

to Sara
SURE ON THIS SHINING NIGHT

James Agee*

Samuel Barber
Adapted by the composer

Andante ♩ = 50

Soprano *mp espr.*
 Sure on this shin-ing night Of star-made

Alto *p*
 Sure _____ on _____ this

Tenor *mp espr.*
 Sure on this shin-ing

Bass *p*
 Sure _____ on this

Andante ♩ = 50

Piano *p molto legato*

4

shad - ows round, Kind - ness must watch for

shin - ing night, Kind - ness must

night Of star-made shad - ows round, Kind -

shin - ing night, Kind - ness must

p

* From *Permit Me Voyage*. Used by permission of Yale University Press, Publishers.

7

me This side the ground.

watch for me This

ness must watch for me This side the

watch for me This side the

10

mf

The late year lies down the north.

mf espres.

side the ground. The late year lies down the

ground. The late year, the late year lies down the

mf

ground. The late year lies

mf

13 *più f*

All _____ is healed, all is health.

north. All healed, all is health, all _____ is

north. All _____ is healed, all is health.

down the north. All is healed, all is

17 *p sub.* *mf* *p* *rit.*

High sum-mer holds the earth. Hearts _____ all

health. Sum - mer holds the earth. Hearts all

Sum - mer holds the earth. Hearts all

health, _____ all, all,

p sub. *mf* *p* *rit.*

p sub. *mf* *p* *rit.*

p sub. *mf* *p* *rit.*

20

whole. Sure on this shin-ing
whole. Sure on this shin-ing
whole. Sure on this shin-ing night I weep for
is whole. Sure on this

23

night I weep for won-der wan - d'ring far a -
night I weep for won-der wan - d'ring far a - lone Of
won - der wan - d'ring far a -
shin- ing night wan - d'ring far a -

27

dim. poco a poco *rall.* *a tempo*

lone Of shad - ows on _____ the stars.

p sempre marc. *rall.* *a tempo*

shad - ows on _____ the stars. _____

rall. *a tempo*

8

dim. poco a poco *rall.* *a tempo*

lone Of shad - ows _____ on the stars.

dim. poco a poco *rall.* *a tempo*

lone Of shad - ows on _____ the stars.

dim. poco a poco *rall.* *a tempo*

31

pp *morendo e rall.* >

On _____ this shin - ing night.

pp *morendo e rall.* >

On _____ this shin - ing night.

pp *morendo e rall.* >

On _____ this shin - ing night.

pp *morendo e rall.* >

On _____ this shin - ing night.

mf *pp* *morendo e rall.* *r.h.*

HL50308930



0 73999 08930 1

G. SCHIRMER, Inc.

DISTRIBUTED BY
 HAL•LEONARD®

Samuel Barber
(1910–1981)

Sure on this shining night

published by G. Schirmer, 1941, from *Four Songs*, Op. 13, No. 3

originally for voice and piano

words by James Agee

Composition was completed in September, 1938

Dedicated to Barber's sister, Sara.

SATB and piano adaptation by the composer

published by G. Schirmer, 1961

This has become the most famous of Barber art songs. He later created a voice and orchestra version, and also this choral arrangement. The composer told an anecdote about a 1979 conversation with a New York City telephone operator who asked him to sing the beginning of "Sure on this shining night" to prove that he was Samuel Barber.

Though Barber and James Agee would become friends after the composer's setting of *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*, they had not yet met when "Sure on this shining night" was composed. The poem is from the "Descriptions of Elysium" section of the 1934 Agee collection *Permit Me Voyage*. James Agee (1909–1955) was a screenwriter (*The African Queen*), journalist, novelist, and a literate and respected film critic, writing for *Time* and *The Nation*. His movie reviews were later collected in *Agee on Film*. His 1941 book *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men: Three Tenant Families* is considered a masterwork. His posthumously published novel, *A Death in the Family*, won the Pulitzer Prize.