

# 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



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- **Preview Pack** (2023) Choral Score and Listening CD ISBN 0-7390-1997-X
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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, Bb clarinet, French horn (opt. flugel horn), 2 Bb 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.

*mp*

*cresc.*

\* Traditional French carol.

18 Lilting (♩ = ca. 58-60)

\*\* INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

27 Faster (♩ = ca. 100)

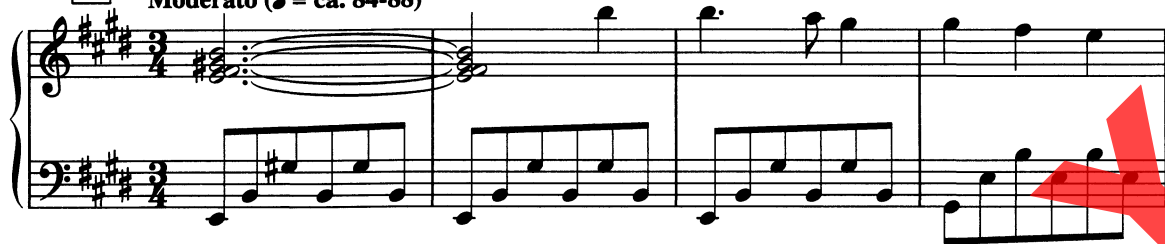
\* Traditional French carol.

\*\* Traditional Polish carol.

**\*AWAY IN A MANGER (Mueller)**

34

Moderato (♩ = ca. 84-88)



38



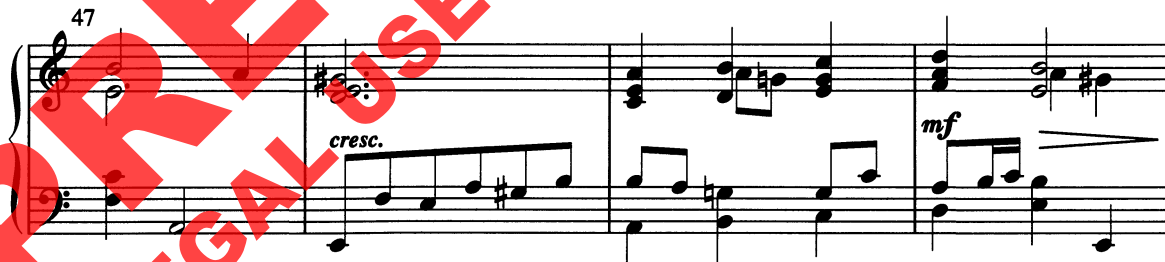
**\*\* THE COVENTRY CAROL**

45

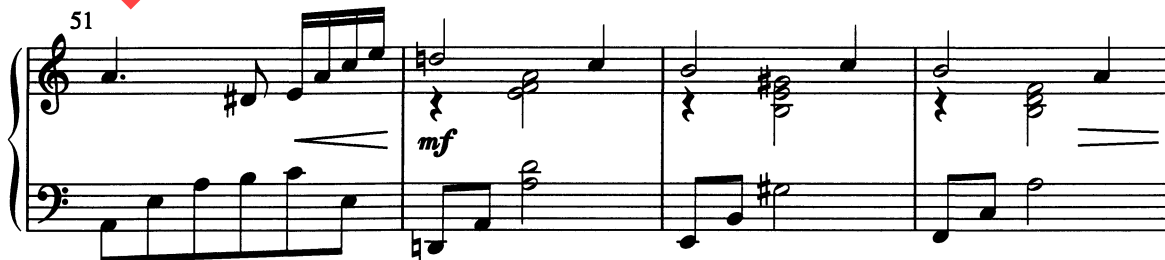
Slower (♩ = ca. 72)



47



51



\* 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)

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

MUELLER *mp gently*



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 S. 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*

*mp*

*rall.* *a tempo* *mp*

\*NORMANDY CAROL [47]

(children tacet) *poco rit.* *mp* *moving ahead*

Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I

*mp* *moving ahead* *poco rit.* *mp*

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

54 55

pray. *mp* *mf*

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

*mf*

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

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

And fit us for

care

*mp* *p* *8va* *pp* *mp* *a tempo*

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* *mf*

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

S. II *a tempo* *mf*

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

T. *mf*

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* 73 *mp*

74 *mp*

sky looked\_ down where He lay, The\_ lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a -

sky\_ looked\_ down where He lay, Oo

74 *p* *p* *mp*

79 80 (congregation tacet)

sleep on the hay.

79 80

Slower  
CHILDREN'S CHOIR

83 rit. *p* *pp*

Sleep in heav-en - ly peace.

