Walter Hunt, and Laurence & Dianne Law. Remarkably, this is the only carol of mine that came to me in a dream. It possesses a rugged, medieval character that would make it an ideal companion to the 16th-century carol *Gaudete*.

Duration: c3 minutes

Text

There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

There's a tumult of great joy o'er the wonderful birth,
For the virgin's sweet boy is the Lord of all the earth.
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

In the light of that star lie the ages impearled;
And that song from afar has swept o'er all the world.
Every hearth is aflame, and the beautiful sing
In the homes of the nations that Jesus is King!

We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song
That comes down through the night from the heavenly throng.
Ay! we shout to the lovely evangel they bring,
And we greet in His cradle our Saviour and King!

Josiah Gilbert Holland (adapted)



Photo: Sarah MacDonald

Ben Ponniah

Ben Ponniah is a British composer. His music has been performed at cathedrals and chapels around the world, as well as being broadcast on radio, including by the BBC Singers on BBC Radio 3. It also features on a number of CDs including *Celestial Dawn* (Signum Classics) by The Pembroke College Girls' Choir and *Marvellous Light* (Regent Records) by The Choir of Selwyn College, Cambridge. Ben was awarded the Derek Ogston Postgraduate Music Scholarship by the University of Aberdeen in support of his PhD in Composition. His love of sacred music stems from his choral background, which started at St Mary-le-Tower Church in Ipswich. His first degrees were in Economics, after which he explored jazz piano, which rekindled his love for composition.