



# Advent

by Stanley Curtis

for Trumpet, Soprano  
and Piano

*Balquhiddier Music*

# *Advent*

for Soprano, Trumpet and Piano

music by Stanley Curtis

text by Donald Hall

For more than 10 years now, I have been composing pieces based on stained-glass windows at my church, St. George's Episcopal Church in Arlington, Virginia. In the summer of 2017, my efforts culminated with a recording project in the nave of St. George's to record five of these compositions, each of which relate to the themes and artwork of the windows. The particular themes are the stories of Creation, Daniel, Epiphany, the Crucifixion, and Judgement Day. Sunlight, streaming through St. George's windows, breaks into a prismatic rainbow, and for this reason, I call this group of compositions "Refracted Light."

In 2012, I began to compose Advent, which, despite its name, is the piece I wrote to go with St. George's Crucifixion Window. I was greatly moved by a poem of the same name by the late American Poet Laureate, Donald Hall. My intention was to provide a "Trinity" of flexible variations for each of the three stanzas. Each stanza, therefore, has a set of three variations, making a total of nine iterations of the melody first sung at the beginning by the soprano. Regarding the text, "rood" in the first stanza is a cross; "Tenebrae" in the second stanza refers to a Christian religious service celebrated during Holy Week marked by the gradual extinguishing of candles; Horror vacui in the third stanza literally means "fear of empty space" and usually describes artwork which fills the entire space with visual detail. Although the original version of this extended aria featured an extremely unsettling final variation, an alternative, lyric, ending proved more effective in the long run.

Stanley Curtis  
October 6, 2018

*Balquhiddar Music*

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Exclusively Distributed by  
Carl Fischer Music  
48 Wall St., 28th floor  
New York NY 10005

BQ-199  
UPC: 6-80160-90614-7  
ISBN: 978-1-4911-4864-8

Printed in the United States of America  
Published by Balquhadder Music  
PO Box 856 Montrose CA 91021

*Balquhadder Music*

# Advent

music by Stanley Curtis  
text by Donald Hall

Piano / Soprano

for the Crucifixion Window  
at St. George's Episcopal Church, Arlington, Virginia

"Advent" from THE BACK CHAMBER:  
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Spiritually ♩ = 90

duration ca. 10'

Trumpet

Soprano

Piano

A

Tpt.

Spr.

Pno.

When I see the cra - dle rock - ing

Tpt.

Spr.

Pno.

What is it that I see? I see a rood on the hill - top

**B**

Tpt. *p* *pp*

Spr. Of Cal - va - ry.

Pno.

**C**

Tpt. *cresc.*

Spr.

Pno.

**D**

Tpt. *mf* *accel.* *Spirito*

Spr.

Pno. *p* *mf* *f* *accel.* *Spirito*

**E**

31

Tpt. *f*

Spr.

Pno.

**F**

36

Tpt. *dim.*

Spr.

Pno. *dim.*

**G**

41

Tpt. *mp* *mf*

Spr. *f*

Pno. *mp*

When I see \_\_\_\_\_ the cra-dle rock-ing — rock - ing rock - ing \_\_\_\_\_

**H**

Tpt. *mf*

Spr. *f* *ff*

Pno. *f* *mp*

46 What is it that I see? I see a rood on the hill - top

**I**

Tpt. *mp*

Spr.

Pno.

51 Of Cal - va - ry.

Tpt. *p* *mp*

Spr.

Pno.

56

61 *mf* *rit.* *mf*

Tpt.

Spr.

Pno.

**J**

With Calm Strength ♩ = 96

64

Tpt.

Spr.

Pno.

**K**

**L**

68

Tpt.

Spr.

Pno.

When I see the cra - dle rock - ing



73 M

Tpt.

Spr.

Pno.

What is it that I

78

Tpt.

Spr.

Pno.

see? I see a rood on the hill top

N Tempo primo ♩ = 90

83

Tpt.

Spr.

Pno.

Of Cal - va - ry.

Tempo primo ♩ = 90



Pastoral feel (♩ = 100)

89

Tpt.

Spr.

Pno.

Pastoral feel (♩ = 100)

94

Tpt.

Spr.

Pno.

RH

LH

98

Tpt.

Spr.

Pno.

*mp*

When I hear \_\_\_\_\_ the cat - tle low - ing \_\_\_\_\_

**Q**

102

Tpt.

Spr.

Pno.

What is it that they say?

**R**

106

Tpt.

Spr.

Pno.

They say that sha-dows sha-dows feast - ed

*p* *mp*

**S**

110

Tpt.

Spr.

Pno.

At Te - ne - brae.

*rit.*