

# When the Song of the Angels Is Stilled

Howard Thurman

SATB and flute



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Elizabeth Alexander

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When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and the princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among brothers,  
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman

From *The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations* by Howard Thurman.  
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**Howard Thurman** (1900-1981) spent most of his life engaged in the work of Christmas. In his early professional life, he was professor of religion and director of religious life at Morehouse and Spelman Colleges, and later was dean of Howard University. In 1944 he moved to San Francisco to co-found the first integrated, multi-cultural church in the United States, The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples. In 1936 Thurman led the first black delegation to Southern Asia, where he was profoundly affected by his meeting with Mohandas Gandhi. His 1949 book, *Jesus and the Disinherited*, inspired nonviolent civil rights movements in the United States and throughout the world.

Growing up in the Carolinas and Appalachian Ohio, **Elizabeth Alexander** gained her love of language and music from her parents, a minister and a piano teacher. These twin passions are reflected in her over 100 choral and vocal pieces, which have been performed by more than 2000 choirs. The recipient of many awards and grants, including a McKnight Composition Fellowship, she makes her home in Saint Paul, Minnesota. To learn more about Elizabeth's music, visit [www.seafarerpress.com](http://www.seafarerpress.com)



The cover art was created for this publication by Jonathan Machen. Jonathan lives in Boulder, Colorado with his wife and two young children. There he manages the Solstice Center LLC, a healing arts facility. He takes his inspiration from the people around him and the beauty of the Rocky Mountains and American Southwest. Other loves include playing with his kids, playing guitar, backpacking, skiing, bicycling and kayaking.

More of Jonathan's art can be seen at [www.haikutimes.com](http://www.haikutimes.com)

# When the Song of the Angels is Stilled

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(♩ = 64)

Fl  
*p* *mp*

S  
*pp* warmly  
De - o Glo - ri - a,

A  
*pp* warmly  
De - o Glo - ri - a,

T  
*pp* warmly  
De - o Glo - ri - a,

B  
*pp* warmly  
De - o Glo - ri - a,

for rehearsal only

6

Fl

S  
Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis,

A  
Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis,

T  
Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis,

B  
Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis,

Separate flute part may be downloaded at: [www.seafarerpress.com/works/when\\_the\\_song\\_of\\_the\\_angels\\_is\\_stilled.html](http://www.seafarerpress.com/works/when_the_song_of_the_angels_is_stilled.html)

10 *poco rit.* *a tempo*

Fl *p* *pp* *hushed, expectant*

S Glo - - - ri - a De - o. When the *hushed, expectant*

A Glo - - - ri - a De - o. When the *hushed, expectant*

T Glo - - - ri - a De - o. When the *hushed, expectant*

B Glo - - - ri - a De - o. When the

16 *pp (mf 2nd time)*

S *pp (mf 2nd time)* song of the an - gels is stilled, when the song of the an - gels is  
kings and the prin - ces are home, when the kings and the prin - ces are

A *pp (mf 2nd time)* song of the an - gels is stilled, when the song of the an - gels is  
kings and the prin - ces are home, when the kings and the prin - ces are

T *pp (mf 2nd time)* song of the an - gels is stilled, when the song of the an - gels is  
kings and the prin - ces are home, when the kings and the prin - ces are

B *pp (mf 2nd time)* song of the an - gels is stilled, when the song of the an - gels is  
kings and the prin - ces are home, when the kings and the prin - ces are

19

*mp (f 2nd time)* *p (mf 2nd time)*

S  
 stilled, when the song of the an - gels is stilled, the work of Christ - mas be -  
 home, when the kings and the prin - ces are home, the work of Christ - mas be -

A  
 stilled, when the song of the an - gels is stilled, the work of Christ - mas be -  
 home, when the kings and the prin - ces are home, the work of Christ - mas be -

T  
 stilled, when the song of the an - gels is stilled, the work of Christ - mas be -  
 home, when the kings and the prin - ces are home, the work of Christ - mas be -

B  
 stilled, when the song of the an - gels is stilled, the work of Christ - mas be -  
 home, when the kings and the prin - ces are home, the work of Christ - mas be -

23

*f*

Fl  
 2nd time only:

S  
 gins, When the star in the hea - vens\* is gone, when the star in the hea - vens is  
 gins, When the shep - herds are back with their flocks, when the shep - herds are back with their

A  
 gins, When the star in the hea - vens\* is gone, when the star in the hea - vens is  
 gins, When the shep - herds are back with their flocks, when the shep - herds are back with their

