

Come to the Manger

Written and Arranged by Mark Hayes

A Cantata for S. A. T. B. Voices, 2 Narrators and Optional Soloists, Unison Children's Choir and Congregation



• **Choral Score** (2022) ISBN 0-7390-1996-1

• **Preview Pack** (2023) Choral Score and Listening CD ISBN 0-7390-1997-X

• **Accompaniment/Performance CD** (2024) ISBN 0-7390-1998-8

• **InstruPax** (2025) ISBN 0-7390-1999-6

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FOREWORD

Come to the Manger is a compelling Christmas cantata that sparkles with the artistry of its composer/arranger, Mark Hayes. In the first half, *The Nativity of Jesus*, we visit the humble manger in Bethlehem and gather with the shepherds to worship the Christ Child. An inventive combination of traditional carols and spirituals enlivens the scene, and two narrators provide biblical commentary.

In the second half, *The Visit of the Wise Men*, we celebrate the gift of God's Son with the magi. The final medley, *Christmas in the Manger*, gradually builds to a joyous conclusion as the people of God shout the glad news throughout the world that Jesus Christ is born!

Designed as an inspiring yet flexible Christmas program, **Come to the Manger** may be performed in its entirety, lasting approximately 30 minutes, or in two parts, the first at Christmas and the second at Epiphany. The author highly recommends the use of featured soloists, a unison children's choir and congregational singing, as indicated in the score, although the entire work may be presented by an S.A.T.B. choir.

Come to the Manger may be accompanied by keyboard instrument alone or with Mark's outstanding orchestration. An InstruPax is available separately, No. 20025, consisting of director's score and individual parts, including 2 flutes, piccolo, oboe, B \flat clarinet, French horn (opt. flugel horn), 2 B \flat trumpets, piccolo trumpet, trombone, bass trombone, master rhythm, piano, percussion, solo violin and solo cello. A fully-orchestrated performance/accompaniment CD recording, No. 20024, is also available.

COME TO THE MANGER

A Cantata for S.A.T.B. Voices, 2 Narrators,
and opt. Soloists, Unison Children's Choir and Congregation
Written and Arranged by MARK HAYES (ASCAP)

OVERTURE

*HE IS BORN

Brightly ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 80$)

ACCOMP.

* Traditional French carol.

* BRING A TORCH, JEANNETTE, ISABELLA

18 Liltng (♩ = ca. 58-60)

** INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

27 Faster (♩ = ca. 100)

Slightly slower

* Traditional French carol.

** Traditional Polish carol.

*AWAY IN A MANGER (Mueller)

34

Moderato (♩ = ca. 84-88)

** THE COVENTRY CAROL

45

Slower (♩ = ca. 72)

* Music by James R. Murray (1841-1905).

** Traditional English melody.

55

p *mp* *molto rit.* *p* *a tempo*

59

***THE FIRST NOEL**
Faster (♩ = ca. 80-84)

60

rit. *f* *ff* *rit.*

64

f *a tempo*

68

molto rit. *ff* *a tempo* *rit.*

* Traditional English carol (17th century).

I. THE NATIVITY OF JESUS

NARRATOR 1: Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given,
and the government will be upon His shoulder,
and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (*Isaiah 9: 6*)

1. AWAY IN A MANGER

(A Medley of Traditional Carols)

NARRATOR 2: And this will be a sign for you: you will find the Child

Moderato (♩ = ca. 84-88)

ACCOMP.

wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. (Luke 2: 12)

9

UNISON VOICES (+ opt. children's choir & congregation)

MUELLER *mp* gently

A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a

12

bed, The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet

16 17

head; The stars in the sky _____ looked

19

down where He lay, The lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a -

23 *(congregation tacet)*

sleep on the hay.

(opt. children continue on melody)

27 *mf* 28

A. The cat - tle are low - ing, the Ba - by a -

T. *mf*

B.

31

wakes, But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He

35

36

makes. I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky And

40

stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.

rall. *a tempo*
mp

rall. *a tempo*
mp

*NORMANDY CAROL

poco rit. 47

45 (children tacet) *mp* moving ahead

Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I

mp moving ahead

poco rit. *mp*

49

ask Thee to stay Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I

54 pray. *mp* *mf* 55

Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der

mf

* Verse 3 by John Thomas McFarland (1851-1913).

