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Foreword

Do you remember receiving that long-awaited gift as a child? Or maybe it was as a teen or even an adult! Perhaps it was a gift that you had longingly anticipated for Christmas or a birthday, yet you were reticent to get your hopes too high because they had been dashed before when it didn't evolve as you had scripted it in your mind. But then it happened, in all its glory: the electric train set; the bike; the pet; the trip; the car.... exceeding all of your expectations! But how do you respond to the giver? A mere thank you seems inadequate for the perfect gift. What kind of response is merited in those moments of indescribable joy?

The people of Israel must have felt something akin to these same feelings as they awaited the Messiah. They understood that God had promised a Savior who would come to redeem them. They had their preconceived notions as to what that might look like and even when and how it might happen. But such a plan was based on their thinking, not God's design. And then it happened! God sent a King: Emmanuel, God with us; the Word (Jesus) made flesh.

This perfect gift was a baby born in the tiny and remote village of Bethlehem. This wasn't the usual path to a King's throne. But this was God's plan. And His plan is always right!

So, how does one respond to heaven's perfect gift? The prophet Micah asked: "*With what shall I come before the Lord....what does the Lord require of me?*" Great questions! I have sometimes wondered if Jesus would have answered that question similarly to the way He responded when asked about the greatest commandment: "*To love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all our soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.*"

How does one respond to the perfect gift of heaven? It seems to me that the appropriate response is to live my life as an act of worship and devotion in gratitude for God's greatest gift, Jesus. *Come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

– Lloyd Larson

Performance Suggestions

The overriding goal in a Christmas presentation such as *The Gift* is that it be more a worship experience than a concert. To that end, here are a few considerations as you prepare your musicians to present this work:

- There are two places that are particularly suitable for participation by children in this presentation. The first is *Christ Is Born This Holy Night* (page 32) and, secondly, *Worship God's Great Gift!* (page 73). Here you will note the optional inclusion of a solo and/or unison children. If needed, you can support the children with the sopranos and altos. Repetition in these places will aid the learning process.
- If using a child soloist or children's choir, one might consider having the child/children carry a small, wrapped gift to the singing area (risers, steps, etc.) and then placing it in a central and visible location as they move into position to sing on page 32. Then as they return to sing on page 73, they could retrieve that gift, holding it while they sing on the last number. They could then potentially raise that gift on page 81, measure 76 symbolically offering a gift to God in response to the great Christmas gift, Jesus, while singing: *Lord, receive our grateful offering, gifts of heart and mind, and soul and strength....* This is just one possible suggestion. Allow your creativity to shape your plans!
- The musical concludes with familiar words from timeless carols (page 75, measure 32) allowing the congregation to respond in corporate fashion to the compelling and timeless message of the Christmas story.

Prepare, Prepare the Way of the Lord!

Words by LLOYD LARSON
based on Isaiah 40:3 and Psalm 30:5,
and Latin Hymn, 12th c.;
tr. JOHN M. NEALE, 1851

Arranged by LLOYD LARSON
Tunes: VENI EMMANUEL,
Plainsong, adapt. THOMAS HELMORE, 1854;
I SAW THREE SHIPS,
Traditional English Carol

Slowly, freely (♩ = ca. 80)

Narrator 1: For hundreds of years Israel –

God's chosen people – languished in bondage and darkness yearning for a new day when their Creator would send a Messiah to deliver them from their misery.

4 Narrator 2: As all people are wont to do, the children of Israel repeatedly chose their own path for

8 living, abandoning the invitation of their God to be united in a life of devotion and praise. Such choices prolonged their night of anguish as they longed for a better day.

Narrator 1: But in God's perfect timing, a messenger was sent proclaiming words of hope:

Buoyantly, steadily (♩ = ca. 88)

Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

16

Narrator 2: A new day was about to dawn! Yes, weeping might endure through the night,

20

mf

but joy was to come with the morning!

24

28

31

SA *mf*

Pre - pare, pre- pare the way of the Lord! Your

34

King shall come, the prom - ised One. Pre - pare, pre-prepare the

37

way of the Lord! Your King shall come in the morn - ing!

40

43

SA *mf*
TB *mf*

Pre - pare, pre-prepare the way of the Lord! Your

46

King shall come, the prom - ised One. Pre - pare, pre-prepare the

49

way of the Lord! Your King shall come in the morn - ing!