83 rit. *p* *pp*

Sleep in heav-en - ly peace.

83 Slower *p* *pp*

dim. rit.

## 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 *3*

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

Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella

41 *f* *mf*

bel - la! Bring a torch, to the cradle

47 51

run! It is



52 *mp*

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

*mp*

57 *mp* *mf*

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

*mp* *mf*

62 *mp rall.* *mf*

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

*mp rall.*

67 68 *a tempo*

is her Son! —

*a tempo* *mf* 7 3

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)

84

*p gently*

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

*p*

86 *rall.*

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

*rall.*

91 [92] *a tempo*

Je - sus.

*p* *mp*

Hush! hush! see how fast He

*a tempo* *mp*

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

Hush! hush! see how fast He

*p* *mp*

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)

117 Freely, expressively

*mp*

Soft - ly to the

*mp*

Freely, expressively

*mp*

119

lit - tle sta - ble, Soft ly for a

*mp*

123

125

mo - ment come; Look and see how

127

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

132

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

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

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

*p* *pp* *molto rit.*

*p* *pp* *molto rit.*

*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*  
T. *p*  
B.

run! Oo.

*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 (♩ = ca. 72)

ACCOMP.



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 (♩ = ♩)



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

*rit.**mf*39 *a tempo*

For lo, the days are

*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 **f** 47

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

49 *mf*

Prince — of Peace — their King, — And the whole world — send

*mf*



52

back — the song — which now the an - gels sing. —



55

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

"Peace on the earth!



58 *rit.* 59 Moderato (♩ = ca. 104) *f*

Is - ra - el!" *f*

Moderato (♩ = ca. 104) *f*

*rit.*

61

*dim.* *mf*

(Congregation may sing melody mm. 66-121)

THE FIRST NOEL

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

The first No - el the

*mf*

*rit.* *a tempo*

69

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



73

fields as they lay; In fields where they lay

75



77

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





was — so deep.

No - el, — No - el,

No -

el, — No - el,

Born is the King — of

Is - ra - el.

## SOPRANO DESCANT

[94] *a tempo**rit.**f*

## UNISON VOICES

*rit.**f**a tempo*

Let us all with one ac

Then let us all with one ac -

*f rit.**a tempo*

97



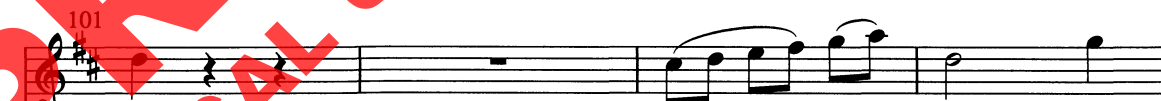
cord sing prais - es to our heav'n - ly



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



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

S.  

A.  

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

T. 

B. 

105

Handwritten musical score for measures 105-108 of 'The Rose Tree' by Henry Purcell. The score is written for a single melodic line on a five-line staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The notation includes various note values (quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes), rests, and bar lines. A large red watermark reading 'Purcell' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

No - el, \_\_\_\_\_ No - el, \_\_\_\_\_

el, \_\_\_\_\_ No - el, No - el, \_\_\_\_\_ No - el

110

*rall.*

*ff*

114 *f a tempo*

Born is the King!

Glad - ly we sing:

*f a tempo*

Born is the King!

Glad - ly we sing:

114

*f a tempo*

118 Broadly

*ff**molto rit.*

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

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

*ff**molto rit.*

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

35

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

36

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

40

give Him? I will give my heart. \_\_\_\_\_

45

47 *mf*

What can I give Him,

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* I will give my heart. *p*

*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.

4

7

*poco rit.*

8 *a tempo mp*

*poco rit.* *mp a tempo*

10 (even eighths)

\*\*Lul - ly, lul - lay, thou

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 *mf*

lay, thou lit - tle ti ny

19 *mp* *poco rit.*

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

22 *a tempo* 24 *mf*

lay.

25

3

28

cresc.

31

poco rit.

dim.

rit.

34

UNISON MEN (opt. SOLO)

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,

*mf*

46

*poco accel. e cresc.*

By, by, lul - ly, lul - lay? —

*poco accel. e cresc.*

50

**Agitated** (♩ = ca. 88)

***f***

S.

A.

Her - od, the king, in

***f***

T.

B.

**Agitated** (♩ = ca. 88)

***f***

his rag - ing,

Charg - ed he hath this

day

His men

of might,

in

his own sight,

All chil - dren young to

66 **ff** *a tempo*

slay.