58 *rall.* *mp* *a tempo*

mp *p* And fit us for

care

mp *rall.* *pp* *mp* *a tempo*

8va

7

61 *poco rit.* *p* *mp*

heav - en to live with Thee there. A -

mp *p* *mp*

poco rit. *p* *mp*

***CRADLE SONG**

65 S. I (+ opt. children's choir & congregation)

a tempo

way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, The

S. II *a tempo*

way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, The

A.

T.

B.

65 *a tempo*

69 *mp* 73

lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid_ down His sweet head; The stars in the_

lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid_ down His sweet head; The stars in the_

69 *mf* *mp* 73

This system contains the first two systems of music. The top system features a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics and a piano accompaniment in treble clef. The bottom system features a vocal line in bass clef with lyrics and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. Both systems include dynamic markings (*mp*, *mf*) and measure numbers (69, 73). A large red watermark is overlaid across the page.

74 *mp*

sky looked_ down where He lay, The_ lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a -

sky_ looked_ down where He lay, Oo

74 *mp*

This system contains the second two systems of music. The top system features a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics and a piano accompaniment in treble clef. The bottom system features a vocal line in bass clef with lyrics and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. Both systems include dynamic markings (*mp*, *p*) and measure numbers (74). A large red watermark is overlaid across the page.

79 80 (congregation tacet)

sleep on the hay.

79 80

83 *rit.* *p* **Slower CHILDREN'S CHOIR** *pp*

Sleep in heav-en - ly peace.

rit. *p* *pp*

Sleep in heav-en - ly peace.

p *pp*

83 **Slower** *dim.* *rit.* *p* *pp*

2. BRING A TORCH, JEANNETTE, ISABELLA

Spirited (♩ = ca. 92-96)

*CHILDREN, GO WHERE I SEND THEE

NARRATOR 2: A decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all people should

ACCOMP.

be counted. This was the first census, and it was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all people traveled to the towns of their births to be counted. (Luke 2: 1-3)

Slower (♩ = ca. 76)

11 NARRATOR 1: Joseph traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem, which is the city of David. He went with Mary, to whom he was engaged, and who was expecting her first child.

While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn Son, wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Joseph named Him Jesus. **23** Lively (♩ = ca. 66)

(Luke 2: 4-7; Matthew 1: 25b)

* Traditional spiritual.

26 *tr* *cresc. poco a poco*

31

35 SOLO (opt. all sopranos) **38** BRING A TORCH, JEANNETTE, ISABELLA *mf*

Bring a torch, Jean - nette, Is - a -

41 bel - la! Bring a torch, to the cra - dle

47 run! It is **51**

52 *mp*

Je - sus, good folk of the vil - lage; Christ is born and

57 *mp* *mf*

Ma - ry's call - ing: Ah! ah! beau - ti - ful

62 *mp rall.* *mf*

is the Moth - er! Ah! ah! beau - ti - ful

67 68 *a tempo*

is her Son!

a tempo *mf*

71 *(end solo)* *rall.*

76 Slower (♩ = ca. 46-48)

A. *S. mf*
It is wrong when the Child is sleep - ing, It is

T. *mf*

B. Slower (♩ = ca. 46-48)

81 *p gently*

wrong to talk so loud; Si - lence, all, as you

p

84

86 *rall.*

gath - er a - round, Lest your noise should wak - en

91 **92** *a tempo*

Je - sus.

p *mp*

Hush! hush! see how fast He

96 *p* *rit.* *mp* *Slower* *rit.* He,

Hush! hush! see how fast He

slum - bers;

p *rit.* *mp* *Slower* *rit.*

In one, slightly faster (♩ = ca. 46-48)

101

ah, ah,

sleeps!

In one, slightly faster (♩ = ca. 46-48)

105 SOPRANOS ONLY

ah, ah.

rit.

