

Music, Text, and Arrangement by
Cheryl B. Engelhardt

Solstice Song

SSATB

FOR PERUSAL USE ONLY
Contact cheryl@cbe music.com
to report copyright infringement
or to order copies.

Text

**It's Natalis Sol Invictus
in case you didn't know:
the birth of the unconquered Sun,
into the light we go.**

But first we honor Mother Earth
and souls healing in the dark,
Solstice means "sun standing still"...
no rushing this part!

There's poison in the mistletoe
and magick in the oak.
The candle wicks are lit again,
the elements we invoke.

The crone is lurking 'round the bend,
Holda has a light.
Scadi and Frigg embrace the dark
Halcyon rests at night.

Yuletide myth and legends told
rituals of yore.
Let us sit inside the night
to see the light of our core.

The trickster raven brings the fire
the holly brings the luck
the cloves bring rebirth, wealth, and love.
The snowfall brings the hush.

Discussion Questions:

- What does "unconquered sun" mean to you?
- How is the song like a traditional holiday carol? How is it not?
- Do you think the Solstice is most spiritual, astronomical, geographical, religious, cultural, historic, or a combination?
- How do Sun and darkness balance each other?
- When referencing "light", it can mean the sun, but what else does "light" represent? Where else does it exist?
- What is the significance of the tutti rests?
- Who are Holda, Scadi, Frigg, Halycon?
- Historically, the sun has been associated with the masculine and the moon with the feminine. With this knowledge, why do you think are there are so many cultural and mythological references to female figures playing a role during the Solstice considering it is a time focused on the recognizing returning of the sun?
- How do you interpret the final bar of the song, with the text being "into the light we go" followed by the sound of blowing out a candle? How can one go into light if there is darkness? What is this light a metaphor for?

About the composer:

Cheryl B. Engelhardt is a GRAMMY®-nominated prolific composer who writes both music and lyrics. Her choral pieces have recently been written about in PEOPLE, Forbes, and LGBTQ Nation. She is the Chair of Repertoire & Resources for the American Choral Directors Association East for Contemporary / Commercial Music, as well as a representative of The Recording Academy in their Advocacy program, an organization in which she is also an active voting member.

Cheryl's social justice choral piece "The Listening" won third place in The American Prize's Virtual Performance category for 2022. The piece premiered in PEOPLE during Black History Month as a unique choral collaboration between Martin Luther King's goddaughter, Donzaleigh Abernathy, and multiple choirs from across the nation.

Her commissioned pieces often end up being the glue that makes an entire program flow. Writing her own lyrics, meeting choirs in person, weeks of research, and the ability to write powerful social justice text or laugh-out-loud lyrics is Cheryl's process that allows for a uniqueness, freedom, and customizability found only in her compositions.

The New Yorker graduated from Cornell University with a degree in music, studied orchestration at Juilliard, and is a founding member and composer for the social justice choir VOICES 21C. She is also an award-winning and chart-topping New Age recording artist and provides music scores for commercials, films, as well as meditation applications and programs.

www.cbemusic.com

www.instagram.com/cbemusic

Solstice Song

Commissioned for the
E.O. Smith High School Chamber Singers

Cheryl B. Engelhardt

$\text{♩} = 100$
Linger with curiosity...

Soprano 1
p In - to the light In - to the light In - to the light. It's

Soprano 2
p In - to the light In - to the light. It's

Alto
p In - to the light In - to the light. It's

Tenor
p In - to the light.

Bass

7 With movement and purpose...

S 1
Nat - a - lis Sol In - vic - tus, in case you did - n't know: the birth of the un - con - quered Sun,

S 2
Nat - a - lis Sol In - vic - tus, in case you did - n't know: the birth of the un - con - quered Sun,

A
Nat - a - lis Sol In - vic - tus, in case you did - n't know: the birth of the un - con - quered Sun,

T
Nat - a - lis Sol In - vic - tus, in case you did - n't know: the birth of the un - con - quered Sun,

B
Nat - a - lis Sol In - vic - tus, in case you did - n't know: the birth of the un - con - quered Sun,

Tell the story.