52

Re - joyce! _____ Re -

56

joyce! ————— Em - man - u -

59

mp ————— *mf*

Em - man - u - el shall come to
el shall come,

63

thee, O Is - ra - el! —————

mel.

67 *f*
Pre - pare the way of the Lord!
mel. f
Re - joice! Re -

70 *mel.*
Pre - pare the way of the Lord! Em - man - u -
joice! Em - man - u -

73
el shall come, shall come, shall
el shall come,

76 *mf* *cresc.*

come to thee, O Is -

mf *cresc.*

79 *f*

ra - el!

f

83 *f*

Pre - pare, pre- pare the way of the Lord! Your

f

86

King shall come, the prom - ised One. Pre - pare, pre - pare the

89

way of the Lord! Your King shall come in the morn - ing! Pre -

Re -

92

pare, pre - pare the way of the Lord! Your King shall come, the

joice! Re - joice!



95

prom - ised One. Pre - pare, pre - pare the way of the Lord! Your

Em - man - u - el shall

98

King shall come in the morn - ing!

come, come in the morn - ing!

101

Your King shall come in the morn - ing!



- Narrator 1:** The long night of anguish and hopelessness continued as Israel awaited the promised Messiah – heaven’s perfect gift to the world.
- Narrator 2:** The perfect gift! How does one patiently await or prepare for the arrival of such a gift?
- Narrator 1:** All of us – children and adults alike – can recall that moment when we received the perfect gift; that long-anticipated or unexpected gift which exceeded our fullest expectations!
- Narrator 2:** It was that hope to which the children of Israel were clinging as they awaited their promised King.
- Narrator 1:** Faithful prophets continued their bold proclamations of the Lord, offering words of encouragement and hope as God directed them.
- Narrator 2:** *Those walking in darkness have seen a great light. Those dwelling in a land of deep darkness, on them has a light shone!*
- Narrator 1:** *For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, (music begins) Prince of Peace.*
- Narrator 2:** And yet, they waited. Even with words of hope and promise, Israel’s long night continued as the people yearned for the dawning of a new day; the arrival of heaven’s gift; the coming of a divine Messiah.

Come, Divine Messiah, Come

Words by
CHARLES WESLEY, 1744, adapt.

Arranged by LLOYD LARSON
Tune: PICARDY
Traditional French Melody

Solemnly, freely (♩ = ca. 80)

The musical score is arranged in three systems. The first system (measures 1-4) features a piano introduction in 4/4 time with a dynamic marking of *p*. The second system (measures 5-7) includes performance directions: *holding back*, *moving forward*, and *holding back*. The third system (measures 8-10) is for Tenor Bass (TB) and includes the lyrics: "Come, O come, di - vine Mes - si - ah," with a triplet of eighth notes on "ah". The fourth system (measures 11-13) includes the lyrics: "born to set Thy peo - ple free;" and performance directions: *holding back* and *holding back*. The score is written for piano and Tenor Bass (TB) in a key signature of two flats (B-flat major/D minor).

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JMG1169

14 SA *p* moving forward

from our fears and sins re - lease us;

TB

moving forward

17 *holding back*

let us find our rest in Thee.

holding back

20 *mp* moving forward

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion,

mp

mp moving forward

22

hope of all the earth Thou art;

24

dear de-sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry

mf

dear de-sire of ev - 'ry na - tion,

mf

27

long - ing heart.

holding back *mp moving forward*

holding back *mp moving forward*

30

mf

32 *mf*

Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er,

mf

35 *holding back*

born a child and yet a King,

simile

holding back

38 *moving forward*

born to reign in us for - ev - er,

Vocal line for measures 38-40. The melody starts on a half note 'born', followed by quarter notes 'to', 'reign', and 'in'. There is a half note rest for 'us', followed by a half note 'for', a quarter note 'ev', and a quarter note 'er'.

3 simile

3 moving forward

Piano accompaniment for measures 38-40. The right hand features a triplet of eighth notes marked '3' and 'simile'. The left hand has a triplet of eighth notes marked '3' and 'moving forward'.

41

now Thy gra - cious king - dom

Vocal line for measures 41-42. The melody consists of quarter notes 'now', 'Thy', 'gra', and 'cious', followed by a half note 'king' and a half note 'dom'.

3 simile

Piano accompaniment for measures 41-42. The right hand has two triplet eighth notes marked '3' and 'simile'. The left hand has a triplet of eighth notes marked '3'.