109 Slower (♩ = ca. 108)

Slower (♩ = ca. 108)

mf *mp*

117 Freely, expressively

mp

114

Soft - ly to the

mp

Freely, expressively

mp

119

lit - tle sta - ble, Soft - ly for a

mp

123

mo - ment come; Look and see how

125

127

charm - ing is Je - sus, How He is white, His cheeks are

132 *poco rit.* **133** *a tempo* *p* *mp*

ros - y! Hush! hush! see how the Child is

137 *p* *pp* *molto rit.*

sleep - ing; Hush! hush! see how He smiles in

142 Quickly! (♩. = ca. 66)

mp

dreams.

mp

Quickly! (♩. = ca. 66)

mp *cresc.*

SOLO

146 *mf*

Bring a torch, — Jean - nette, Is - a - bel - la,

mf *mp*

152

S. *p*

A. *p*

Oo.

T. *p*

B.

run!

mf *p*

3. MIDNIGHT NOEL

(It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
and The First Noel)

NARRATOR 1: On that same night, there were shepherds in the countryside,
keeping watch over their flock.
An angel of the Lord appeared to them,
and the glory of the Lord shone all around them,
and they were very frightened.
The angel said, "Do not be afraid, for behold,
I bring you good news of great joy for all people:
Unto you is born this day, in the city of David,
a Savior, Who is Christ, the Lord." (Luke 2: 8-11)

NARRATOR 2: The shepherds said, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing
Moderately fast, in two ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 72$)

ACCOMP. *p*

that the Lord has made known to us." They hurried to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and

Jesus, who was lying in a manger. The shepherds told everyone what they had seen and heard, and all

who heard their story were amazed. But Mary treasured their words and pondered them in her heart.
Then the shepherds returned to the countryside, praising and glorifying God. (Luke 2: 15-20)

[11] Broadly, in four ($\text{♩} = \text{♩}$)

15 *rit.* *mf*

It

*IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

19

came up - on — the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song — of

22

old, — From an - gels bend - ing near the earth to

25 *f* 27

touch their harps — of gold: — “Peace on the earth, — good -

28 *mp*

will to men, from heav'n's all-gra-cious King!" The

(all,)

31 *poco rit.*

world in sol-emn still-ness lay to hear the an-gels

mp *poco rit.*

34 *a tempo*

sing.

a tempo *mf*

37 S. *rit.* *mf* 39 *a tempo*

A. For lo, the days are

T. *mf*

B.

rit. *mf a tempo*

40

has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old, When

43

with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore -

46

told, When the new heav'n and earth shall own the

49 *mf*

Prince of Peace their King, And the whole world send

52

back the song which now the an - gels sing.

55

"Glo - ry to God! Born is the King of

"Peace on the earth!

59

Moderato (♩ = ca. 104)

58 *rit.* *f*

Is - ra - el!"

Moderato (♩ = ca. 104)

rit. *f*

61

dim. *mf*

(Congregation may sing melody mm. 66-121)
THE FIRST NOEL

65 *rit.* *mf* 67 *a tempo*

The first No - el the

rit. *a tempo*

69

an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in

73

75

fields as they lay; In fields where they lay

77

keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that

81

83

was so deep. No - el, No - el, No -

85

el, No - el, Born is the King of

89

Is - ra - el.

SOPRANO DESCANT

94 *a tempo*

93 *rit.* *f* *a tempo*

Let us all with one ac -

UNISON VOICES *rit.* *f* *a tempo*

Then let us all with one ac -

f rit. *a tempo*

97

cord sing prais - es to our heav'n - ly

cord sing prais - es to our heav'n - ly

101

Lord. Heav'n and earth of

Lord, That hath made heav'n and earth of

105

naught, and with His blood man-kind hath bought.

S.
A.
T.
B.

105

naught, and with His blood man-kind hath bought. No -

110

No - el, No - el, No - el, (rejoin section)

rall. *ff*

el, No - el, No - el, No - el, *ff*

rall. *ff*

110

rall. *ff*

CONGREGATION *only*

114 *f a tempo*

Born is the King! Glad - ly we sing:

f a tempo

Born is the King!

f
Glad - ly we sing:

114

f a tempo

118 Broadly

ff

molto rit.

"Born is the King of Is - ra - ell!"

ff

molto rit.

