

Michal Dawson Connor



ANGELS WATCHING OVER ME

FOR SATB CHOIR AND SOPRANO SOLO

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for SATB choir and soprano solo

An indomitable sense of hope, and unvarnished sorrow, permeate each line and melody of these unforgettable songs- forged in the anvil of abject misery and despair, aching for freedom's light.

Humiliated beyond all human reckoning, and given no respite from the daily drudgery of endless toil- these fiercely resilient souls somehow persevered, despite the harshest obstacles- leaving behind a true golden legacy of words and music to cherish.

In his famous autobiography, Frederick Douglass wrote:

"Slaves sing most when they are most unhappy. The songs of the slave represent the sorrows of his heart; and he is relieved by them, only as an aching heart is relieved by its tears."

I am deeply honored to present these musical footprints of my proud ancestors- and hope that by singing them, we pause to remember the undaunted courage and grit of the men and women who originally composed them.

— MICHAL DAWSON CONNOR

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for James Walker

Angels Watching Over Me

for SATB choir and soprano solo

Arr. Michal Dawson Connor

Spiritual

Salmodico (♩=50)

Soprano solo *pp* An - gels watch - ing me. Oh, my Lord!

Soprano *p* I know moon-light, I know star-light,

Alto *p* I know moon-light, I know star-light,

Tenor *p* I know moon-light, I know star-light,

Bass *p* I know moon-light, I know star-light,

Piano *pp* *p*
(for rehearsal only)

5

S lay this hea - vy bur - den down, oh I know moon-light, I know star-light,

A lay this hea - vy bur - den down, oh I know moon-light, I know star-light,

T lay this hea - vy bur - den down, oh I know moon-light, I know star-light,

B lay this hea - vy bur - den down, oh I know moon-light, I know star-light,

9

S *mf*
lay_ this bur - den down, down, down! If I die be - fore I wake,

A *mf*
lay_ this_ bur - den_ down, down, down! If I die be - fore I wake,

T *mf*
8 lay_ this bur - den down, down, down! If I die_ be - fore I wake, -

B *mf*
lay_ this bur - den down, down, down! If I die be - fore I wake,

mf

13

S an - gels watch - ing o - ver me my Lord. Pray the Lord my soul to take,

A an - gels_ watch - ing me_ my Lord. Lord_ my soul to take,

T an - gels watch - ing me my_ Lord. Pray the Lord my soul to take,

B an - gels watch - ing me my Lord. Lord_ my soul to take,

17

S *pp sub.*
 an - gels watch-ing o-ver me! All the night, all _____ day,

A *pp sub.*
 an - gels watch - ing, watch-ing_ me. All the night, all_ the day_ Lord,

T *pp sub.*
 an - gels watch - ing, watch-ing,_ me._ Oh_ all_ the_ night, all_ the day Lord,

B *pp sub.*
 an - gels watch - ing, watch - ing me. All the night, all the day_ Lord,

pp sub.

21

S *p*
 an - gels watch-ing o-ver me my Lord, all _____ night, all the day,

A *p*
 an - gels watch-ing o-ver me_ my_ Lord_ all the night, all_ the_ day, _____

T *p*
 an - gels watch-ing o-ver me_ my Lord, all the night, all_ the day, _____

B *p*
 an - gels watch-ing o-ver me_ my_ Lord, all the night, all_ the_ day, _____

p

25

S *mf*
an - gels watch-ing o-ver me! Oh, _____

A *mf*
an - gels watch - ing watch-ing o-ver me, my Je-sus! Oh, _____ oh, oh,

T *mf*
an - gels watch-ing o-ver watch-ing o-ver me! Oh, _____ oh, oh, _____

B *mf*
an - gels watch - ing, watch - ing me, my Je-sus! Oh, _____ oh, oh,

mf

29

S *mp dolce*
watch - ing o - ver me Lord. All _____ the night, all the long day,

A *mp dolce*
watch - ing o - ver me Lord. All the night, _____ all the live-long day,

T *mf*
watch-ing o - ver me Lord. All the night, all the day, _____

B *mp dolce*
watch - ing o - ver me Lord. All the night, _____ all the live-long day,

mp

33 *mf*

S an - gels watch - ing me my Ho-ly Lord, all the lone-ly night, all the day, —

A an - gels watch - ing me my Lord, — all the night, all the day,

T an - gels watch-ing o-ver me my Lord, — all the night, all the day,

B an - gels watch - ing me my Lord, — all the night, — all the day, —

mf

37 *f dolce*

Sop. solo I know moon-light, I know star-light, I

S an - gels watch - ing me! I know moon-light, I know star-light,

A an - gels watch - ing watch - ing me! I know moon-light, I know star-light,

T an - gels watch-ing, watch-ing me! I know moon-light, I know star-light,

B an - gels watch - ing watch - ing! I know moon-light, I know star-light,

f

41 **poco a poco ritard**

Sop. solo

lay this bur - den down. I know moon-light, I know star-light,

S

lay this hea-vy bur - den down, oh, I know moon-light, I know star-light,

A

lay this hea-vy bur - den down, oh, I know moon-light, I know star-light,

T

lay this hea-vy bur - den down, oh, I know moon-light, I know star-light,

B

lay this hea-vy bur - den down, oh, I know moon-light, I know star-light,

poco a poco ritard

45 **molto rit.**

Sop. solo

lay this bur-den down! *p sub.* An - gels_ watch-ing_ me,_ oh,_ my Lord.

S

lay_ this bur - den down, down, hmm. my Lord.

A

lay_ this_ bur - den_ down, down, hmm. my Lord.

T

lay_ this bur - den down, down, hmm._ my Lord.

B

lay_ this bur - den down, down, hmm. my Lord.

molto rit.