

Timothy Corlis

# *Silent Dawn*

*for SATB chorus, a cappella*

2004

## Silent Dawn

Still, still this dawn.  
Still, be still this dawn all with winter's hush chill and new born snow.  
Be still this dawn and cradle up this weary place with gentle light.  
Still, still this dawn.  
Still, though all I have known falls into shades of night.  
Be still my soul. Be still and love unfading know.

- Timothy Corlis

Both text and music for Silent Dawn were inspired by the experience of a winter morning, just before sunrise. In the midst of such moments, time seems to disappear – silence is overwhelming. I hope that the music recreates something of this timelessness, but not as a description of that winter morning. Instead, the music should act as a frame for the silence that we share at its edges.

Silent Dawn was premiered by the Da Capo Chamber Choir of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada in March of 2004.



## Timothy Corlis

The music of Timothy Corlis emerges from the choral tradition where composition is all about singing in the community. Corlis began his career as a music director at Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church where he directed and wrote music for church and community choirs in Waterloo Region (Canada). His music has since received performances and broadcasts across North America by some of Canada's most prominent performers. It has been described in the media as “atmospherically striking”, “Superb. . . bursting with vigour and truth”, and also received a “five star” review from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's Rick Phillips. He has received numerous commissions from Canadian ensembles including Bramwell Tovey and The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Noel Edison and The Elora Festival Singers, and The Elektra Women's Chorus directed by Morna Edmondson and Diane Loomer.

Corlis holds a Masters of Arts in Social and Political Thought from York University and a Masters of Music from the University of Toronto, where he studied composition under composers Christos Hatzis and Ka Nin Chan, both two-time Juno Award winners.

# Silent Dawn

For SATB chorus, a cappella

Music and Text by Timothy Corlis

**♩ = 72 Tranquil**

**Soprano**  
Still still still this dawn

**Alto**  
Still still this dawn

**Tenor**  
Still still this dawn

**Bass**  
Still this dawn

**7** **pp** Still still still

**7** **pp** Still still still

**7** **pp** **ppp** Still still still

**7** **pp** Still

14 *p* **A** *p* *mp*

be still this dawn All with win-ter's hush

14 *p* *p*

this dawn All

14 *p* *p*

this dawn All

14 *p* *p*

still this dawn All with

19 *sfz pp* *mp*

chill and new born snow.

19 *mp* *sfz pp*

with win-ter's hush chill and new born snow.

19 *mp* *sfz pp*

with win-ter's hush chill and new born snow.

19 *mp* *sfz pp* *mp*

win-ter's hush chill and new born snow.

26 *p* *mp* **B** *f* *ff* *mf*

Be still this dawn. and crad - le up this

26 *p* *mp* *f* *ff* *mf*

Be still this dawn. and crad - le up this

26 *p* *mp* *f* *ff* *mf*

8 Be still this dawn.

26 *p* *mp* *f* *ff* *mf*

Be still this dawn.

32 *mp* *p*

wear - y place with gent - le light.

32 *mp* *p*

wear - y place with gent - le light.

32 *mp* *p* *ppp*

8 Still

32 *mp* *p*

C

38 *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

Still still still this dawn Still though

38 *ppp* *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

Still still this dawn Still

38 *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

Still this dawn Still

38 *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

Still this dawn Still

45 *mp* *Poco accel.* *mf*

all I have known All I have known falls in - to

45 *mp* *mf*

though All I have known falls in - to

45 *mp* *mf*

though All I have known falls in - to

45 *mp* *mf*

though All I have known falls in - to

50 *f* *ff* **D** *With increased momentum*

shades of night— Be still my soul

shades of night— Be still my soul

8 shades of night— My soul—

shades of night— My soul—

56 *p* *mp*

56 *p* *mp*

56 *p* *mp* *freely*

56 *p* *mp*

be

\* SAB continue singing the vowel of the word "soul" until the final measure, tenors continue on this vowel until their entry in bar 64.

65

65

65

65

8

still and love un - fad - ing know.

*ppp*

*ppp*

*ppp*

*ppp*

*mp* *pp*

Detailed description: This is a musical score for four staves. The top three staves are vocal parts, and the bottom staff is a piano accompaniment. The music is in the key of A major (three sharps) and 6/4 time. The vocal parts feature long, flowing lines with many ties. The piano accompaniment consists of sustained chords. The lyrics are: 'still and love un - fad - ing know.' Dynamic markings include *ppp* (pianissimo) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). A fermata is placed over the final note of the vocal line.