

A Shepherd's Nativity (Sweet Light) (2011)

TTBB w/ Eng. Horn

Text: Richard Crashaw (ca.1613-1649)

Difficulty Rating: 3

Duration: 3'15"

Premiered December 2011 by Cantaria, the Gay Men's Chorus of Asheville, Director Steve Cooper

Gloomy night embrac'd the place
Where the noble infant lay:
The babe looked up, and show'd his face,
In spite of darkness it was day.
It was thy day, Sweet, and did rise,
Not from the east, but from thy eyes.

Winter chid the world, and sent
The angry North to wage his wars:
The North forgot his fierce intent,
And left perfumes, instead of scars:
By those sweet eyes' persuasive powers,
Where he meant frosts, he scattered flowers.

We saw thee in thy balmy nest,
Bright dawn of our eternal day;
We saw thine eyes break from the east,
And chase the trembling shades away:
We saw thee (and we blest the sight)
We saw thee by thine own sweet light.
(from A Hymn of the Nativity)