Watch over us, O thou God of the moon

Stuart R Palmer



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Traditional Gaelic ed. Stuart R Palmer based on the hymn tune $Faire\ oirnn$ Stuart R Palmer













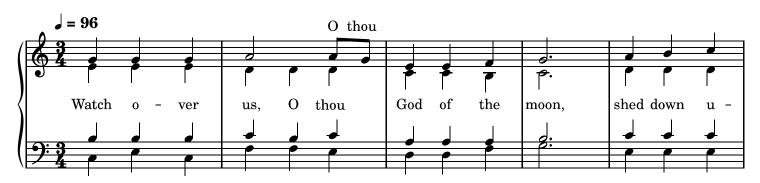




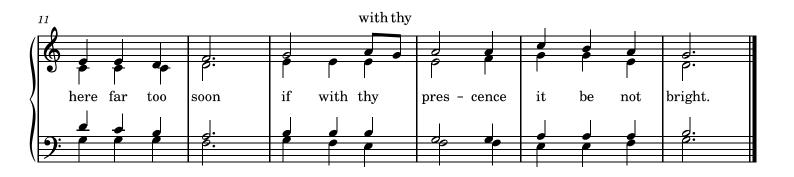


Watch over us, O thou God of the moon

Traditional Gaelic ed. Stuart R Palmer Stuart R Palmer Faire oirnn 10.9.10.9







Watch over us, O thou Son of the stars, whose foot descended once to the earth; darkness dispersed, as of sin the great bars were withdrawn to admit of thy birth.

Watch over us, O thou Spirit of light: let shine effulgent grace for the eye; protect us throughout the darkness of night, under the blackest roof of the sky.

Watch over us, O thou Holiest Three; tonight we lay us down to our rest; be our companions, and so may it be that with God's peacefulness we are blest.

Composer's notes

The text comes originally from *Carmina Gadelica*, a compendium of prayers, hymns and other material gathered in the Gaelic-speaking regions of Scotland between 1860 and 1909.

Going to sleep has often been described as one of the greatest acts of faith we undertake in our everyday lives. There is an unresolved tension between the anticipation of rest and renewal, and the fear of dangers, both corporeal and spiritual.

Performance notes

In this music, these conflicts manifest themselves as dissonances which (may or may not) resolve themselves as the piece proceeds. This is a prayer for safety: performers should keep an awareness of the flow of tension and release underlying the words of the prayer. Scored for S A T B.

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It is expected that musicians will make suitable adjustments to vocal disposition and use of instruments to suit their own circumstances. Any alteration which goes beyond such limits must be qualified as an "arrangement" by yourself.

Feedback

Comments on the music are welcomed. It would also be good to hear of performances taking place and to receive copies of any recordings made.

Contact and downloads

email: hello@stuartpalmercomposer.scot website: www.stuartpalmercomposer.scot

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