"Born is the King of Is - ra - ell!"

ff

"Born is the King of Is - ra - ell!"

118 Broadly

ff

molto rit.

II. THE VISIT OF THE WISE MEN

1. WHAT CAN I GIVE HIM?

*WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE

NARRATOR 1: After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, wise men came from the East to

Moderato (♩ = ca. 104)

ACCOMP.

Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the Child who is born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star and have come to worship Him." When King Herod heard this, he became very frightened.

He called together his chief priests, who told him that, according to ancient prophecy, the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem. (Matthew 2: 1-6)

NARRATOR 2: King Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem, instructing them to return to him with the

Child. The wise men followed the star until it stopped over the place where Jesus was. They worshipped

* Music by John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891).

Him, presenting Him with precious gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. (Matthew 2: 7-11)

Slightly slower (♩ = ca. 92)

22

poco rit.

27 UNISON CHILDREN (opt. SOLO)

mf

*What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a

32

shep - herd, I would bring a lamb; If I were a

35

36

wise man, I would do my part; Yet what can I

* Words by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894); music by Mark Hayes (ASCAP).

40

give Him? I will give my heart.

45

47 *mf*

What can I give Him,

mf

49

poor as I am? If I were a shep - herd,

53

55

I would bring a lamb; If I were a wise man,

57

I would do my part; Yet what can I give Him?

61

I will give my heart.

65

rit. mp *p*

I will give my heart.

mp rit. *p*

NARRATOR 2: As the wise men were sleeping, an angel of the Lord appeared in their dreams, warning them that Herod planned to kill the Child. The wise men fled to their country. When Herod heard this, he became enraged and ordered his soldiers to murder all children under the age of two, living in or near Bethlehem. (*Matthew 2: 12, 16-17*)

2. THE COVENTRY CAROL

Moderato (♩ = ca. 76-80)

ACCOMP.

UNISON WOMEN (opt. SOLO)

7 *poco rit.* 8 *a tempo mp*

**Lul - ly, lul - lay, thou

10 (even eighths)

lit - tle ti - ny Child, By, by, lul -

* Adapted from *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*, from Cantata No. 147, **HERZ UND MUND UND TAT UND LEBEN** by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

** From the *Coventry Pageant of the Shearman and Tailors* (15th century), words by Robert Croo.
Lully, lullay = loo - lee, loo - lay.

13 *mf*

ly, lul - lay; Lul -

16

lay, thou lit - tle ti - ny

mf

19 *mp* *poco rit.*

Child, By, by, lul - ly, lul -

mp *poco rit.*

22 *a tempo* [24]

lay.

a tempo *mf*

25

28

cresc.

f

31

poco rit.

dim.

rit.

UNISON MEN (opt. SOLO)

34

a tempo

mf

O sis - ters too, how may we do

mf a tempo

5

38

mf

For to pre - serve this day _____ This

mf

3

3

3

42

poor Young - ling, for whom we do sing,

46

By, by, lul - ly, lul - lay?

poco accel. e cresc.

50

Agitated (♩ = ca. 88)

f

S.
A.
T.
B.

Her - od, the king, in

f

Agitated (♩ = ca. 88)

54

his rag - ing, Charg - ed he hath this

58

60

day His men of might, in

62

cresc.

poco rit.

his own sight, All chil - dren young to

cresc.

cresc.

poco rit.

66 *ff a tempo*

slay.

ff

a tempo ff

70

rall.

f

mf rall. e dim.

Red. *

74 *Mournfully* (♩ = ca. 69)

mp

Then woe is me, poor Child for Thee, And ev - er

Mournfully (♩ = ca. 69)

p

mp

79

mourn and say, _____ For Thy part -

mp

Thy part -

83

ing nor say _____ nor sing,

ing _____

rit.