43

holding back **f** *moving forward*

bring. By Thine own e - ter - nal

Vocal line for measures 43-44. Measure 43 has a half note 'bring.' with a fermata. Measure 44 starts with a half note 'By', followed by quarter notes 'Thine', 'own', 'e', 'ter', and 'nal'.

holding back **f** *moving forward*

By Thine own e - ter - nal

Piano accompaniment for measures 43-44. Measure 43 has a half note chord marked 'holding back'. Measure 44 has a half note chord marked 'f' and 'moving forward', followed by quarter notes 'Thine', 'own', 'e', 'ter', and 'nal'.

45

Spir - it rule in all our hearts a -

Spir - it, come, rule in all our hearts a -

47

lone; by Thine all - suf - fi - cient

lone;

ff

ff

ff

49

mer - it, raise us to Thy

f

f

51 *holding back* *mf* moving forward

glo - ri - ous throne.

mf

holding back *mf* moving forward

54 *holding back* *p* rit. poco a poco al fine

Come, di - vine Mes -

p

Come, Mes -

mp *holding back* *p* rit. poco a poco al fine

57

si - ah, come.

si - ah, come.

holding back



- Narrator 2:** The prophet Isaiah foretold of a time when a virgin would conceive and give birth to a Son. This Child would be called Emmanuel, which means “God with us.”
- Narrator 1:** In due time, there was a young maiden named Mary who was pledged to be married to a man named Joseph. But before they came together, she was found to be with child, conceived through the Holy Spirit, just as Isaiah had foretold.
- Narrator 2:** An angel was sent to Mary and one to Joseph confirming that this was indeed God’s plan. They were to be the earthly parents of the long-awaited Messiah, the promised King of Israel. He was to be heaven’s gift to the world. They were to name Him Jesus.
- Narrator 1:** In those days, Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census was to be taken of the entire Roman world. Everyone was to return to their ancestral town to be registered.
- Narrator 2:** So, Joseph went to Bethlehem in Judea, the city of David, because he belonged to the house and line of King David. He went there with Mary, to whom he was pledged in marriage and who was expecting a child.
- Narrator 1:** While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to give birth. Mary took her firstborn son and wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger because there had been no room for them in the inn.
(music begins)

Royal David's City

Words by
CECIL F. ALEXANDER, 1848,
and PHILLIPS BROOKS, 1868

Arranged by LLOYD LARSON
Tunes: IRBY
by HENRY J. GAUNTLETT, 1849,
and ST. LOUIS
by LEWIS H. REDNER, 1868

Regally (♩ = ca. 96)

The musical score is arranged in three systems. The first system shows the piano introduction in 4/4 time, starting with a forte (f) dynamic in the right hand and a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic in the left hand. The second system includes the vocal entries for SA and TB, with lyrics: "Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y". The piano accompaniment continues with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The third system continues the vocal lines and piano accompaniment, with lyrics: "stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,". The piano part features changes in time signature from 4/4 to 2/4 and back to 4/4.

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10

where a moth - er laid her ba - by

mf *f*

13

in a man - ger for His bed.

v

16

Ma - ry was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her

v

19

lit - tle — Child.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 19, 20, and 21. The vocal line starts in 2/4 time with a quarter note 'lit', a quarter note 'tle', and a half note 'Child.' in the next measure. The piano accompaniment features chords in the right hand and single notes in the left hand. A time signature change to 4/4 occurs at the beginning of measure 20.

mf

Detailed description: This system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 19-21. The right hand plays chords and moving lines, while the left hand plays single notes. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present in measure 21. A fermata is placed over the piano part at the end of measure 21.

22

He came down to

Detailed description: This system contains measures 22, 23, and 24. The vocal line has rests in measures 22 and 23, followed by the lyrics 'He came down to' in measure 24. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present in measure 22.

25

earth— from— heav - en who is God *mel.* and Lord— of— all,

Detailed description: This system contains measures 25, 26, and 27. The vocal line has rests in measures 25 and 26, followed by the lyrics 'earth— from— heav - en who is God *mel.* and Lord— of— all,' in measure 27. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines.

28

mf

and His shel - ter was a sta - ble, and His cra - dle

31

was a stall. With the poor and

mf

33

meek and low - ly lived on earth our

35 *poco rit.* *mp*

Sav - ior — ho - ly. O

mp poco rit.

38 Slightly slower, smoothly (♩ = ca. 92)

ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem: the won - drous — gift is

Slightly slower, smoothly (♩ = ca. 92)

41

giv'n!

mp

So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the

44

mp

No ear may hear His
 bless - ings — of His heav'n.