**ff**

*a tempo*

**ff**

ON PURCHASE

70

*rall.*

*f*

*mf*

*rall. e dim.*

*Ped.*

74 Mournfully (♩ = ca. 69)

*mp*

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

Mournfully (♩ = ca. 69)

*p*

*mp*

mourn and

say, \_\_\_\_\_

For

Thy

part -

*mp*

Thy part -

ing

nor

say \_\_\_\_\_

nor sing,

ing \_\_\_\_\_

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

By, by, lul - ly,

*mf**ten.**p*

lul - lay.

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



# 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.



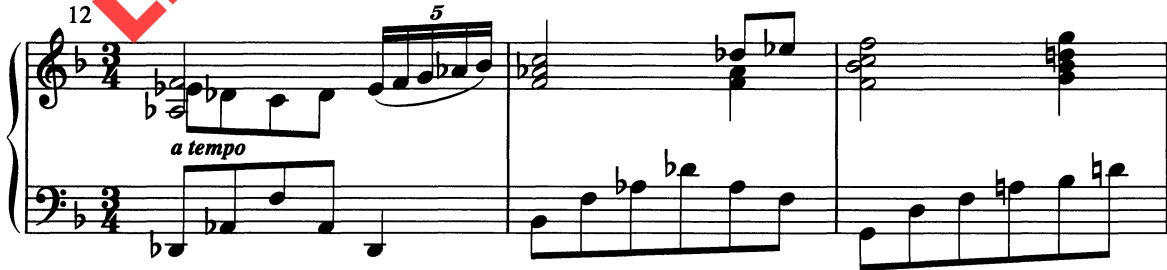
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited. He humbled Himself, taking human form,



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* 47

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*

48 **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,

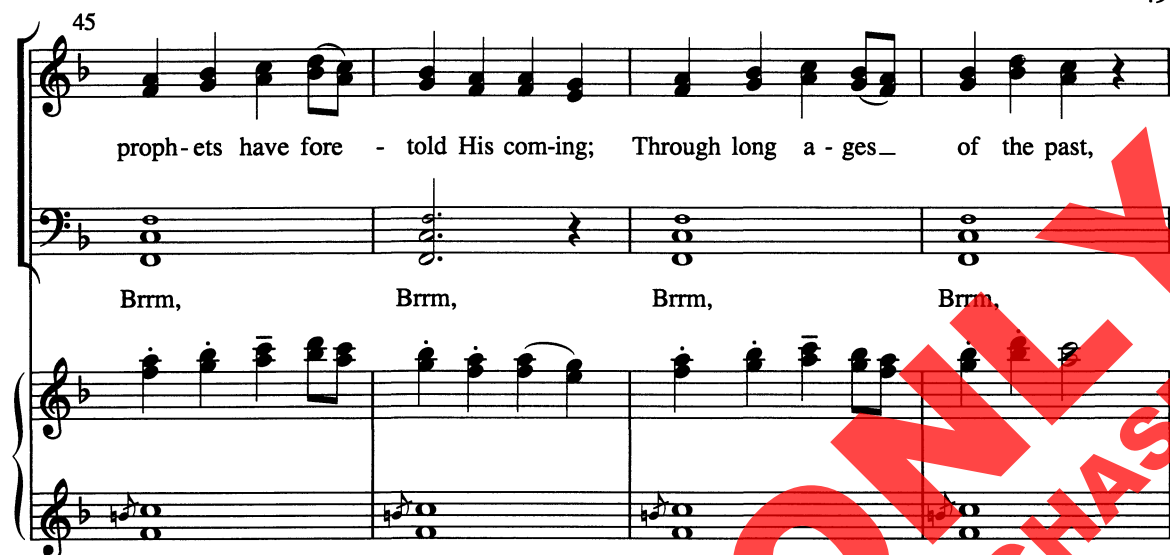
*mp*

\* 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.

