



PARACLETE PRESS

Christmas
PPM01525
\$1.20

Sweetest Music Softly Stealing

Carson Cooman

SATB a cappella

Carson Cooman

Carson Cooman (b. 1982) is an American composer with a catalogue of works in many forms, ranging from solo instrumental pieces to operas, and from orchestral works to hymn tunes. His music has been performed on all six inhabited continents and appears on over forty recordings. Cooman's primary composition studies have been with Bernard Rands, Judith Weir, Alan Fletcher, and James Willey, and he holds degrees from Harvard University and the Carnegie Mellon School of Music. He has served as composer in residence for the Memorial Church at Harvard University and the Episcopal Cathedral Church of St. Paul (Boston, Massachusetts). As an active concert organist, Cooman specializes in the performance of contemporary music. He has given premieres of over 130 new works that have been written for him by composers from around the world, and his performances can be heard on a number of CD recordings. He serves as an active consultant on music business matters to composers and performing organizations, specializing particularly in the area of composer estates and archives.

For more information, visit www.carsoncooman.com

for Jonathan, Cecily, Elijah, Zora, and Baldwin
Composed for the 103rd Annual Christmas Carol Services of
The Memorial Church, Harvard University, December 2012

Sweetest Music Softly Stealing

SATB a cappella

Martha J. Anderson, 1844–97
Mount Lebanon, NY Shaker community

Carson Cooman
Op. 989

Slow, very serene (♩ = 60)

pp

S
A

1. Sweet - est mu - sic soft - ly steal - ing O'er our hearts in tune - ful chime,
2. Wake me now to joy and glad - ness, Christ the Sav - ior we have found;

T
B

pp

poco rit.

5

Shall, in joy - ous notes re - veal - ing, Swell the song of old - en time.
Ban - ish from our hearts all sad - ness, And in deeds of love a - bound.

mf *p*

Slightly faster (♩ = 88)

(SA unis.)

9

When the morn - ing star was beam - ing, An - gels sang of peace and love;
Now the fount of good un - seal - ing, Let us all our souls up - fill;

(TB unis.) *mf*

When the morn - ing star was beam - ing,
Now the fount of good un - seal - ing,

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Man - y souls a - woke from dream - ing Hail'd the light from
And, in kind - ly Chris - tian feel - ing, Breathe sweet peace and

An - gels sang of peace and love; Man - y souls a -
Let us all our souls up - fill; And, in kind - ly

16

poco rit.

Heav'n a - bove.
speak good will.

- woke from dream - ing Hail'd the light from Heav'n a - bove.
Chris - tian feel - ing, Breathe sweet peace and speak good will.

Totally placid, tempo I (♩ = 60)*poco rit.*

Glad - some sound we ech - o still, Peace on earth, to all good will.

Glad - some sound we ech - o still, Peace on earth, to all good will.

October 2012
Cambridge, MA
c. 3 min.

For interfaith/secular performance contexts, the text of the second verse may be altered (bolded lines) to read:

Wake me now to joy and gladness,
Peace for all we now have found;
Banish from our hearts all sadness,
And in deeds of love abound.
Now the fount of good unsealing,
Let us all our souls upfill;
And, in kindly human feeling,
Breathe sweet peace and speak good will.