Piano accompaniment for measures 44-46, featuring a treble and bass clef with chords and melodic lines.

47

mf

com - ing, but in this world of sin, where

Piano accompaniment for measures 47-49, featuring a treble and bass clef with chords and melodic lines.

50

meek souls will re - ceive Him — still, the — dear Christ —

Piano accompaniment for measures 50-52, featuring a treble and bass clef with chords and melodic lines.



53

poco rit.

en - ters in.

poco rit.

Broadly (♩ = ca. 88)

56

f
mel. And our eyes at last shall see Him,
f
mel.

Broadly (♩ = ca. 88)

f

58

through His own re - deem - ing

60

love; for that Child, so dear and gen - tle,

63

is our Lord, heav'n's gift from a - bove!

66

mel.
And He leads His chil - dren on to the place where

69 *ff*
He — has — gone. Em - man - u - el: God's

ff

71
gift — of love. Je - sus Christ, heav'n's

rit. poco a poco al fine

73
gift from a - bove!

rit. poco a poco al fine

- Narrator 1:** On a joyous and holy night, the promised Messiah had been born in an unlikely place, in an unlikely way.
- Narrator 2:** It was the prophet Micah who, hundreds of years earlier, had foretold that this divine King of Israel would be born in the tiny and remote village of Bethlehem.
- Narrator 1:** Historic prophecies and divine plans were now intersecting on this night as Mary, Joseph, and the newborn Baby resided in a Bethlehem stable. This was heaven's gift, love's purest light!
- Narrator 2:** As the gospel writer John wrote: *In Him – Jesus – was life, (music begins) and that life was the light for all people.*
- Narrator 1:** *The Word – Jesus – became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father above, full of grace and truth.*

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Christ Is Born This Holy Night

Words by LLOYD LARSON
and Traditional Polish Carol;
tr. EDITH M. G. REED, 1921

Music by LLOYD LARSON
Quoting W ZLOBIE LEZY
Traditional Polish Melody

Tenderly (♩ = ca. 72)

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of four systems of music. The first system (measures 1-3) is marked *p* and features a melody in the right hand and accompaniment in the left hand. The second system (measures 4-6) is marked *mp*. The third system (measures 7-9) is marked *p* and includes the lyrics "Child of hope, Child of". The fourth system (measures 10-12) is marked *dim.* and includes the lyrics "peace, heav-en's gift, love's pur - est light! Child of". A large red watermark "PREVIEW ONLY! LEGAL USE REQUIRES PURCHASE" is overlaid diagonally across the entire page.

p

4 *mp*

7 Solo (or opt. Children and/or SA unis.) *p*
Child of hope, Child of

dim. *p*

10
peace, heav-en's gift, love's pur - est light! Child of

3

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13

joy, Child of grace, Christ is born this ho - ly

SA (+opt Children on mel.)

16

(end Solo)

mp

night. Child of hope, Child of peace, heav-en's

TB *mp*

19

gift, love's pur - est light! Child of joy, Child of

22 *p* end Children

grace, Christ is born this ho - ly night.

26 *mp*

Proph - ets had fore-told His

30 *mp*

com - ing, King of kings and Lord of lords!

A hum-ble mel.

33

cresc.

man-ger now en - thrones Him, new-born King for all the

cresc.

36

mf *poco rit.**mel.* *a tempo*

world!

Prom - ised One,

God's own

39

Son,

heav - en's

gift sent from

on

41

high! Em - man - u - el now comes to

This system contains the first two measures of the piece. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The vocal line begins with a quarter rest followed by a half note 'high!', then a quarter note 'Em', a quarter note 'man', a quarter note 'u', and a quarter note 'el'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands.

This system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 41 and 42. The right hand plays a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides harmonic support with chords and single notes.

43

mp
dwell. Christ is born this ho - ly night.

This system contains measures 43 and 44. The vocal line has a half note 'dwell.', followed by a half note 'Christ', a quarter note 'is', a quarter note 'born', a quarter note 'this', a quarter note 'ho', a quarter note 'ly', and a half note 'night.'. The piano accompaniment continues with a melodic line in the right hand and chords in the left hand. A dynamic marking of *mp* is present.

This system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 43 and 44. The right hand plays a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides harmonic support with chords and single notes. A dynamic marking of *mp* is present.