T  
 gins, When the star in the hea - vens\* is gone, when the star in the hea - vens is  
 gins, When the shep - herds are back with their flocks, when the shep - herds are back with their

B  
 gins, Oh when the star in the hea - vens\* is gone, when the star in the hea - vens is  
 gins, Oh when the shep - herds are back with their flocks, when the shep - herds are back with their

\* Original poem by Howard Thurman reads: "When the star in the sky is gone,"

27

Fl

S

A

T

B

gone, when the star in the hea - vens is gone, Oh, the  
flocks, when the shep - herds are back with their flocks, Oh, the

gone, when the star in the hea - vens is gone, Oh, the  
flocks, when the shep - herds are back with their flocks, Oh, the

gone, when the star in the hea - vens is gone, Oh, the  
flocks, when the shep - herds are back with their flocks, Oh, the

gone, when the star in the hea - vens is gone, Oh, the  
flocks, when the shep - herds are back with their flocks, Oh, the

*mp (f 2nd time)* *sfz*

*mp (f 2nd time)* *sfz*

*mp (f 2nd time)* *sfz*

*mp (f 2nd time)* *sfz*

30

Fl

S

A

T

B

work of Christ - mas, the work of Christ - mas, the

work of Christ - mas, the work of Christ - mas, the

work of Christ - mas, the work of Christ - mas, work of

work, the work of Christ - mas the work of

*mp (both times)*

*mp (both times)*

*mp (both times)*

*mp (both times)*

Opal Palmer Adisa, poet ◦ Margaret & George Alexander, parents ◦ Yehuda Amichai, poet ◦ Bjorn Arneson, generous web designer ◦ Scott Bates, poet ◦ Abbie Betinis, composer/colleague ◦ Dennis Blubaugh, music dealer ◦ Michael deVernon Boblett, poet ◦ Ray Bradbury, writer ◦ Norbert Capek, visionary ◦ e. e. cummings, poet ◦ Philip Dacey, poet ◦ Emily Dickinson, poet ◦ Evelyn Dudley, poet ◦ Rob Eller-Isaacs, minister/writer ◦ Sophia Lyon Fahs, writer ◦ Richard M. Fewkes, writer ◦ Peshua Gertler, poet ◦ Richard S. Gilbert, minister/writer ◦ Jack Gallagher, composer/teacher ◦ Paul Gerike, proofreader ◦ Steve Harper, technical advisor ◦ Steve Hawkins, generous web designer ◦ Edie Hill, composer/colleague ◦ Langston Hughes, poet ◦ Mark Humphrey, piano technician ◦ Karel Husa, composer/teacher ◦ Kalidasa, poet ◦ Garrison Keillor, storyteller ◦ Denise Levertov, poet ◦ George Ella Lyon, poet ◦ Jonathan Machen, artist ◦ Edna St. Vincent Millay, poet ◦ J. David Moore, composer/colleague ◦ Joan Wolf Prefontaine, poet ◦ Gerald Rich, poet ◦ Carl Sandburg, poet ◦ King Sigismund III, religious reformer ◦ Steven Stucky, composer/teacher ◦ Rabindranath Tagore, poet ◦ Howard Thurman, civil rights leader/writer ◦ John Greenleaf Whittier, poet ◦ Theodore Tuckering Williams, poet ◦ Daniel Winter, pianist/teacher ◦ Nancy Wood, poet ◦ Yehudi Wyner, composer/teacher ◦ Paul Adams, technical advisor ◦ Opal Palmer Adisa, poet ◦ Margaret & George Alexander, parents ◦ Yehuda Amichai, poet ◦ Bjorn Arneson, generous web designer ◦ Scott Bates, poet ◦ Abbie Betinis, composer/colleague ◦ Dennis Blubaugh, music dealer ◦ Michael deVernon Boblett, poet ◦ Ray Bradbury, writer ◦ Norbert Capek, visionary ◦ e. e. cummings, poet ◦ Philip Dacey, poet ◦ Emily Dickinson, poet ◦ Evelyn Dudley, poet ◦ Rob Eller-Isaacs, minister/writer ◦ Sophia Lyon Fahs, writer ◦ Richard M. Fewkes, writer ◦ Peshua Gertler, poet ◦ Richard S. Gilbert, minister/writer ◦ Jack Gallagher, composer/teacher ◦ Paul Gerike, proofreader ◦ Steve Harper, technical advisor ◦ Steve Hawkins, generous web designer ◦ Edie Hill, composer/colleague ◦ Langston Hughes, poet ◦ Mark Humphrey, piano technician ◦ Karel Husa, composer/teacher ◦ Kalidasa, poet ◦ Garrison Keillor, storyteller ◦ Denise Levertov, poet ◦ George Ella Lyon, poet ◦ Jonathan Machen, artist ◦ Edna St. Vincent Millay, poet ◦ J. David Moore, composer/colleague ◦ Joan Wolf Prefontaine, poet ◦ Gerald Rich, poet ◦ Carl Sandburg, poet ◦ King Sigismund III, religious reformer ◦ Steven Stucky, composer/teacher ◦ Rabindranath Tagore, poet ◦ Howard Thurman, civil rights leader/writer ◦ John Greenleaf Whittier, poet ◦ Theodore Tuckering Williams, poet ◦ Daniel Winter, pianist/teacher ◦ Nancy Wood, poet ◦ Yehudi Wyner, composer/teacher ◦ Paul Adams, technical advisor

