

In quiet night

Text: Christoph Dalitz & Terry MacArthur (2019) after Friedrich Spee (1649)

Tutti

Melody: anonymous (1649) Setting: Christoph Dalitz (2019)

1. In qui - et night, be - fore the light.

1. In qui - et night, be - fore the light, a voice was

8 a voice was heard la -

1. In qui - et night, be - fore the light, a voice was

Detailed description: This system contains the first four staves of the musical score. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics '1. In qui - et night, be - fore the light.' The second staff is another vocal line with lyrics '1. In qui - et night, be - fore the light, a voice was'. The third staff is a piano accompaniment line with lyrics '8 a voice was heard la -'. The bottom staff is a bass line with lyrics '1. In qui - et night, be - fore the light, a voice was'. The music is in 3/2 time and B-flat major.

I took re - gard of e - v'ry

heard la - men - ting. I took re - gard of e - v'ry

8 men - - - ting. I took re-gard of e - v'ry

heard la - men - ting. I took re - gard of e - v'ry

Detailed description: This system contains the next four staves. The top staff has lyrics 'I took re - gard of e - v'ry'. The second staff has lyrics 'heard la - men - ting. I took re - gard of e - v'ry'. The third staff has lyrics '8 men - - - ting. I took re-gard of e - v'ry'. The bottom staff has lyrics 'heard la - men - ting. I took re - gard of e - v'ry'. The music continues in 3/2 time and B-flat major.

word it spoke in self - tor - men - ting.

word it spoke in self - tor - men - ting.

8 word it spoke in self - tor - men - - - ting, tor - men - ting.

word it spoke in self - tor - men - ting.

Detailed description: This system contains the final four staves. The top staff has lyrics 'word it spoke in self - tor - men - ting.'. The second staff has lyrics 'word it spoke in self - tor - men - ting.'. The third staff has lyrics '8 word it spoke in self - tor - men - - - ting, tor - men - ting.'. The bottom staff has lyrics 'word it spoke in self - tor - men - ting.'. The music concludes in 3/2 time and B-flat major.

2. (Tutti) It was our Lord, the Son of God, his hidden face all gritty,
His lips drawn tight, so gaunt with fright that even stones felt pity.

Soli

3. Oh fa-ther, dear, be-hold and hear: My soul is full of sor-row.

The hour is drear, so full of fear of what shall come tomorrow.

4. (Soli) If it may be, please keep from me this bitter cup of passion.
Not what I will, but what Thou wilt, whatever next should happen.
5. (Tutti) The silver moon is passing soon, but sorrow's far from sleeping.
The shadowed stars are cast afar to join the poor soul weeping.
6. (Tutti) No chant of birds, no sound of herds is heard to greet the morning.
The beasts struck still, with silence shrill, invoke their deepest mourning.

Melody and original German text of this song stem from Friedrich Spee's book of prayer "Trutz-Nachtigall", which was published posthumously 1649. It describes in 15 stanzas the nightly prayer of Christ in the garden Gethsemane before his suffering. The original melody and text can be found as "Edition A" in Frauke Schmitz-Gropengießer: "In stiller Nacht, zur ersten Wacht" (2013) in: "Populäre und traditionelle Lieder. Historisch-kritisches Liederlexikon" under the URL http://www.liederlexikon.de/lieder/in_stiller_nacht_zur_ersten_wacht/

From the original melody, I have kept the note values, but changed the position of the barlines. In the four part setting, the cantus firmus moves between soprano and bass. The alternation between four and two part setting (tutti versus soli) is optional, but helps to illustrate Christ's lonesome prayer in the two middle stanzas.

Christoph Dalitz, February 2019

This work is published under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Germany License, which explicitly permits copying, distribution and performance of this music free of charge. For the full text of the license see <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/de/>.

For an edition with the original German text, see

<http://music.dalitio.de/choir/dalitz/bei-stiller-nacht/>