46 + opt. Children on mel. to end

In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for His

This system contains measures 46 and 47. The vocal line has a half note 'In - fant', a quarter note 'ho', a quarter note 'ly,', a quarter note 'in - fant', a quarter note 'low', a quarter note 'ly,', and a half note 'for His'. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and chords in the left hand.

This system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 46 and 47. The right hand plays a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides harmonic support with chords and single notes.

49

bed a cat - tle stall; *mp* ox - en low - ing, lit - tle

52

know - ing Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Swift are

55

cresc. poco a poco

wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring - ing, tid - ings

cresc. poco a poco

58 *mf*

bring - ing: Christ the Babe is Lord of

mf

mf

61 *rit.* **Slowly, freely**
mp

all, Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

mp

Slowly, freely
mp

rit.

64 *p* *molto rit.*

Christ is born this ho - ly night.

p

dim. *p* *molto rit.*

Narrator 2: On the night that Jesus was born, there were shepherds out in the field keeping watch over their flocks.

Narrator 1: For them, it was an ordinary night on a Judean hillside. Little did they know what was happening in the nearby village of Bethlehem.

Narrator 2: Suddenly, the night sky was filled with light! The glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified!

Narrator 1: But the angel said to them, *“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today, in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you. Go, and you will find the Baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”*

Narrator 2: In an instant, this night became a night like no other for working shepherds! A great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel praising God and saying: *“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all with whom His favor rests!”* **(music begins)**

Glory to God in the Highest Heaven!

Words by LLOYD LARSON
and Traditional French Carol

Music by LLOYD LARSON
Quoting GLORIA,
Traditional French Melody

Joyously (♩ = ca. 63)

Piano introduction in 2/2 time, key of B-flat major. The music is marked *f* (forte) and consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) with a grand staff bracket. The melody is joyful and features eighth and sixteenth notes.

Vocal entry for Soprano (SA) and Tenor Bass (TB). The music is marked *f*. The lyrics are: "Glo-ry to God in the high-est heav-en". The vocal lines are on a grand staff with treble and bass clefs.

Piano accompaniment for the vocal entry, marked *f*. It features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs, providing harmonic support with chords and moving lines.

Vocal continuation for SA and TB. The lyrics are: "and peace on earth! Glo-ry to God in the". The music is marked *f* and continues the vocal melody.

Piano accompaniment for the vocal continuation, marked *f*. It continues the harmonic support with a grand staff.

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10

high - est — heav - en, cel - e - brate the birth of Em -

13

man - u - el — who comes to dwell — with His peo - ple from on

16

high. Re - joice and sing, — the new - born King — is

19

born this ho - ly night!

22

mf

There were shep - herds in the

mf

25

field on a cold, dark night keep - ing

The image shows a page of sheet music for a vocal and piano arrangement. The music is in B-flat major and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system (measures 19-21) shows the vocal line with the lyrics 'born this ho - ly night!' and a piano accompaniment. The second system (measures 22-24) shows the vocal line with the lyrics 'There were shep - herds in the' and a piano accompaniment. The third system (measures 25-27) shows the vocal line with the lyrics 'field on a cold, dark night keep - ing' and a piano accompaniment. A large red watermark 'PREVIEW ONLY LEGAL USE REQUIRES PURCHASE' is overlaid on the page.

28

watch o'er their flock by the stars' dim

31

light.

mf

Then sud - den - ly — the night sky shone — as the

34

mp *mel.* *mf*

And then the an - gel said, — “Do not

dark turned in - to light.

37 *f*
 be a - fraid, for I bring good news to - night!"

40 *mel.*
 Glo - ry be to
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est heav - en

43
 God, peace on earth!

and peace on earth! Glo - ry to God in the

46

Glo - ry be to God, *mel.* cel - e - brate the birth of Em -

high - est — heav - en, cel - e - brate the

49

man - u - el — who comes to dwell — with His

51

peo - ple from on high. Re -



53

joice and sing, the new - born King is

55

born this ho - ly night!

58

mf

"Go to Beth - le - hem," so the an - gel

mf

61

mp ————— *mf*

“You’ll find the Babe in a
 said, “and there you’ll find the Babe in a

64

mel.

man - ger bed.” Then sud - den - ly — the
 man - ger bed.”

67

heav - ens blazed — as God’s glo - ry pierced the night. “All

70

praise to God!" — the an - gels sang — as their mu - sic

73

filled the skies.

