

Sure On This Shining Night Lauridsen

Sure on This Shining Night by Morten Lauridsen: A Timeless Choral Masterpiece

Every now and then, a piece of music captures the heart and imagination of audiences worldwide, resonating across generations and cultures. "Sure on This Shining Night," composed by Morten Lauridsen, is one such choral work. Celebrated for its haunting beauty and emotional depth, this composition has become a beacon in contemporary classical music.

The Origins and Inspiration

Lauridsen composed "Sure on This Shining Night" in 1994, setting it to a poem from James Agee's collection, which beautifully evokes themes of hope, memory, and the eternal night. The text's lyrical imagery complements Lauridsen's melodic and harmonic language, creating an ethereal atmosphere that invites listeners into quiet contemplation.

Musical Characteristics

The piece is scored for SATB choir and is renowned for its lush

harmonies and rich tonal colors. Lauridsen's use of modality and gentle suspensions creates a sense of serene melancholy balanced with warmth. The slow, flowing lines and delicate dynamics immerse the listener in a dreamlike state, while subtle shifts in texture and harmony keep the composition engaging.

Performance and Reception

Since its premiere, "Sure on This Shining Night" has been performed by choirs worldwide, both amateur and professional. It is frequently programmed in concerts celebrating contemporary choral music and spiritual themes. Audiences often describe the experience of hearing it live as profoundly moving, reflecting on the universal themes of hope and solace.

Why It Continues to Captivate

In an era saturated with rapid and sometimes superficial media, Lauridsen's composition offers a moment of stillness and introspection. Its timeless quality appeals not only to classical music enthusiasts but also to those seeking emotional resonance in music. The piece's simplicity paired with its sophisticated musical craftsmanship invites repeated listening and discovery.

How to Experience "Sure on This Shining Night"

To fully appreciate this work, one might listen to high-quality recordings or attend live performances, paying close attention to the nuances in the choir's blend and dynamics. Choir directors often emphasize the importance of phrasing and emotional expression to convey the depth inherent in the music and text.

In sum, "Sure on This Shining Night" by Morten Lauridsen remains a shining example of contemporary choral art, enchanting those who encounter it with its profound beauty and heartfelt expression.

Sure on This Shining Night by Lauridsen: A Timeless Choral Masterpiece

In the realm of choral music, few compositions have achieved the same level of acclaim and adoration as "Sure on This Shining Night" by Morten Lauridsen. This piece, with its ethereal beauty and profound emotional depth, has captivated audiences and performers alike. In this article, we delve into the history, composition, and enduring legacy of this remarkable work.

The Composer: Morten Lauridsen

Morten Lauridsen, an American composer born in 1943, is widely regarded as one of the most significant choral composers of our time. His works are celebrated for their lyrical beauty, harmonic richness, and deep emotional resonance. Lauridsen's music often draws inspiration from poetry, and "Sure on This Shining Night" is no exception.

The Poem: "Sure on This Shining Night"

The text of "Sure on This Shining Night" is taken from a poem by James Agee, an American writer known for his poetic prose and deep sense of humanity. Agee's poem, with its themes of love, longing, and the passage of time, provides a perfect foundation for

Lauridsen's musical exploration.

The Composition

"Sure on This Shining Night" is part of Lauridsen's "Nocturnes" cycle, a collection of five choral works that explore themes of night, love, and longing. The piece is written for a cappella choir, allowing the voices to shine in their purest form. The music is characterized by its lush harmonies, delicate phrasing, and a sense of timelessness that perfectly complements the text.

Performance and Reception

Since its premiere, "Sure on This Shining Night" has become a staple of the choral repertoire. It is performed by choirs around the world and has been recorded numerous times. The piece's enduring popularity is a testament to its emotional power and the skill of its composer.

The Legacy of "Sure on This Shining Night"

"Sure on This Shining Night" has left an indelible mark on the world of choral music. Its influence can be seen in the works of contemporary composers and in the continued popularity of Lauridsen's music. The piece's themes of love and longing resonate with audiences across generations, ensuring its place as a timeless masterpiece.

Analytical Perspectives on Morten Lauridsen's "Sure on This Shining Night"

"Sure on This Shining Night" stands as one of Morten Lauridsen's most emblematic works, blending poetic text and contemporary choral composition. This article delves into its context, compositional techniques, and its impact within the modern classical music landscape.

Contextual Background

Composed in 1994, Lauridsen's work emerges from a period marked by renewed interest in lyricism and tonal harmony within contemporary classical music. Drawing upon James Agee's poetry, the text serves as a bridge connecting literary art with musical expression. The poem's themes of night and transcendent hope resonate deeply with Lauridsen's spiritual and aesthetic sensibilities.

Compositional Analysis

Lauridsen employs an accessible harmonic language rooted in modality and extended tonality, eschewing the atonality prevalent in much 20th-century music. The harmonic progressions are characterized by warm suspensions and gentle dissonances that resolve smoothly, fostering a contemplative mood. Texturally, the piece is predominantly homophonic, allowing the words' clarity and emotional content to shine.

