

# Light of the World

**AJ Harbison**

# Light of the World

A Christmas Carol

Lyrics by Mark Harbison

For SATB Choir and  
Optional Viola Accompaniment

**AJ Harbison**

Performance notes:

This work should be performed very expressively and with *rubato*, so that the tempo never feels rushed or mechanical, but rather flowing and organic. The dynamics written above the soprano line apply to the choir as a whole. The form of the piece, as notated, should be Verse 1 - Verse 2 - Refrain - Verse 3 - Verse 4 - Refrain.

The viola accompaniment is optional.

Duration: ca. 3 minutes

*Composed for the American Composers Forum/VocalEssence  
Welcome Christmas Carol Contest 2009*

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# Light of the World

A Christmas Carol

Andante con moto ♩ = 58

Viola

SATB Choir

1. O-ver-whel-ming, all - en-com-pass-ing light: The arch-an-gel who fright-ens  
 2. O-ver-whel-ming, all - en-com-pass-ing light: The an-gels of heav-en who  
 3. O-ver-whel-ming, all - en-com-pass-ing light: A star in the East that leads  
 4. O-ver-whel-ming, all - en-com-pass-ing light: A crack in the wall as the

6

Mar-y, meek and mild But pro-claims, "Be-hold! The im-pos-si-ble hap-pens to-  
 cause the shep-herds' fears Who an-nounce the grace of the God who will ban-ish the  
 wise men on their way To a low-ly babe as they bring him their gifts shin-ing  
 stone is rolled a-way Light now floods the tomb as the dark-ness flees his ris-en

11

night! The sav-ior of all shall be born un-to you as a child!"  
 night And an-swer all Is-ra-el's prayers in the full-ness of years.  
 bright The Ma-gi bring praise to the King who will save them one day.  
 might The light of the world brings sal-va-tion to all on this day.

Refrain

17

God said, "Let there be light!" And true light from true light was born The light of the an-

24

gels re-joic-ing at night The light of a star, re-splend-ent and

D.C. al Fine

28

bright The light of the world has come on this glo-ri-ous morn!

D.C. al Fine