76

f Glo -

f Glo -

79

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,

82

glo -

84

ri - a in ex - cel - sis

87

De - o. Re -

Musical notation for measures 87-89, vocal line. The melody consists of a half note 'De', a dotted half note 'o.', and a half note 'Re'.

Piano accompaniment for measures 87-89. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a steady bass line.

90

joice and sing, — the new - born King — is born this

Musical notation for measures 90-92, vocal line. The melody includes a 'rit.' marking at the end of the phrase.

Piano accompaniment for measures 90-92. The accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, with a 'rit.' marking in the right hand.

93

ho ly night!

Musical notation for measures 93-95, vocal line. The melody consists of a half note 'ho', a half note 'ly', and a half note 'night!'. The notation includes a *ff* dynamic marking and an *a tempo* instruction.

Piano accompaniment for measures 93-95. The accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, with a *ff* dynamic marking and an *a tempo* instruction.

- Narrator 1:** When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, *“We should go and see this wonderful thing that has happened which the Lord has told us about.”*
- Narrator 2:** They hurried off to Bethlehem. There they found Mary, Joseph, and the newborn Baby, who was lying in a manger.
- Narrator 1:** After they had seen Him, they left the stable and began to spread the word about what they had witnessed. All who heard their words were truly amazed at what the shepherds said.
- Narrator 2:** The shepherds returned to their fields glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. What they had witnessed was precisely what the angels had promised they would see.
- Narrator 1:** But Mary, the divinely appointed mother of Jesus, treasured up all these things as she pondered them in her heart. Before her in a lowly manger was the newborn King of the world. *(music begins)*

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Come and Worship the King

Words by JOSEPH S. COOK, 1919, alt.,
LLOYD LARSON, and attr. to JOHN F. WADE, 1751;
tr. FREDERICK OAKELEY, 1841

Music by LLOYD LARSON
Quoting ADESTE FIDELES
from JOHN F. WADE'S *Cantus Diversi*, 1751

Gently (♩ = ca. 84)

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It begins with a tempo marking of 'Gently' and a quarter note equal to approximately 84 beats per minute. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The score is divided into systems. The first system (measures 1-4) is marked 'p' (piano). The second system (measures 5-8) is marked 'mp' (mezzo-piano). The third system (measures 9-12) is marked 'p' and includes the vocal line with lyrics: 'SA Gen-tle Ma - ry laid her Child in a low - ly man - ger;'. The fourth system (measures 13-16) is marked 'p' and includes the vocal line with lyrics: 'there He lay, the un - de - filed, yet to the world a stran - ger.' A large red watermark 'PREVIEW ONLY' is overlaid diagonally across the entire page.

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17

mp

Son of God, of hum-ble birth, beau-ti-ful the sto-ry!

mp

This system contains measures 17 through 20. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Son of God, of hum-ble birth, beau-ti-ful the sto-ry!". The piano part includes a *mp* dynamic marking.

21

Praise this King who comes to earth; praise the King of glo-ry!

cresc.

This system contains measures 21 through 24. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Praise this King who comes to earth; praise the King of glo-ry!". The piano part includes a *cresc.* dynamic marking.

25

SA

mf

Come and wor-ship the King; join the shep-herds who

TB *mp* *mf*

This system contains measures 25 through 28. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Come and wor-ship the King; join the shep-herds who". The vocal line is divided into Soprano (SA) and Tenor Bass (TB) parts. The piano part includes *mp* and *mf* dynamic markings.

29 *mp*
bring their praise. Wor-ship and a - dore!

33 *mf*
Come and wor - ship the King; join the Ma - gi who

37 *mp*
bring their gifts. Come and wor - ship the Lord.

41

mf

The shep-herds saw the

cresc. *mf*

45

mf

Glo-ri-a, glo-ri-

won-drous sight, heard the an-gels sing-ing; all the plains were

49

a! All the hills were ring-ing. Ah

lit that night; all the hills were ring-ing. *mel.* Sag-es mar-veled

53

Heav-en's star shone

at His birth, sought the King and found Him! Heav-en's star shone

57

bright, glo-ry all a-round Him! Come and

bright-ly forth, glo-ry all a-round Him!

mel.

