

## All is Bright

(Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, Silent Night)
STEVE PARSONS





## ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Steve is an award-winning composer, orchestrator, and music director. His composing credits include: Evensong(for Choir and Orchestra,) Seascapes (RBC Publications,) Frankenstein: The Puppet Opera (Translations Art Gallery,) Visions (an oratorio based on the book of Revelation,) Rise City Silent, Sing!, College Slam (video game, Akklaim,) and numerous commissions for symphony orchestra, wind ensemble, and choral ensembles. An experienced arranger for marching bands and show choirs throughout the United States and Canada, many of his original works and arrangements have been featured in national championships, including several Outstanding Music awards at Bands of America finals.

Steve's musical adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* is published by Steele Spring Stage Rights in Los Angeles and has enjoyed performances at The Players Guild Theatre (14 seasons,) New York (Off-Off Broadway,) Los Angeles, and Vietnam (The International Choir and Orchestra of Ho Chi Minh City.) As an orchestrator, he has arranged the Grateful Dead musical *Cumberland Blues* (NYMF, NY,) *Life Could Be A Dream* (Additional vocal arrangements/orchestrations, LA,) *It's A Wonderful Life* (Regional,) and Footloose (Additional vocal arrangements/orchestrations, Rodgers & Hammerstein Library.) His other credits include: *Nunsense and Nunsense A-Men!* (music preparation, NY,) *The Tick* (member of the "Tickestra," FOX,) and *Defying Gravity: The Creative Career of Stephen Schwartz* (consultant and contributor, Applause Books.)

Steve has both Bachelor of Music and Master of Arts degrees in composition from Kent State University.

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For the majority of my life, the December holiday season has been a whirlwind of festive lights and bustling activity. Concerts, services, and musical theatre performances seem to hurtle past, until January arrives on the scene without warning and begins yet another busy year. To help keep myself focused on the peaceful, positive parts of this potentially stressful time, I've made an annual effort to stop and enjoy the sights and sounds around me, taking in a healthy dose of comfort and joy. *All Is Bright* sets two of my favorite carols, *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* and *Silent Night*, alongside an original theme to capture this sense of jubilant appreciation.

When rehearsing this piece, be sure to address not only the recurring syncopated figure but also the accompanying accents, so that the whole thing percolates with energetic motion. Similarly, watch the handoffs of the driving repeated eighth note passages, allowing the work's "engine" to keep driving forward. In contrast, the two familiar melodies sitting on top of the busier rhythms should stay warm and songlike as marked, always expressive and full.

I hope All Is Bright brings some much-needed cheerful illumination to your holiday season!







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