The composer's meticulous attention to voice leading enhances

the piece's lyrical quality, facilitating an almost vocal, human expression within the choir. Dynamic markings and phrasing instructions contribute to an ebb and flow that mirrors the poem's natural cadence, encouraging performers to engage deeply with the emotional narrative.

Reception and Influence

The work has been widely acclaimed, both by audiences and critics, for its emotional immediacy and spiritual depth. It has influenced a generation of choral composers seeking to balance modern harmonic idioms with accessible melodic content. The piece's popularity also underscores a broader trend within choral music toward embracing repertoire that emphasizes introspection and universal themes.

Consequences within the Choral Repertoire

Lauridsen's approach in "Sure on This Shining Night" challenges the dichotomy often perceived between modernism and tradition in classical music. By integrating contemporary harmonic language with classical forms and poetic texts, the piece encourages a reevaluation of modern choral composition's possibilities. It has become a staple in concert programs, educational settings, and recordings, solidifying its place in the canon.

Conclusion

Through its synthesis of text, harmony, and expressive nuance, "Sure on This Shining Night" exemplifies how contemporary music

can evoke timeless emotional experiences. It not only reflects Lauridsen's artistic vision but also contributes to ongoing dialogues about the role of tonality, spirituality, and narrative in modern composition.

An In-Depth Analysis of "Sure on This Shining Night" by Morten Lauridsen

Morten Lauridsen's "Sure on This Shining Night" stands as a testament to the power of choral music to evoke deep emotional responses. This analytical article explores the compositional techniques, thematic elements, and cultural impact of this renowned work.

Compositional Techniques

Lauridsen's use of harmony and texture in "Sure on This Shining Night" is particularly noteworthy. The piece is characterized by its lush, close harmonies and delicate phrasing, which create a sense of intimacy and vulnerability. The use of a cappella voices allows the text to take center stage, with the music serving to enhance and illuminate the poetic imagery.

Thematic Elements

The themes of love, longing, and the passage of time are central to "Sure on This Shining Night." The poem by James Agee provides a rich foundation for Lauridsen's musical exploration of these themes. The music's timeless quality reflects the enduring nature of these emotions, resonating with audiences across generations.

Cultural Impact

"Sure on This Shining Night" has had a significant impact on the world of choral music. Its popularity has helped to popularize Lauridsen's music and has inspired a new generation of composers to explore the possibilities of choral writing. The piece's themes of love and longing resonate with audiences across cultures and generations, ensuring its place as a timeless masterpiece.

Conclusion

In conclusion, "Sure on This Shining Night" by Morten Lauridsen is a remarkable work of choral music that continues to captivate audiences and performers alike. Its compositional techniques, thematic elements, and cultural impact make it a significant contribution to the choral repertoire.

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Questions & Answers About *sure on this shining night* lauridsen

No	Question	Answer
1	Who composed 'Sure on This Shining Night'?	'Sure on This Shining Night' was composed by Morten Lauridsen.
2	What is the source of the text for 'Sure on This Shining Night'?	The text is taken from a poem by James Agee.
3	What vocal arrangement is 'Sure on This Shining Night' scored for?	It is scored for SATB choir (soprano, alto, tenor, bass).

4	What musical style characterizes 'Sure on This Shining Night'?	The piece is characterized by lush harmonies, modality, and a lyrical, contemplative style.
5	When was 'Sure on This Shining Night' composed?	The composition was completed in 1994.
6	Why is 'Sure on This Shining Night' popular among choirs?	Because of its emotional depth, beautiful harmonies, and accessible vocal lines.
7	How does Lauridsen's composition reflect the poem's themes?	The music's serene and flowing qualities mirror the poem's themes of hope and the night's peacefulness.
8	What is the significance of 'Sure on This Shining Night' in contemporary choral music?	It represents a bridge between traditional tonality and modern composition, influencing many composers and choirs.
9	Are there notable recordings of 'Sure on This Shining Night'?	Yes, several acclaimed ensembles have recorded the piece, including the Los Angeles Master Chorale under Lauridsen's direction.
10	What inspired Morten Lauridsen to compose "Sure on This Shining Night"?	Lauridsen was inspired by the poem "Sure on This Shining Night" by James Agee, which explores themes of love, longing, and the passage of time.
11	How does Lauridsen's use of harmony contribute to the emotional impact of the piece?	Lauridsen's use of lush, close harmonies and delicate phrasing creates a sense of intimacy and vulnerability, enhancing the emotional impact of the text.