61

wor-ship the King; join the shep-herds who bring their

65

praise. Wor-ship and a-dore! Come and

mf

mf

mf

69

wor-ship the King; join the Ma-gi who bring their

f

f

f

73

gifts. Come and wor-ship the Lord. O

dim.

dim.

p

dim.

p

dim.

p

77 *mp*
come, let us a - dore Him; O *mp*

mp

81 *mf*
come, let us a - dore Him; O *mf*

cresc. *mf*

85
come, let us a - dore Him,

89

dim.

mp

Christ the Lord. Come and

dim.

mp

dim.

mp

93

mf

wor - ship the King; earth and heav - en shall ring with

mf

mf

97

mp dim. e rit. poco a poco al fine

p

praise! Come and wor - ship the Lord.

mp dim. e rit. poco a poco al fine

p

mp dim. e rit. poco a poco al fine

p

- Narrator 2:** After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem in search of this young Child. They arranged for a visit with King Herod in Jerusalem asking, *“Where is this One who has been born king of the Jews? We have seen His star in the east and have come to worship Him.”*
- Narrator 1:** After consulting with the chief priests and teachers of the law, King Herod directed the Magi to go to Bethlehem which the prophet had long ago foretold as the location for this One whom they sought.
- Narrator 2:** The King said to them, *“Go and make a careful search for the Child. As soon as you find Him, report back to me so that I too may come and worship Him.”*
- Narrator 1:** As they departed, the star they had seen in the east went before them guiding their journey until it stopped over the place where the young Child was.
- Narrator 2:** There they found the Christ Child and His mother Mary. They bowed down and worshiped Him.
- Narrator 1:** They opened their treasures and presented Him with their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. *(music begins)*

The Gifts We Bring

61

Words by WILLIAM C. DIX, 1861, alt.,
LLOYD LARSON, and CHRISTINA ROSSETTI, 1872

Music by LLOYD LARSON
Quoting CRANHAM
by GUSTAV HOLST, 1906

Stately (♩ = ca. 80)

mp *mf*

4 TB *mf*

As with glad - ness men of old did the

7

guid - ing star be - hold; as with joy they hailed its

10

glo - rious light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright; — so, most

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13

gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be - led to -

16 SA *mf*
 TB
 Thee.

As with joy - ful steps they sped to that

Thee.

19

low - ly cra - dle bed, there to bend the knee be -

mp *mf*

Low - ly cra - dle bed, bend the knee be -

22

fore this Child, He whom heav'n and earth a -

fore this Child, He whom heav'n and earth a -

24

dore; so, may we with faith - ful,

dore;

26

will - ing feet ev - er seek the mer - cy

28

seat. Lord, re - ceive our grate - ful

30

of - fer - ing, gifts of heart and mind, and

32

soul and strength. Lord, re - ceive the hum - ble

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34

gifts we bring; Lord, re - ceive the gifts we

36

mf
bring.

mf 8

mf *mp*

39

mel. mf

As they of - fered gifts most

mf

41 *mp* *mf*

Of - fered gifts at the cra - dle rude and
 rare at the cra - dle rude and

43
 bare, _____ may we with
 bare, so may we with true and

45
 ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al -
 ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al -

47

mel.

loy, ——— all our cost - liest trea - sures

loy, our cost - liest trea - sures —

49

hum - bly bring to Christ the new - born

hum - bly bring to Christ the new - born

51

King. Lord, re -

King.

53 *f*

ceive our grate - ful of - fer - ing, gifts of

55

heart and mind, and soul and strength. Lord, re -

57

ceive the hum - ble gifts we bring; Lord, re -

59

dim.

ceive the gifts we

dim.

dim.

61

mf

bring.

mf

poco rit.

mf

poco rit.

63

a tempo mp warmly

What can I give Him, poor as I

mp a tempo

66

am? If I were a shep - herd,

69

I would bring a lamb;

mel. mp

if I were a

72

p \curvearrowright *mel. mp*

My part; yet

wise man, I would do my part;

mel.

75

poco rit.

what can I give Him? Give

78

a tempo

poco rit.

Him my heart. Lord, re -
 mp

81

rit. poco a poco al fine

p

ceive the gifts we bring.

Narrator 2: *God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son.*

Narrator 1: How does one respond when receiving the gift of a lifetime...the perfect gift...heaven's gift?

Narrator 2: The prophet asked: *"With what shall I come before the Lord? What does the Lord require of me?"* The perfect gift deserves a response.

Narrator 1: Maybe the proper response is found in the answer Jesus gave later in His life to the teachers of the law when asked, *"What is the most important of all the commandments?"*

Narrator 2: His answer? *"Love the Lord Your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength."*

Narrator 1: A few days after His birth, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to Jerusalem to dedicate Him to the Lord. While there, Simeon and Anna, elderly saints of God, gave witness that this baby was indeed the One who had been promised through the ages.

