

SATB

Follow *the* Star, Follow *the* King

THE JOURNEY FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

About this work...

Throughout the biblical narrative, "light" is a metaphor for God's goodness and great love. The scriptures that tell the Advent and Christmas stories are punctuated with themes of light. *Follow the Star, Follow the King* is the journey from spiritual darkness to light, culminating in the birth of King Jesus. It is a distinctive blend of scriptures anticipating and celebrating the coming of the Christ, beloved carols, and original new music which captures the mystery and majesty of this most holy season. Combining the talents of four veteran composers, this work reflects the creativity and breadth of scope one would anticipate from these collaborators.

Conceived as a flexible resource, the five sections of this work may be utilized amid multiple worship experiences during the weeks of Advent and Christmas, or they may be presented in a single service as a 25-minute work. The optional candle lighting enables a church to mark the Sundays of Advent or to highlight each movement of the cantata by underscoring the designated theme of each section. The strong biblically based narration serves as a cohesive link, connecting the musical sections together in an inspiring celebration of God's great gift.

The balance of new material and familiar Christmas carols will engage the congregation from the haunting opening strains of *Of the Father's Love Begotten* to the concluding choral proclamation celebrating the *light and life to all* that comes in the form of the newborn Christ. Ample opportunity is provided for the congregation to join with the choir in singing beloved carols, making this truly a participatory worship experience. The optional small orchestral instrumentation by Don Hart is designed to make this resource accessible by churches large or small.

Performance time: approx. 25 minutes



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MUSIC BY LLOYD LARSON,
MARY McDONALD,
LARRY SHACKLEY, AND
DOUGLAS E. WAGNER

ORCHESTRATION BY DON HART