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No la debemos dormir

(*No, we must not sleep*)

for SATB Chorus and Piano

Fray Ambrosio Montesino (c. 1500)
C. W. T., tr.

Christina Whitten Thomas

Lullaby tempo ♩ = 88

The musical score is for a SATB chorus and piano. It is in 3/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The tempo is 'Lullaby tempo' at 88 beats per minute. The score is divided into two systems. The first system shows the vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and the piano accompaniment. The vocal parts enter with the lyrics 'No la de-' and 'No la de-'. The piano part is marked 'p sempre legato' and 'sempre con Ped.'. The second system starts at measure 6 and shows the vocal parts with the lyrics 'be - mos dor - mir hmmm...' and 'No, we must not sleep'. The piano part continues with the same accompaniment. Dynamics include 'p' (piano) and 'pp' (pianissimo).

Soprano
Alto
Piano
Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass
Piano

p sempre legato
sempre con Ped.

6

be - mos dor - mir hmmm...
be - mos dor - mir hmmm...
No, we must not sleep
No, we must not sleep

Notes

At Christmas, we joyfully celebrate a new birth, the birth of a king. But imagine yourself in the position of young Mary, far from home and nervous about giving birth to her first child, not to mention the Son of God. Might you be a little afraid? But though she is alone in her thoughts, she is surrounded by those who will support her. Who might speak these words? Joseph? The animals? The shepherds? The angels? Here is an intimate poem for Christmas Eve, when all is quiet save for Mary's labored breaths. Here is a lullaby to sooth her worries, and to calm all Christians as they await, as Mary did, the birth of Jesus Christ.

—Christina Whitten Thomas

11 *pp*
la no - che san - - ta, on this
pp
la no - che san - - ta, on this
pp
la no - che san - - ta, on this
pp
la no - che san - - ta, on this
mp

16 *mp*
ho - ly night,
mp *pp*
ho - ly night, no la de - be - mos dor -
mp
ho - ly night,
mp *pp*
ho - ly night, no la de - be - mos dor -
mp *pp*

40

S
A
T
B

p
si de su di -
if be - fore his di - vine

p
si de su di -
if be - fore his di - vine

p
si de su di -
if be - fore his di - vine

p
si de su di -
if be - fore his di - vine

Pno. *mf* *p*

45

p
vi - na e - sen - ci - a tem - bla - rá,
es - sence, his di - vine es - sence she will trem - ble,

p
vi - na e - sen - ci - a tem - bla - rá,
es - sence, his di - vine es - sence she will trem - ble,

p
vi - na e - sen - ci - a tem - bla - rá,
es - sence, his di - vine es - sence she will trem - ble,

p
vi - na e - sen - ci - a tem - bla - rá,
es - sence, his di - vine es - sence she will trem - ble,

p

73

san - - ta, on this ho - ly night. *pp*

san - - ta, on this ho - ly night. *pp*

san - - ta, on this ho - ly night. *pp*

san - - ta, on this ho - ly night. *pp*

P *r.h.*

79

Pno. *P*

83

pp *rit.* *a tempo* *rit.* *a tempo* *rit.* *molto rit.*

2007
3'15"

No la debemos dormir

No la debemos dormir
la noche santa,
no la debemos dormir.

La Virgen a solas piensa
qué hará
cuando al Rey de luz inmensa
parirá,
si de su divina esencia
temblará,
o que le podrá decir.

No la debemos dormir
la noche santa,
no la debemos dormir.

—Fray Ambrosio Montesino (c. 1500)

No, we must not sleep

No, we must not sleep
on this holy night,
we must not sleep.

The Virgin is alone, she is wondering
what she will do
when the King of light
is born,
if before his divine essence
she will tremble,
o what will she say to him?

No, we must not sleep
on this holy night,
we must not sleep.

—Christina Whitten Thomas, tr.

Christina Whitten Thomas (b. 1979)

For biographical information about the composer, please visit her Web site.
<<http://www.christinawhitten.com>>

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