# A LOT OF HARD WORK & CREATIVITY WENT INTO BRINGING THIS MUSIC TO YOU...



...AND SOME OF IT WAS EVEN MINE.

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**(YOU KNOW WHY.)**

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42

Both times: >

Fl *mf*

S *mf* *mp dolce*  
re - build the na - tions, to bring peace a - mong bro - thers, To make

A *mf* *mp dolce*  
re - build the na - tions, to bring peace a - mong bro - thers, To make

T *mf* *mp dolce*  
re - build the na - tions, to bring peace a - mong bro - thers, To make

B *mf* *mp dolce*  
re - build the na - tions, to bring peace a - mong bro - thers, To make

47

Fl *mf*

S *mf* *mp dolce*  
mu - sic in the heart, to make mu - sic in the heart, to make

A *mf* *mp dolce*  
mu - sic in the heart, to make mu - sic in the heart, to make

T *mf* *mp dolce*  
mu - sic in the heart, to make mu - sic in the heart, to make

B *mf* *mp dolce*  
mu - sic, to make mu - sic, to make



51 1.

Fl: *f* mu - - - - - sic, when the

S: *f* mu - - - - - sic, when the

A: *f* mu - - - - - sic, when the

T: *f* mu - - - - - sic, when the

B: *f* mu - - - - - sic, when the

Piano accompaniment with chords and melodic lines.

55

Fl: *mf* star is gone, when the song is stilled, the work of

S: *mf* star in the hea - vens is gone, when the song of the an - gels is stilled, the work of

A: *mf* star in the hea - vens is gone, when the song of the an - gels is stilled, the work of

T: *mf* star in the hea - vens is gone, when the song of the an - gels is stilled, the work of

B: *mf* star is gone, when the song is stilled, the work of

Piano accompaniment with triplets and chords.

59 *mp*

S Christ - mas, the work be - gins, it be - gins when the

A *mp* Christ - mas, the work be - gins, it be - gins when the

T *mp* Christ - mas, the work be - gins, it be - gins when the

B *mp* Christ - mas, the work be - gins, when the

63 *f*

2.

Fl *f*

S *f* mu - - - sic, when the

A *f* mu - - - sic, when the

T *f* mu - - - sic, when the

B *f* mu - - - sic, when the

67

Fl

S

A

T

B

shep - herds are back, when the kings are home, when the

shep - herds are back with their flocks, when the kings and the prin - ces are home, when the

shep - herds are back with their flocks, when the kings and the prin - ces are home, when the

shep - herds are back, when the kings are home, when the

71

Fl

S

A

T

B

star is gone, when the song is is stilled, the

star in the hea - vens is gone, when the song is is stilled, the

star in the hea - vens is gone, when the song of the an - gels is stilled, the

star is gone, when the song of the an - gels is stilled, the

*poco rit.*

*mp*

*mp*

*pp*

*mp*

*pp*

*mp*

*pp*

*mp*

*pp*

*meno mosso*

10

76

Fl

*mp*

S  
work of Christ - mas, the work be - gins, be -

A  
work of Christ - mas, the work be - gins, it be - gins, it be -

T  
work of Christ - mas, the work be - gins, be - gins, be -

B  
work of Christ - mas, the work be - gins,

*poco rit., freely*

82

Fl

*poco rit.*

S  
gins,

A  
*poco rit.*  
gins, it be - gins.

T  
*poco rit.*  
gins, be - gins.

B  
*poco rit.*  
be - gins.