86

Slowly

p *mf* *ten.* *p* *rit.*

By, by, lul - ly, lul - lay. _____

p *mf* *ten.* *p*

Slowly

p *mf* *ten.* *p* *rit.* *3*

3. CHRISTMAS IN THE MANGER

(A Medley of Traditional Carols)

NARRATOR 1: Despite Herod's murderous act, Jesus was safe,
for the angel had also warned Joseph.
Joseph escaped into Egypt with Mary and Jesus,
where they remained until the death of Herod.
Thus the ancient prophecy was fulfilled:
"Out of Egypt have I called my Son." (*Matthew 2: 13-15*)

* O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

Moderato (♩ = ca. 92)

NARRATOR 2: So keep this in mind: Christ Jesus, though He was in the form of God,

ACCOMP.

did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited. He humbled Himself, taking human form,

being born in a lowly manger, and became obedient to the point of death on the cross. Therefore,
God exalted Him, so that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bend, and every tongue confess:

ALL PEOPLE: Jesus Christ is Lord of all! (*Philippians 2: 5-11*)

* Words from traditional Latin hymn, trans. by Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880);
music by John Francis Wade (ca. 1711-1786).

16 * INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY
a tempo

15 S. *rit.* *mf*

A.

In-fant ho - ly, In-fant low - ly, for His bed a cat-tle

T. *mf*

B.

rit. *a tempo*

19

stall; Ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the

22 *mp* 24

Babe is Lord of all. Swift are wing - ing an - gels

mp

* Traditional Polish carol.

25 *cresc.* *mf*

sing - ing, no - els ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing: Christ the

cresc. *mf*

cresc. *mf*

28 *rit.* (♩ = ♩)

Babe is Lord of all. Christ the Babe is Lord of

rit. (♩ = ♩)

31 **Brightly** (♩ = ca. 80-84)

mp

all. mp

Brightly (♩ = ca. 80-84)

mp

35 HE IS BORN

mp

He is born! _____

mf

He is born, the di - vine Christ Child; Play the o - boe and

mf

38

Play a mer-ry tune. He is born! _____

bag - pipes mer-ri - ly! He is born, the Ho - ly Child;

41

43

mf

Let us sing His na - tiv - i - ty. Through long a - ges of the past,

mp

Let us sing His na - tiv - i - ty. *Brrm, Brrm,

mp

* Roll "r's."

45

proph-ets have fore - told His com-ing; Through long a - ges_ of the past,

Brrm, Brrm, Brrm, Brrm,

49

now the time has_ come at last! He is born, the di - vine Christ Child;

Brrm, Brrm.

51 *f*

53

Play the_ o - boe and bag - pipes mer - ri - ly! He is born, the_

Play_ mer - ri - ly!

56

Ho - ly Child; Let us sing His na - tiv - i - ty.

59

Let us sing His na - tiv

rall.

62

a tempo
mf

ty.

mf

a tempo

rit.

rit.

*MARY HAD A BABY

66 Freely (♩ = ca. 72-76)

mf SOPRANO (opt. SOLO)**

Ma-ry had a Ba - by, _____ Ma-ry had a Ba - by, _____ Oh, _____ *f*

ALTO *p* < *mf* > , *p*

My Lord! _____ Oh, my Lord!

TENOR *p* < *mf* > , *p*

My Lord! _____ Oh, my Lord!

BASS *p* < *mf* > , *p*

My Lord! _____ Oh, my Lord!

66 Freely (♩ = ca. 72-76)

mp
(opt. keyboard mm. 66-73)

mp _____ *p*

70 *mf* _____ (end Solo) *p* ,

Ma-ry had a Ba - by, My Lord! My Lord!

f *mf* > *mp* *p* ,

My Lord! Oh, Ma-ry had a Ba - by. _____ My Lord!

f *mf* > *mp* *p* ,

My Lord! Oh, my Lord! My Lord!

f *mf* > *mp* ,

My Lord! Oh, my Lord! Ma-ry had a Ba - by. _____

70 *mf* _____ *p*

* Traditional spiritual.

