

405-245

Before the Marvel of This Night
Two-part divisi choir and handbells/percussion

Jaroslav J. Vajda/David Ashley White

Before the Marvel of This Night
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Before the Marvel of This Night



Text by Jaroslav J. Vajda

Music by David Ashley White ♦



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Before the Marvel of This Night

Mixed choir and handbells

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1981

David Ashley White, 2012

Expressively ♩ = ca. 56

1 Be - fore the mar - vel of this night,
2 A - wake the sleep - ing world with song,
3 The love that we have al - ways known,

3 The love that

a - dor - ing, fold your wings and bow, Then
this is the day the Lord has made. As -
our con - stant joy and end - less light, Now

we have al - ways known, our con - stant

tear _____ the sky _____ a - part with
sem - - - - - ble here, _____ ce - les - tial
to _____ the love - - - less world be

joy and end - less light, Now to _____

light, and with your news the world en - dow.
throng, in roy - al splen - dor come ar - rayed.
shown, now break up - on its death - ly night.

_____ the love - - - less world be shown, _____ now break up -

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Pro - claim the birth of Christ and peace, that
Give earth a glimpse of heav'n - ly bliss, a
In - to one song com - press the love that

on its death - ly night. In - to one

fear and death and sor - row cease: Sing _____
teas - ing taste of what they miss: Sing _____
rules our u - ni - verse a - bove: Sing _____

song com - press the love _____ that rules our u - ni - verse a -

peace, sing peace, _____ sing gift of peace, sing
bliss, sing bliss, _____ sing end - less bliss, sing
love, sing love, _____ sing God is love, sing

bove: Sing _____ love, sing love, _____ sing

peace, _____ sing gift _____ of peace!
bliss, _____ sing end - less bliss!
love, _____ sing God _____ is love!

God is love, sing love, _____ sing God _____ is love!

Handbells (octaves *ad lib.*)

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Composer's note: Voicing in this piece should be flexible, accomplished in any combination—e.g., only S.A. or T.B. throughout, or stanza 1, S.A., and stanza 2, T.B. Likewise, if sung by a mixed chorus, the canonic third stanza might be S.A. for the first entrance and T.B. for the second.

Along with the accompanying handbells, in as many octaves as available, other additions might be included—both pitched and unpitched instruments: e.g., crotales, antique cymbals, bell tree, wind chime, etc. Adding a synthesizer—playing clusters of the given pitches *ad lib* at an appropriate dynamic level—would also be effective. The overall desired effect should be colorful and glittering, helping to create the idea of a “marvel.”

An instrument such as flute, violin or cello could also be added, perhaps as a third canonic entrance at a distance of another two-measures.