1 2	What is the significance of the a cappella format in "Sure on This Shining Night"?	The a cappella format allows the voices to shine in their purest form, with the music serving to enhance and illuminate the poetic imagery.
1 3	How has "Sure on This Shining Night" influenced contemporary choral music?	The piece's popularity has helped to popularize Lauridsen's music and has inspired a new generation of composers to explore the possibilities of choral writing.
1 4	What are the key themes explored in "Sure on This Shining Night"?	The key themes explored in the piece include love, longing, and the passage of time.
1 5	How does the music of "Sure on This Shining Night" reflect the timeless nature of its themes?	The music's timeless quality reflects the enduring nature of the emotions explored in the text, resonating with audiences across generations.
1 6	What is the cultural significance of "Sure on This Shining Night"?	The piece's themes of love and longing resonate with audiences across cultures and generations, ensuring its place as a timeless masterpiece.
1 7	How has "Sure on This Shining Night" been received by audiences and critics?	The piece has been widely acclaimed by audiences and critics alike, with its emotional power and compositional skill earning it a place as a staple of the choral repertoire.
1 8	What is the historical context of "Sure on This Shining Night"?	The piece was composed as part of Lauridsen's "Nocturnes" cycle, a collection of five choral works that explore themes of night, love, and longing.

1 9	How does "Sure on This Shining Night" compare to other works in Lauridsen's "Nocturnes" cycle?	While each piece in the "Nocturnes" cycle explores different aspects of its themes, "Sure on This Shining Night" stands out for its lush harmonies and delicate phrasing, which create a sense of intimacy and vulnerability.
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a cappella, american composers, choral music, contemporary choral composers, contemporary classical, emotional impact of music, harmony in music, james agee, james agee poem, love and longing, lyrical choral works, modern choral composition, morten lauridsen, nocturnes, passage of time, satb choir, sure on this shining night, tonal harmony

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Large PDF files may load slowly, especially on older devices or limited hardware. Optimizing PDFs improves performance without sacrificing quality. Techniques such as image compression, font optimization, and removal of unnecessary metadata help reduce file size while preserving content clarity in *Sure On This Shining Night* Lauridsen.

For extremely large documents, splitting content into smaller PDF sections can improve navigation and responsiveness. This approach also makes file sharing faster and more reliable.

Security and protection in PDF files

PDFs offer various security options, including password protection, restricted editing, and controlled printing permissions. These features help protect the integrity of *Sure On This Shining Night* Lauridsen when sharing it publicly or privately.

While security is important, it should not hinder usability. Applying appropriate protection based on audience and purpose ensures that content remains accessible while preventing unauthorized modifications or misuse.

Avoiding corrupted or unreadable PDF files

PDF corruption can occur due to interrupted downloads, storage errors, or incompatible software. To minimize risk, users should download files from trusted sources and verify file integrity when possible. Keeping backup copies of *Sure On This Shining Night* Lauridsen provides added security against data loss.

Updating PDF readers regularly also helps prevent compatibility issues. New versions often include bug fixes and improved support for modern PDF standards, ensuring smoother performance.

Cross-device access and synchronization

Modern workflows often involve multiple devices. PDFs support seamless cross-platform access, allowing users to open the same file on desktops, tablets, and smartphones. Cloud storage services enable synchronization, ensuring that the latest version of *Sure On This Shining Night Lauridsen* is always available.

For users who annotate PDFs, syncing features help maintain consistency across devices. Understanding how annotations are stored and synchronized prevents accidental loss of notes and highlights.

Organizing a digital PDF library

As collections grow, organization becomes essential. Clear folder structures, descriptive filenames, and consistent naming conventions make it easier to manage PDF documents. Proper organization ensures that *Sure On This Shining Night Lauridsen* can be located quickly when needed.

Regular library maintenance—such as deleting outdated files and consolidating duplicates—keeps storage efficient and reduces confusion over multiple versions of the same document.

Accessibility considerations for PDF documents

Accessible PDFs are usable by a wider audience, including those using assistive technologies. Features such as selectable text, logical heading structure, and alternative text for images improve accessibility. When *Sure On This Shining Night Lauridsen* follows these practices, it becomes more inclusive and easier to navigate.

Accessibility enhancements also benefit all users by improving clarity, structure, and overall usability of the document.

Best practices for academic and professional use

In academic and professional environments, PDFs often serve as official records. Maintaining clean formatting, accurate metadata, and consistent structure increases credibility. When distributing *Sure On This Shining Night* Lauridsen, attention to detail reinforces trust and professionalism.

Including proper references, citations, and hyperlinks within PDFs allows readers to explore related materials efficiently, adding depth and value to the document.

Long-term archiving and backups

PDFs are well-suited for long-term archiving due to their stability and standardization. Storing multiple backups of *Sure On This Shining Night* Lauridsen—both locally and in cloud environments—protects against hardware failure and accidental deletion.

Clear version labeling helps users track updates and revisions, preventing confusion when multiple editions exist over time.

Future-proofing your PDF usage

Although technology evolves, PDFs remain adaptable. Staying informed about updated standards and tools ensures continued compatibility. Periodically reviewing storage methods, reader software, and security practices helps keep *Sure On This Shining Night* Lauridsen accessible in the future.

Using widely supported PDF features rather than proprietary extensions increases the likelihood that files will remain usable across platforms and devices for years to come.

Final thoughts on PDF best practices

PDF files are more than static documents; they are powerful containers for structured information. By applying effective navigation, organization, security, and accessibility strategies, users can maximize the value of *Sure On This Shining Night* Lauridsen. With consistent habits and thoughtful management, PDFs remain a reliable solution for learning, research, and professional documentation without unnecessary technical issues.