** May be performed by a soloist through m. 71. Alto part should then be sung by sopranos and altos.

Faster (♩ = ca. 96-100)

mp
Born in a man - ger, _____

mp
Born in a man - ger, _____

mp *f*
Born in a man - ger. Where was He born? _____

mf
Where was He born? _____

Faster (♩ = ca. 96-100)

mf *mp* *mf*

rit. *f* **Slower**
Born in a man - ger, Oh, _____

f
Born in a man - ger, Oh, _____

f
Ma-ry had a Ba - by born in a man - ger, _____

mp *f*
Born in a man - ger, Oh, _____

rit. *f* **Slower**

80 *mp* **82** **Faster** (♩ = ca. 116)

My Lord!_

mf *mp*

Ma-ry had a Ba - by, My Lord!_

mp *f*

My Lord!_ What did they call Him?_

mp *f*

My Lord!_ What did they call Him?_

80 **82** **Faster** (♩ = ca. 116)

mf *mp* *f*

83 *f* *rit.*

King Je-sus, King Je-sus,

f

King Je-sus, King Je-sus,

What did they call Him?_

What did they call Him?_

83 *rit.*

Slower

86 *ff* *f rit.* *mf* *ff*

Ma-ry had a Ba - by, He was called "King Je - sus." Ma-ry had a Ba - by, —

ff *f* *mf* *ff*

Slower

ff *f rit.* *mf* *ff*

rit. mf *mf* *mf* *mf rit.*

Yes, my —

Yes, my

mf *mf rit.*

Faster (♩ = ca. 120) (♩ = $\overset{\frown}{\underset{\frown}{\text{♩}}}$)

Lord.

Faster (♩ = ca. 120) (♩ = $\overset{\frown}{\underset{\frown}{\text{♩}}}$)

94

mf 95 *THE LITTLE CRADLE ROCKS IN GLORY

The lit-tle cra-dle rocks to - night in glo - ry,

97

in glo - ry, in glo - ry. The lit-tle cra-dle rocks to -

100

night in glo - ry, The Christ-Child born in glo - ry.—

* Traditional spiritual.

Read it in the Gos-pel of Math - a-yew, - the Gos-pel of Luke and John..

mp *mf*

Oh, _____

(detached)

Read it in the Gos-pel and learn the news, - How the

mp *mf*

Oh, _____

lit-tle Boy Child was born. _____ Peace on earth, Ma-ry,

f

112

rock the cra - dle, rock the cra - dle, rock the cra-dle.

115

Peace on earth, Ma-ry, rock the cra - dle, The Christ-Child born in

118

119

glo - ry. — Oh, —

Read it in the Gos-pel of Math - a-yew, — the

121

Oh, _____ Oh, _____

Gos-pel of Luke and John. _____ Read it in the Gos-pel and

124

mf

lit-tle Boy Child was born! _____

learn the news, _ How the

127 SOLO (male or female)

f Shout it in the cit-y and coun-try-side, _ that Je-sus Christ is born. _

S. *f* _____ *mf* *cresc.*

A. Shout it! _____ Je-sus

T. *f* _____ *mf* *cresc.*

B. _____

127

f _____ *mf* *cresc.*

130

Musical staff for voice, measures 130-132. The melody begins with a whole note rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, and a quarter note F4 with a fermata.

It's the shout-in' kind of news you just can't hide, — that

Musical staff for voice, measures 133-134. Measure 133 contains a whole note chord G3-Bb3-D4. Measure 134 contains a whole note chord G3-Bb3-D4 with a dynamic marking *f*.

Christ is born! — Shout-in',

Musical staff for voice, measures 135-136. Measure 135 contains a whole note chord G3-Bb3-D4 with a dynamic marking *f*. Measure 136 contains a whole note chord G3-Bb3-D4.

Piano accompaniment for measures 130-136. The right hand features chords and moving lines, while the left hand provides a steady bass line. A dynamic marking *f* appears in measure 134.

133

135

(rejoin section)

Musical staff for voice, measures 133-134. Measure 133 contains a whole note chord G3-Bb3-D4. Measure 134 contains a whole note chord G3-Bb3-D4.

Je - sus Christ is born!

Musical staff for voice, measures 135-136. Measure 135 contains a whole note chord G3-Bb3-D4. Measure 136 contains a whole note chord G3-Bb3-D4.

Je - sus Christ is born! — The lit-tle cra-dle rocks to -

Musical staff for voice, measures 137-138. Measure 137 contains a whole note chord G3-Bb3-D4. Measure 138 contains a whole note chord G3-Bb3-D4.

Cra - dle

Piano accompaniment for measures 133-138. The right hand features chords and moving lines, while the left hand provides a steady bass line. A dynamic marking *f* appears in measure 134.

