

**On a Night of Wonder** is a Christmas anthem that features an alternate text for Advent. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings for Christmas include Isaiah 9: 1-6, Titus 2: 11-14, and Luke 2: 1-14; one basic homiletical theme is that the Child born this holiest of nights is Emmanuel, the Son of God. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings for Advent include Isaiah 7: 10-14, Romans 1: 1-7, and Matthew 1: 18-24, one basic homiletical theme is preparing for the birth of the Messiah, sent from heaven by God to bring salvation to earth.

This gentle Christmas anthem requires sensitive text inflection and careful attention to intonation. Rather mechanical text declamation and sagging intonation can occur especially in passages featuring many repeated pitches (e.g. mm. 19-26). Speak the text with great expression, then add that artistry as the anthem is sung. Rehearse mm. 19-26 on a neutral syllable such as "noo," unaccompanied, striving for uniform timbre and careful tuning of each chord. Remember, uniform vowel sounds are necessary to good intonation. Encourage the singers to listen carefully to the fairly constant eighth notes in the accompaniment, internalizing that pulse.

**Jay Althouse** has written choral music for all levels of school and church choirs. He has over 350 choral compositions and arrangements in print. Jay received a B.S. in Music Education and an M.Ed. in Music from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He currently resides in Hilton Head, South Carolina.

# ON A NIGHT OF WONDER

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied\*

Words and Music by  
JAY ALTHOUSE (ASCAP)

Gently (♩ = ca. 76 - 80)

3 *unis. (or opt. solo)*  
*mp*

SOPRANO  
ALTO

TENOR  
BASS

On a night of

Gently (♩ = ca. 76 - 80)

ACCOMP.

*mp*

4

won - der, on a night filled with love,

\* Also available for S.A.B. voices, No. 11478.

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7

God will send forth a sav - ior from the heav'ns a -

*mp* *unis. (or opt. solo)*

Oo \_\_\_\_\_

10 11

bove. Ev - er meek and hum - ble,

*(end solo)*

13

born a child, yet a King. We shall give Him our

16

prais - es. \_\_\_\_\_ Let the an - gels sing. \_\_\_\_\_

19 With a bit more movement

*mf*

Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis, for He shall de - liv - er a

*mf*

With a bit more movement

*mf*

22

son. Sing glo - ry to God in the high - est, the ho - ly

27 Tempo I *mp*

25 *decresc.* *rit.*

one. *decresc.*

On a night of

Tempo I

*decresc.* *rit.* *mp*

28

won - der, on a night filled with love,

31

God will send forth a sav - ior from the heav'ns a -

34 *rit.* *p* Slower, freely

bove. And His name shall be Em - man - u -

*rit.* Slower, freely

37 Tempo I

el. - lent night,

Tempo I

*p*

40 *rit.*

ho - ly night. Mm

*rit.*

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