

Silent Night

Gathering / Christmas Eve

Joseph Mohr
1792-1848

Franz Gruber
1787-1863
arranged by
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ASCAP

The musical score is arranged in three systems. The first system (measures 1-8) features a chime part in the upper staff and a vocal line in the lower staff. The second system (measures 9-16) includes vocal lines and an organ accompaniment. The third system (measures 17-24) continues the vocal and organ parts. The score is written in 3/4 time and includes lyrics in English.

chime

solo a cappella

Si - lent night. Ho - ly night.

9

'round yon Vir - gin Mo - ther and child...

All is calm. All is bright

Organ (8' str/fl)

17

Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild. Sleep in hea - ven - ly

Silent Night

23 *breve* *a tempo*

peace, sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.

31 *Assembly/Choir*

Si - lent night. Ho - ly night. Shep - herds quake

31 *opt. harmony*

Si - lent night. Ho - ly night. Shep - herds

37

at the sight. Glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far.

37

quake at the sight. Glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far.

37

at the sight. Glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far.

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43

Heav'n - ly hosts ___ sing, "Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sa - vior, is

43

Heav'n - ly hosts ___ sing' "Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is

49

born. ___ Christ, the Sav - ior, is born."

49

born. ___ Christ, the Sav - ior is born."

Organ only

57

molto rall.

Silent Night

64 *a tempo*

Si - lent night. Ho - ly night. Son of God, love's pure

Si - lent night. Ho - ly night. God's Son and love's pure

light. Ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re -

light. Ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re -

deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus,

deem - ing grace. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth. Je - sus,

Silent Night

85

Lord, at thy birth.

85

Lord, at thy birth.

85

85

14 December 2012

The image shows a musical score for the carol 'Silent Night'. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The lyrics 'Lord, at thy birth.' are written below the notes. The second system is another vocal line, identical to the first. The third system is a piano accompaniment, with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) showing chords and melodic lines. The score is marked with '85' at the beginning of each system. A date '14 December 2012' is printed at the bottom right of the piano part.

Historical notes:

This song was first performed on Christmas Eve 1818 at St Nicholas parish church in Oberndorf bei Salzburg. The small town on the Salzach river, part of the former Archbishopric of Salzburg, had just passed to Austria in 1816. The young priest Father Joseph Mohr had come to Oberndorf the year before, having already written the lyrics of the song "*Stille Nacht*" in 1816 at Mariapfarr, the hometown of his father in the Salzburg Lungau region where Joseph had served as a parochial vicar.

Before Christmas Eve, Mohr brought the words to Franz Xaver Gruber, schoolmaster and organist in the nearby village of Arnsdorf, and asked him to compose a melody and guitar accompaniment for the church service. Both performed the carol during the mass on the night of December 24.

In his written account regarding the composition of this carol, Gruber gives no mention of the specific inspiration for creating the song. According to the song's history provided by Austria's *Silent Night Society*, one story is that the church organ was no longer working, so that Mohr and Gruber therefore created a song for accompaniment by guitar alone. *Silent Night* historian Renate Ebeling-Winkler Berenguer says that the first mention of a broken organ was in a book published in the United States in *The Story of Silent Night* (1965) by John Travers Moore.