133

135

136

night in glo - ry, in glo - ry, in glo - ry. The

rocks in — glo - ry, — glo - ry. —

139

lit - tle cra - dle rocks to - night in glo - ry, The

Cra - dle rock - in', —

141

Christ Child born in glo - ry, — The Christ Child born in

mf

mf

3

145

144

glo - ry, — The Christ — Child born in

147

glo ry

150

(no rit.)

COME TO THE MANGER

*A Cantata for S.A.T.B. Voices, 2 Narrators,
and Optional Soloists, Unison Children's Choir and Congregation*

Written and Arranged by Mark Hayes

OVERTURE

I. THE NATIVITY OF JESUS

NARRATOR 1: Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given,
and the government will be upon His shoulder,
and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (*Isaiah 9: 6*)

NARRATOR 2: And this will be a sign for you: you will find the Child
wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. (*Luke 2: 12*)

1. Away in a Manger

(A Medley of Traditional Carols)

(Verses 1 and 4 - choir and congregational singing)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

(Verses 2 and 3 - choir only)

NARRATOR 2: A decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all people should be counted.
This was the first census, and it was taken while Quirinius was governor of
Syria. So all people traveled to the towns of their births to be counted.
(*Luke 2: 1-3*)

NARRATOR 1: Joseph traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem, which is the city of David.
He went with Mary, to whom he was engaged, and who was expecting her
first child. While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to
deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn Son, wrapped Him in
swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for
them in the inn. Joseph named Him Jesus. (*Luke 2: 4-7; Matthew 1: 25b*)

2. Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella

(choir only)

NARRATOR 1: On that same night, there were shepherds in the countryside, keeping watch over their flock. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone all around them, and they were very frightened. The angel said, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy for all people: Unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, Who is Christ, the Lord.” *(Luke 2: 8-11)*

NARRATOR 2: The shepherds said, “Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that the Lord has made known to us.” They hurried to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and Jesus, Who was lying in a manger. The shepherds told everyone what they had seen and heard, and all who heard their story were amazed. But Mary treasured their words and pondered them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned to the countryside, praising and glorifying God.” *(Luke 2: 15-20)*

3. Midnight Noel

(It Came Upon the Midnight Clear and The First Noel)

(It Came Upon the Midnight Clear - choir only)

(The First Noel - choir and congregational singing)

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That had made heaven and earth of naught, and with His blood mankind hath bought.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King! Gladly we sing: “Born is the King of Israel!”

II. THE VISIT OF THE WISE MEN

NARRATOR 1: After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, wise men came from the East to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the Child who is born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star and have come to worship Him.” When King Herod heard this, he became very frightened. He called together his chief priests, who told him that, according to ancient prophecy, the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem. *(Matthew 2: 1-6)*

NARRATOR 2: King Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem, instructing them to return to him with the Child. The wise men followed the star until it stopped over the place where Jesus was. They worshiped Him, presenting Him with precious gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. *(Matthew 2: 7-11)*

1. What Can I Give Him?

(choir only)

NARRATOR 2: As the wise men were sleeping, an angel of the Lord appeared in their dreams, warning them that Herod planned to kill the Child. The wise men fled to their country. When Herod heard this, he became enraged and ordered his soldiers to murder all children under the age of two, living in or near Bethlehem. *(Matthew 2: 12, 16-17)*

2. The Coventry Carol

(choir only)

NARRATOR 1: Despite Herod's murderous act, Jesus was safe, for the angel had also warned Joseph. Joseph escaped into Egypt with Mary and Jesus, where they remained until the death of Herod. Thus the ancient prophecy was fulfilled: "Out of Egypt have I called my Son." *(Matthew 2: 13-15)*

NARRATOR 2: So keep this in mind: Christ Jesus, though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited. He humbled Himself, taking human form, being born in a lowly manger, and became obedient to the point of death on the cross. Therefore, God exalted Him, so that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bend, and every tongue confess:

ALL PEOPLE: Jesus Christ is Lord of all! *(Philippians 2: 5-11)*

3. Christmas in the Manger *(A Medley of Traditional Carols)*

(choir only)