

premiered by the National Lutheran Choir and Artistic Director Dr. Jennaya Robison  
for Ani Ellis and Juniper Jean

# The Risk of Birth

for SATB voices and organ with brass quartet\*

Madeleine L'Engle, 1918–2007

Matthew J. Olson

I: Principals 8', 4'; II/I  
II: Soft Foundations 8', 4'  
Ped: Flutes 16', 8'

Freely (♩ = 64)

Trumpet I in C

Trumpet II in C

Trombone I

Trombone II

Organ

\*\*

pp

p

pp

p

\*A version for organ and solo trumpet (B $\flat$  or C, or solo trombone) is available at [www.augsburgfortress.org](http://www.augsburgfortress.org).

\*\*Organ *tacet* until measure 11 when brass quartet is performing.

Text: "The Risk of Birth, Christmas, 1973" from *The Ordering of Love: New and Collected Poems* by Madeleine L'Engle. Text © 2005 Crosswicks, Ltd. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
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7 *mp* *rit.*

Tpt. I in C

Tpt. II in C

Tbn. I

Tbn. II

Org.

11 *p* *unis. mp* *p* *rit.*

Tpt. I in C

Tpt. II in C

Tbn. I

Tbn. II

S  
A

12

11 *p* *rit.*

Org.

This is no time\_ for a child to be born, a

*poco accel.*

S  
A  
child to be born, with the earth be - trayed by war and hate and a

T  
B  
with the earth be - trayed by war and hate and a

Org.

*p* *mp*

*poco accel.* *mp* (II)

S  
A  
com - et slashing the sky to warn that

T  
B  
com - et slashing the sky to warn,

Org.

*mf* *poco rit.*

*mf* *poco rit.*

*cresc.* *mf* *poco rit.*

28

Tpt. I  
in C  
*mp*

Tpt. II  
in C

Tbn. I

Tbn. II

S  
28 *unis. mf*  
\*  
Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; \_\_\_\_\_

A  
*mf*  
That was no time\_ for a child to be born, a child to be

T

B  
*mf*  
That was no time\_ for a child to be born, a child to be born, in a

28

Org.  
*mp*  
+ Princ. 8'

\*"Savior of the Nations, Come"

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. hymnal version

Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524

THE RISK OF BIRTH

*poco accel.*

31

Tpt. I in C

Tpt. II in C

Tbn. I

Tbn. II

*mp*

31

S

A

T

B

in a land\_\_\_ in the crush - ing\_\_\_ grip\_\_\_ of Rome; hon - or and  
 born, in a land\_\_\_ in the crush - ing\_\_\_ grip\_\_\_ of Rome; hon - or.  
*mf*  
 8 Vir - gin's Son, make here your home! Hon - or and truth\_ were  
 land in the crush - ing\_\_\_ grip\_\_\_ of Rome; hon - or and truth were

31

Org.

*poco accel.*

*mf*  
Add

45 Broadly (♩ = 58)

*poco accel.*

Tpt. I in C *mp*

Tpt. II in C *mp*

Tbn. I *mp*

Tbn. II *mp*

S *mf*

A *mf*

T *mf*

B *mf*

When is the time\_ for\_ love to be born, for love to be born? The\_

45 Broadly (♩ = 58)

*poco accel.*

Org. Add