

Watch over us, O thou God of the moon

Stuart R Palmer



Watch over us, O thou God of the moon

Traditional Gaelic
ed. Stuart R Palmer

based on the hymn tune *Faire oirnn*
Stuart R Palmer

♩ = 84 With an underlying tension *mf*

Soprano *mf* Watch o - ver us,

Alto *mf* Watch o - ver

Tenor

Bass

Piano (or Organ) *mp* *mf*

Red. *Red.* *Red.*

6

S. watch o-ver us;— watch o - ver us, watch o-ver us!

A. us, watch o-ver us;— watch o-ver us, watch!

T.

B. *mf* Watch,— watch,— watch!—

Pno.

12

S. _____

A. _____

T. *mf*
 Watch o - ver us, O thou God of the moon, — shed down u -

B. _____

Pno. *mp*
Red. ———

18

S. *mp*
 Dark-ness of eve-ning is here far too soon—

A. *mp*
 Dark-ness of eve-ning is here far too soon—

T. *mp*
 —pon us thy love - ly light; — dark-ness of eve-ning is here far too soon—

B. *mp*
 Dark-ness of eve-ning is here far too soon—

Pno. *p*
 accomp ad lib.

25

S. if with thy pres-ence it be not bright.

A. if with thy pres-ence it be not bright.

T. if with thy pres-ence it be not bright.

B. if with thy pres-ence it be not bright.

Pno. *mp*

Red. *Red.* *Red.*

32

S. *mf* Watch! _____ Watch! _____

A. _____

T. *mf* Watch o - ver us, watch o-ver us; _____

B. *mf* Watch o - ver us, watch o-ver us; _____ watch o - ver

Pno. *mf*

37

S. *mf* Watch! _____

A. Watch o-ver us, Othou Son of the

T. watch o-ver us, watch!

B. us, watch o-ver us!

Pno. *mp* *Red.* _____

44

S. *mp* Dark-ness dis -

A. *mp* stars, _____ whose foot des - cen - ded once to the earth; _____ dark-ness dis -

T. *mp* Dark-ness dis -

B. *mp* Dark-ness dis -

Pno. *p* accomp ad lib.

50

S. *-persed, as of sin the great bars were with - drawn to___ ad - mit of thy birth.*

A. *-persed, as of sin the great bars were with - drawn to___ ad - mit of thy birth.*

T. *-persed, as of sin the great bars were with - drawn to___ ad - mit of thy birth.*

B. *-persed, as of sin the great bars were with - drawn to___ ad - mit of thy birth.*

Pno.

57

S. *mf*
Watch o - ver us, O thou Spi - rit of light!___

A. *p*
Watch o - ver us!___

T. *p*
Watch o - ver us!___

B. *p*
Watch o - ver us!___

Pno. *mp*
p
accomp ad lib.

Red. _____

64 *p*

S. Watch o - ver us!___ Watch o - ver

A. *mf* Let shine ef - ful - gent grace for the eye. *p* Watch o - ver

T. Watch o - ver us!___ *mf* Pro-tect us through-out the dark-ness of

B. Watch o - ver us!___ Watch o - ver

Pno.

71

S. us!___ Watch o - ver us!

A. us!___ Watch o - ver us!

T. *p* night.___ Watch o - ver us!

B. *mf* us!___ Un - der the black - est roof of the sky.

Pno. *mp*

Red. ___ Red. ___

78 *mf*

S. Watch o - ver us, watch o-ver us;—

A. *mf* Watch o - ver us, watch

T. *mf* Watch o - ver us, watch

B. *mf* Watch o - ver us, watch o-ver us;—

Pno. *mf*

Red. —

83 *f* *mf*

S. watch o - ver us, watch o-ver us! Watch o - ver

A. *f* *mf* o-ver us;— watch o - ver us, watch! Watch o - ver

T. *f* *mf* o-ver us;— watch o - ver us, watch! Watch o - ver

B. *f* *mf* watch o - ver us, watch o-ver us! Watch o - ver

Pno. *f* *mf*

Red. —

89

S. us, O thou Ho - li - est Three; — to - night we lay us

A. us, O thou Ho - li - est Three; — to - night we lay us

T. us, O thou Ho - li - est Three; — to - night we lay us

B. us, O thou Ho - li - est Three; — to - night we lay us

Pno.

94

S. down to our rest; — be our com - pan-ions and so may it be —

A. down to our rest; — be our com - pan-ions and so may it be —

T. down to our rest; — be our com - pan-ions and so may it be —

B. down to our rest; — be our com - pan-ions and so may it be —

Pno.

100

S. that with God's peace-ful - ness we are blest.

A. that with God's peace-ful - ness we are blest.

T. that with God's peace-ful - ness we are blest.

B. that with God's peace-ful - ness we are blest.

Pno. *mp*

Red. _____ *Red. _____* *Red. _____*

107

S. *mp* Watch o - ver us, watch o - ver us, *p* watch! *p*

A. *mp* Watch o-ver us, watch o-ver us, *p* watch! *p*

T. *mp* Watch o-ver us, watch o-ver us, *p* watch! *p*

B. *mp* Watch o - ver us, watch o - ver us, *p* watch! *p*

Pno. *p* *pp*

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Faire oirnn 10.9.10.9

$\text{♩} = 96$

O thou

Watch o - ver us, O thou God of the moon, shed down u -

6

-pon us thy love - ly light; dark - ness of eve - ning is

11

with thy

here far too soon if with thy pres - cence it be not bright.

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

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