

CHRISTMAS: AS NIGHT DESCENDS

NOËL: LA NUIT DESCEND

for Unison or Solo Voice and Piano
with optional organ or synthesizer

Victor Wilder (1835–1892)
Prosodic, rhyming English
translation by William J. Bullock

Gabriel Fauré (Op. 43, No. 1)
ed. William J. Bullock
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Andante quasi Allegretto ♩ = 66

mp dolce

As night de-scends and
La nuit des-cend du

Piano *mf legato*

ped. (sim.)



4
calm a - bounds — And frost on roofs is limp - ly fly - ing,
haut des cieux, — Le givre on toit sus-pend ses fran-ges.



7
An - ges a - bove swift - ly are fly - ing On
Et, dans les airs, le vol des an - ges É -



9

wings that spawn my - ster - ri - ous sounds. The
veille un bruit mys - té - ri - eux. eux. Lé

cresc.

11

star that led the no - ble wise men Ap -
toi le qui gui - dait les ma ges, Sâr -

mp ³ ³ (sim.)

organ or synthesizer (optional)

pp

(sim.)

13

pearl ob - scured as clouds e - merge, When a
ête en ju dans les nu - a ges, Et

15 *mf*

gol - den ha - - - lo gent - ly sweeps A - cross the
 fait bril - ler un nim - be d'or Sur la chau -

17 *p*

crib where Je - sus sleeps.
 miè - re où Jé - su - dort.

19 *mp dolce*

On o - pen - ing his bles - sed eyes, The child be -
 A - lors, ou - vrant ses yeux di - vins, Len - fant cou -

p sempre legato

3 3 (sim.)

22

holds his hum - ble sta - ble.
 ché dans l'hum - ble cré - - - che,

24

Though laid in straw, still he is a - ble To
 De son ber - ceau de pail le d'â - che, Sou -

26

greet the kings with still - ling signs. Once
 rit aux no - bles p - le rins. Eux,

28

(Eng.) (Eng.)
 bow in awe, the kings say, "Lord, How gold,
 ch - cli nant, lui di - sent: Si re, Re -

legato

pp

(Eng.)

30

in - cense, and myrrh are out - poured now To
 gois l'en - cens, l'or et la myr - rhe, Et

Piano accompaniment for measures 30-31, featuring a right-hand melody with chords and a left-hand bass line with eighth-note patterns.

Piano accompaniment for measures 32-33, showing sustained chords in both hands.

32

f

mf

you we kneel, Child so sweet, To kiss the
 lais - se nous, doux Jé - sus, Bai - ser le

Piano accompaniment for measures 32-33, with dynamic markings *mf* and *mp*. The left hand features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

(sim.)

Piano accompaniment for measures 34-35, featuring a right-hand melody with a *pp* dynamic marking and a left-hand bass line.



34

mp

tip of your bare feet." nus.
 bout de tes pieds nus.

p

p

36

As they, so we bow down and bring Dear
 Com - me eux, ô peu - ple, in - cli - ne toi, Im -

mp

(sim.)

meno p

39

cresc.

cresc. molto

gifs that match the kings' ex - am - ple, For this poor man-ger is a
 mi - te leur pi - eux ex - em - ple, Car cet - te é - ta - ble, c'est un

cresc. poco a poco

cresc. poco a poco *mp* *cresc.*

42

f rit.

tem - ple, And this poor Child shall be our
 tem - ple, Et cet en fant se - ra ton

mf

44

a tempo
ff

King!
 roi!

f

mf *p*

ABOUT:

This thoughtful art song tells the story of the Magi with lush harmonies and a lyrical melody, further illuminated by an expressive new English translation.

FROM THE COMPOSER:

The conditions of the visit and gift-giving of the three Wise Men are portrayed in this sensitive art song. Composed by one of the greatest French song writers, it tells the familiar story in two verses. The first verse sets the first of two poetic quatrains; the second verse sets the second two quatrains. The song concludes with a coda (the final quatrain), which relates the story to society today.

Typically, the piano accompaniment varies verse to verse to better express the text. Atypically, the song is supported by an organ (harmonium) or synthesizer. The translation maintains the prosody and rhyme scheme of the original French.

DURATION: ~3'30"



Scan to let the composer know that you are playing their piece!



Scan to learn more about this composer!

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Additional octavos are available for purchase from the publisher online.



**TUX PEOPLE'S
MUSIC.**