13

S 1 in - to the light we go... But first we hon - or Mo - ther Earth and souls heal - ing in the dark, —

S 2 in - to the light we go... But first we hon - or Mo - ther Earth and souls heal - ing in the dark,

A in - to the light we go... But first we hon - or Mo - ther Earth and souls heal - ing in the dark,

T 8 in - to the light we go... Hon - or - Mo - ther Earth heal - ing in the dark,

B in - to the light we go... Hon - or Mo - ther souls dark,

19

S 1 "Sol - stice" means "sun stand - ing still"... No rush - ing this part. There's

S 2 "Sol - stice" means "sun stand - ing still"... No rush - ing this part. There's

A Sol - stice stand - ing still. No rush - ing this part. There's

T 8 Sol - stice stand - ing still. No

B Sol - stice stand - ing still. No

Solstice Song

3

B

♩ = 110

Lift in tempo. Over-articulate, like sharing a secret warning.

S 1
poi - son in the mis - tle - toe and ma - gick in the oak. The can - dle wicks are lit a - gain, the

S 2
poi - son in the mis - tle - toe and ma - gick in the oak. The can - dle wicks are lit a - gain, the

A
poi - son in the mis - tle - toe and ma - gick in the oak. The can - dle wicks are lit a - gain, the

T
8
Tenors + Bases: Aleotonic drone on changing vowels,
singer's choice. Staggered breathing.

B

31

S 1
el - e - ments we in - voke. It's Nat - a - lis Sol In - vic - tus, in case you did - n't know:

S 2
el - e - ments we in - voke. It's Nat - a - lis Sol In - vic - tus, in case you did - n't know:

A
el - e - ments we in - voke. It's Nat - a - lis Sol In - vic - tus, in case you did - n't know: The

T
8
Oh. Nat - a - lis Sol In - vic - tus, Nat - a - lis Sol In - vic - tus

B
Oh. Nat - a - lis Sol In - vic - tus, Nat - a - lis Sol In - vic - tus

37

S 1 The birth of the un-con - quered Sun.

S 2 The birth of the un-con - quered Sun.

A birth

T 8

B

p In - to the light we

p There's

42

S 1 *pp* The Sun The Sun Get to and hold the "n" of Sun The Sun, The

S 2 *pp* The Sun The Sun Get to and hold the "n" of Sun The Sun, The

A *pp* nn - - - nn - - - nn - - -

T 8 go. In - to the light we go.

B poi - son in the mis - tle - toe and ma - gick in the oak. There's poi - son in the mis - tle - toe and

Solstice Song

5

45 Get to and hold the "n" of Sun

E

S 1 Sun Ooh - - - - -

S 2 Sun. *mf* The crone is lurk - ing 'round the bend, Hold - a has a light.

A - *mf* The crone is lurk - ing 'round the bend, Hold - a has a light.

T 8 In - to the light we go. Hold - a has a light.

B ma-gick in the oak. Hold - a has a light.

50

F

S 1 - Sca-di and Frigg em-brace the dark and rest at night. In - to the light we *mf*

S 2 Sca-di and Frigg em-brace the dark, Hal-cyon rests at night. In - to the light we *mf*

A Sca-di and Frigg em-brace the dark, Hal-cyon rests at night. In - to the light we *mf*

T 8 Sca-di and Frigg em - brace the night. *mf*

B Sca-di and Frigg em-brace the dark and rest at night. *mf*

6

Solstice Song

Singers in each part should stagger when they morph their Oh vowel to Ooh.

