Silent Night

Franz Gruber Arranged by Jonathan Rathbone (SSAATTBB)





KIKAPUST CHORAL SERIES

Silent Night

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Franz Gruber
Arranged by Jonathan Rathbone

As recorded by the Swingle Singers on The Story of Christmas

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Kikapust: composers and arrangers

Jonathan Rathbone

After training as a chorister at Coventry Cathedral and choral scholar at Christ's College Cambridge, where he read mathematics, Jonathan rounded-off his musical education at the Royal Academy of Music with a second degree, specializing in singing and composition. Jonathan's compositional career includes works for theatre, film, radio, television, concert platform and the church, and a song-writing contract with Noel Gay Music. Large-scale commissions include the Christmas Cantata, Night of Wonder, and Requiem for the Condemned Man – an extended work for two soloists, orchestra and choir (for more details please contact the Peters Edition Hire Library). The first choral compositions to be published as sales items are: Absolon, My Son (EP 7741) and Cradle Song (EP 7740). Jonathan Rathbone was Musical Director and arranger of the Swingle Singers (1984–96) and has worked with many of the world's leading musicians, from the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, under Pierre Boulez, to Stephane Grappelli and George Martin. He is much in demand in Europe, the USA and UK, as a freelance choral director, arranger and workshop leader. A natural communicator, Jonathan leads workshops covering anything from close-harmony singing, improvisation, choral conducting, vocal arranging to choral techniques.

Ben Parry studied music at Cambridge, where he sang in King's College Choir, and for five years was a member of the Swingle Singers. Since 1992 Ben has established himself as a conductor and arranger, as well as a singer in classical and light-music fields. He founded the Scottish vocal group Dunedin Consort, was Musical Director of Haddo House Opera and Director of Choral Music at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. In 2003 he was appointed Director of Music at St Paul's School in Barnes, London. Ben is a director of the Eton Choral Courses and has conducted the Leicestershire Youth Choir, Aberdeen Youth Choir and British Federation of Youth Choirs as well as orchestras and choruses all over Europe.

Mark Williams studied at the Royal College of Music, Trinity College of Music and the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and was a member of the Swingle Singers between 1992 and 1997, and Musical Director for the latter part of that time. He has written over 40 vocal and orchestral arrangements for the Swingle Singers and composed and arranged incidental music for the Bristol Old Vic and Newbury Watermill theatres. Mark combines his writing and arranging with his freelance career as a singer, musical director and actor.

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