Narrator 2: In response, they gave thanks to God and *(music begins)* worshiped this newborn Child, the long-awaited King, the fulfillment of the ancient prophecies.

Narrator 1: Emmanuel: God with us. Jesus: the Word made flesh. Messiah: heaven's perfect gift to the world. Come, let us adore Him.

Worship God's Great Gift!

73

Traditional Carols
Arranged with New Music
by LLOYD LARSON

Tenderly, freely (♩ = ca. 66)

*"Christ Is Born This Holy Night"

p

Slightly faster, steadily (♩ = ca. 72)

poco accel. *mp* *dim.*

Solo (or opt. Children and/or SA unis.)

p

Child of hope, Child of peace, heav-en's gift, love's pur - est

light! Child of joy, Child of grace, Christ is

*Words and Music by LLOYD LARSON

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JMG1169

SA (+opt Children on mel.)

15 (end Solo) *mp*

born this ho - ly night. Child of hope, Child of

TB *mp*

18

peace, heav-en's gift, love's pur - est light! Child of

21

joy, Child of grace, Christ is born this ho - ly

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24

accel.

Regally (♩ = ca. 96)

night.

Musical notation for measures 24-25, vocal line. Treble clef, 4/4 time signature, key of B-flat major. Measure 24 contains a whole note chord (B-flat, D-flat, F, A-flat). Measure 25 is a whole rest.

Regally (♩ = ca. 96)

accel.

mf

Musical notation for measures 25-26, piano accompaniment. Treble and bass clefs, 4/4 time signature, key of B-flat major. Measure 25 features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Measure 26 continues the accompaniment.

26

Musical notation for measures 26-27, piano accompaniment. Treble and bass clefs, 4/4 time signature, key of B-flat major. Measure 26 continues the accompaniment. Measure 27 features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

28

Musical notation for measures 27-28, piano accompaniment. Treble and bass clefs, 4/4 time signature, key of B-flat major. Measure 27 continues the accompaniment. Measure 28 features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

+opt. Children and Congregation on mel.

mf *"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

31

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, —

mf

Musical notation for measures 28-30, vocal line. Treble clef, 4/4 time signature, key of B-flat major. Measure 28 contains a whole note chord (B-flat, D-flat, F, A-flat). Measure 29 contains a whole note chord (B-flat, D-flat, F, A-flat). Measure 30 contains a whole note chord (B-flat, D-flat, F, A-flat).

Musical notation for measures 30-31, piano accompaniment. Treble and bass clefs, 4/4 time signature, key of B-flat major. Measure 30 features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Measure 31 features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

34

“Glo - ry to the new - born King; peace on earth, and

This system contains measures 34, 35, and 36. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The piano part consists of chords and moving lines in both hands.

37

mer - cy mild, — God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”

This system contains measures 37, 38, and 39. The vocal line continues with the lyrics. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and melodic fragments.

40

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise; — join the tri - umph

This system contains measures 40, 41, and 42. The vocal line concludes with the lyrics. The piano accompaniment features a more active bass line in the final measure.

43

of the skies; — with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim,

46

"Christ is — born in Beth - le - hem!" Hark! the her - ald

49

an - gels sing, "Glo - ry — to the new - born —"



52

King!"

54

poco rit. *mf*

O

mf

mf *f poco rit.* *mf*

Slightly broader (♩ = ca. 92)

56

**"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri -

Slightly broader (♩ = ca. 92)

59

um - phant, O come ye, O come ye to

62

Beth - le - hem! Come and be -

65

hold Him, born the King of an - gels! O



68 *mf*

come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a -

mp *mf*

71 *f*

dore — Him, O come, let us — a - dore — Him, —

f

74 *rit.* end Cong.

Christ — the Lord! Lord, re -

rit.

With strength (♩ = ca. 80)
**"The Gifts We Bring"

76

ceive our grate - ful of - fer - ing, gifts of

With strength (♩ = ca. 80)

78

heart and mind, and soul and strength. Lord, re -

80

ceive the hum - ble gifts we bring; Lord, re -

82 *mf*

ceive the gifts we bring.

mf

84 *f*

Come and wor - ship God's great

f

86 *molto rit.* *ff*

gift, the new - born King!

ff

molto rit. *ff*