a tempo

56

S 1 go - - - - - Ooh - - - - - Ooh - - - - -

S 2 go - - - - - Ooh - - - - -

A go - - - - - Ooh - - - - -

T 8 Go - - - - - Ooh - - - - -

B Go - - - - - Ooh - - - - -

62

x noteheads = articulated whisper

S 1 There's poi-son in the mis-tle-toe and mag-ick in the oak. There's

S 2 *pp* There's poi-son in the mis-tle-toe and ma-gick in the oak. There's

A *pp* poi-son in the mis-tle-toe and ma-gick in the oak. There's

T 8 *pp* *pp* Hold - a has a

B *pp*

*Staggered breathing:
alto, tenor, bass

66 G

S 1 *poi-son in the mis-tle-toe and mag-ick in the oak! mp Yule - tide myth and ri - tu -*

S 2 *poi-son in the mis-tle-toe and ma-gick in the oak. mp Yule - tide myth and ri - tu -*

A *poi-son in the mis-tle-toe and ma-gick in the oak. Yule-tide myth and leg-ends told, rit - u - als of*

T *light. Hold - a has a light! Here we go! hah! Ooh! hah! Ooh! hah!*

B *mf Yule-tide myth and leg-ends told, rit - u - als of*

Percussive, guttural "Ooh", breathy "Hah!"

71

S 1 *al. Let us sit in - side the night to see the *f* light of our core! _____*

S 2 *al. Let us sit in - side the night to see the *f* light of our core! Of our*

A *yore. Let us sit in - side the night to see the *f* light of our core! _____*

T *Ooh! hah! Let us sit in - side the night to see the *f* light of our*

B *yore. Let us sit in - side the night to see the *f* light of our*

78

H

S 1

S 2

A

T

B

core, of our core. Ooh

Of our core Ooh

Oh Ooh

84

I

*First time: Sop 1 unison with Sop 2.
On repeat, split to add descant.*

Briskly.

S 1

S 2

A

T

B

The trick - ster ra - ven brings the fire the

The trick - ster ra - ven brings the fire the

One more! Fire. Fire

One more! Fire. Fire

Trick - ster rav - en

Solstice Song

9

89 **J** *rit.* With weight.

S 1 hol - ly brings the luck. The cloves bring re-birth, wealth, and **f** love. **pp** The

S 2 hol - ly brings the luck. The cloves bring re-birth, wealth, and **f** love. **pp** The

A brings luck. Birth, wealth, and **f** love. **pp** The

T brings luck. Birth, wealth, and **f** love.

B brings the luck. The cloves bring wealth and **f** love.

K *a tempo*

95

S 1 snow-fall brings the hush. **espress.** It's **mp** Nat - a - lis Sol In - vic - tus, in case you did - n't know: the

S 2 snow-fall brings the hush. **espress.** It's **mp** Nat - a - lis Sol In - vic - tus, in case you did - n't know: the

A snow-fall brings the hush. **espress.** **mp** Nat - a - lis Sol In - vic - tus, in case you did - n't know: the

T **pp** Hush. **espress.** **mp** Nat - a - lis Sol In - vic - tus, in case you did - n't know: the

B **pp** Hush. **espress.** **mp** Nat - a - lis Sol In - vic - tus, in case you did - n't know: the

10
101

Solstice Song

Alter tempo of each phrase. Conductor's choice.

S 1 birth of the un - con- quered Sun, in - to the light we go... *pp* in - to the light we go... *mf*

S 2 birth of the un - con- quered Sun, in - to the light we go... *pp* in - to the light we go... *mf*

A birth of the un - con- quered Sun, in - to the light we go... *pp* in - to the light we go... *mf*

T 8 birth of the un - con- quered Sun, in - to the light we go... *pp* in - to the light we go... *mf*

B birth of the un - con- quered Sun, in - to the light we go... *pp* in - to the light we go... *mf*

S 1 107 in - to the light we go... Hoo!

S 2 in - to the light we go... Hoo!

A in - to the light we go... Hoo!

T 8 in - to the light we go... Hoo!

B in - to the light we go... Hoo!

All parts: in one breath, "go"
turns into a forced out-breath,
like blowing out a candle.