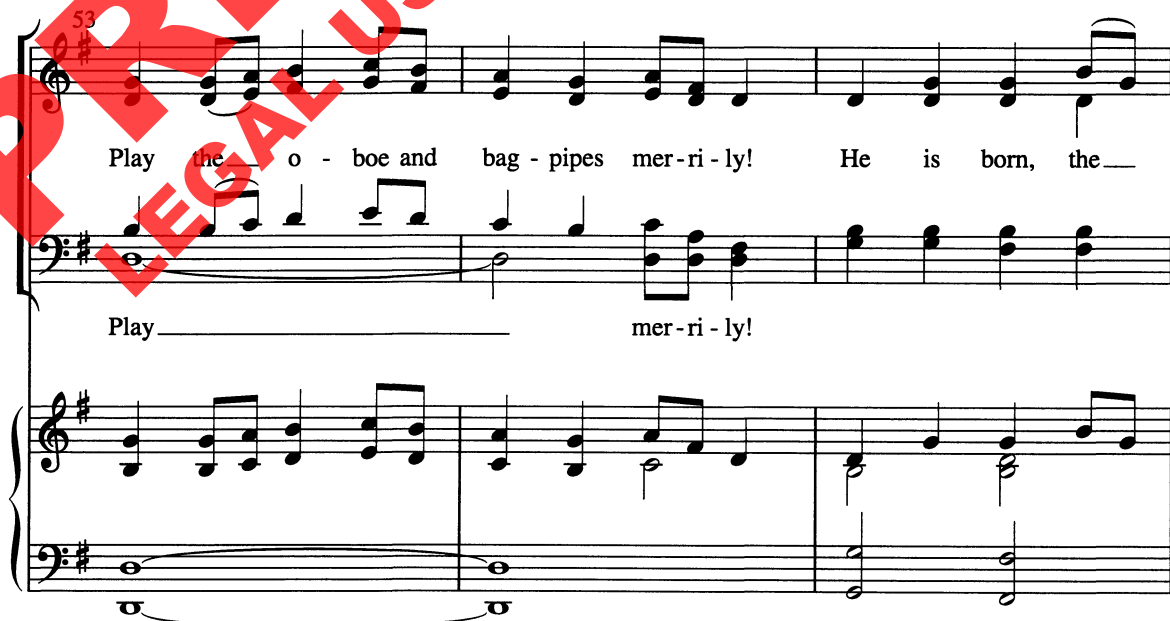
51 *f*



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 - i

*rall.*

62

*a tempo*  
*mf*

*mf*

*ty.*

*mf a tempo*

*rit.*

*rit.*

\*MARY HAD A BABY

51

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* Oh, my Lord!

TENOR *p* *< mf* , *p* Oh, my Lord!

BASS *p* *< mf* , *p* Oh, my Lord!

My Lord! \_\_\_\_\_ Oh, my Lord!

66 Freely (♩ = ca. 72-76)

*mp*  
(opt. keyboard mm. 66-73)

*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!

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)

*mp**mf**rit.**f* Slower

Born in a man - ger, \_\_\_\_\_

Oh, \_\_\_\_\_

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, \_\_\_\_\_

*f* Slower*rit.*



Faster (♩ = ca. 116)

82

80 *mp* 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?\_

82

Faster (♩ = ca. 116)

80 *mf* *mp*

83 *f* King Je-sus, King Je-sus, *rit.*

*f* King Je-sus, King Je-sus,

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*

89 *rit.* *mf* *3*

Yes, my

*mf* *3*

Yes, my

*mf rit.*

91

Faster (♩ = ca. 120) (♩ =  $\overset{3}{\text{♩}}$ )

Lord.

Faster (♩ = ca. 120) (♩ =  $\overset{3}{\text{♩}}$ )

94

***mf* [95] \*THE LITTLE CRADLE ROCKS IN GLORY**

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

*mf*

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)

106

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

*mp* *mf*

Oh, \_\_\_\_\_

109 111 *f*

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

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

118

*f* glo - ry.—

119

*mp* Oh,—

*mf* 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

lit-tle Boy Child was born! \_\_\_\_\_

learn the news, \_ How the

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*

Shout it! Je - sus

A.

*f*

Shout it! Je - sus

T.

*f*

Shout it! Je - sus

B.

*f*

Shout it! Je - sus

130



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



Christ is born! —

Shout-in',



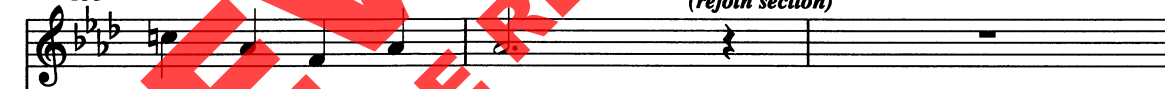
130



133

135

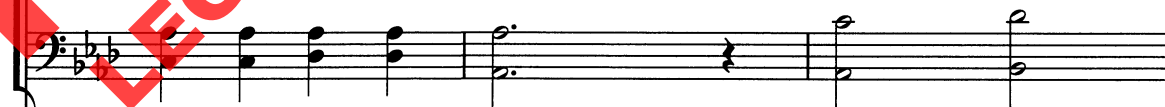
(rejoin section)



Je - sus Christ is born!



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



Cra - dle

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



144

145

glo - ry, — The Christ — Child born in

147

glo

*ff*

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)*