

SATB

The Ballad of Bethlehem

A TIMELESS STORY OF GOD'S LOVE

Pepper Choplin

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The Ballad of Bethlehem Available Products

	Physical edition	Digital edition
SATB Choral Book	65/2123L	e65/2123L
SATB Choral Book with Performance CD	65/2124L	
SAB Choral Book	65/2125L	e65/2125L
<i>Orchestration by Michael Lawrence for Picc, Fl 1-2, Ob, Cl 1-2, Bsn, Tpt 1, Tpt 2-3, Hn 1-2, Tbn 1-2, Tuba, Timp, Perc, Harp, Pno, Vln 1-2, Vla, Cello, St Bass</i>		
Orchestral Conductor's Score	30/4037L	e30/4037L
Set of Parts	30/4038L	e30/4038L
Bulk Performance CDs (10-pack)/ Performance MP3s (10-uses)	99/4842L	e99/4842L
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Split-track Accompaniment CD/ Downloadable MP3s	99/4840L	e99/4840L
SATB Part-dominant Rehearsal CD/ Downloadable MP3s	99/4841L	e99/4841L
Soprano Rehearsal Track		e99/4841L-1
Alto Rehearsal Track		e99/4841L-2
Tenor Rehearsal Track		e99/4841L-3
Bass Rehearsal Track		e99/4841L-4

Voice in the Wilderness

(Prepare the Way)

Based on
Isaiah 40:3-4, 6-7

Words and Music by
Pepper Choplin

① With strength ♩ = ca. 72

mf

3

5 ST *mf*

Hear the voice in the wil-der-ness say, _____

AB (+congregation)* *mf*

“Pre - pare the way — of the

(play full beats, not “chopped”)

* Before the cantata begins, you may teach the congregation the response, “Prepare the Way.” Or, you may begin the piece and have the congregation join for the first time at m. 37 after they hear the “call and response” effect. The director, or a choir member, may simply “wave in” the congregation whenever this phrase appears as needed.

8 *mf*

Rise up in the de-sert, make a great high - way.

Lord.”

“Pre -

11 *mf*

Build the val - ley up, make the

pare the way — of the Lord.”

14 *mf*

moun - tains low. Make the

“Pre - pare the way — of the Lord.”

17

crook - ed straight where the Lord will go. _____

"Pre - pare the way — of the

20 [2] SA

The voice said, "Cry." What

Lord." TB

The voice said, "Cry." _____

f

23

shall I cry? — Lift your voice on a moun - tain high. —

f

The voice said, "Cry." What

f

Lord." The voice said, "Cry."

shall I cry?— Lift your voice on a moun - tain high.—

mf

Hear the proph-et now proph - e - sy:— "Pre - pare,—

mf

proph - e - sy:— "Pre - pare,— pre-prepare,—

mf smoothly

with pedal

60 *f* pre - pare, pre - pare the way of the

pre - pare, pre - pare the way of the

cresc.

63 *ff* Lord." Lord."

65 *mf* *0

f

*Tune: VENI EMMANUEL, plainsong.

Words: Latin Hymn; tr. John Mason Neale (1818–1866); adapt. by P.C.

el.

el.

mp

Hear the voice in the wil-der-ness say, _____
AB (+congregation on "Prepare...")

Hear the voice in the wil-der-ness say, "Pre - pare the way — of the

Rise up in the de - sert, make a great high - way. _____

Lord." Rise up in the de - sert, make a great high - way. "Pre -

98

Build the val - ley up, make the

pare the way— of the Lord." Build the val - ley up, make the

101

moun - tains low. Make the

moun - tains low. "Pre - pare the way— of the Lord." Make the

104

crook - ed straight where the Lord will go.

crook - ed straight where the Lord will go. "Pre - pare the way— of the

107 7

SA *f* The voice said, "Say." What

mf TB *f* Lord." The voice said, "Say."—

mf *f*

110

shall I say?— Grass will with-er and the flow-ers fade.—

— Grass will with-er and the flow-ers fade.—

113 *mp* energetic!

All our glo-ry will pass a-way,— but the Word of God— goes on—

mp energetic!

All our glo-ry will pass a-way,— but the Word of God— goes on—

mp

116 *cresc.* *mf*

— and on— and on— and on— Pre-pare,—

— and on— and on— Pre-pare,—

cresc. *mf*

cresc. *mf*

119 *cresc.* *f*

— pre-pare,— pre-pare,— pre - pare the way of the

— pre-pare,— pre-pare,— pre - pare the way of the

cresc. *f*

cresc. *f*

123

Lord.

Lord.

4 3 4 3 4 3

1 2 1 2 1 2

Narrator: We come to prepare the way and celebrate the coming of the Lord. This story we share of Christmas has been told so many times before. Why would we gather here to tell it again? Could it be that we yearn to hear and experience the promise of the prophets, the hope of the newborn, the joy of the shepherds, and the beauty of the star in the east?

Or do we simply want to remember how God loved the world and still loves the world? God so loved us that He sent His Son, that all who believe in Him may experience the hope, the joy, and the abundant life of the Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Our hope is that through the words and music we share, you will hear the story afresh – and experience God’s love as we gather to sing...*The Ballad of Bethlehem*.

The Ballad of Bethlehem

Words and Music by
Pepper Choplin

8 Folk style, feel in one ♩ = ca. 120

mp

This block contains the first system of the musical score, marked with a square box containing the number 8. It is for piano accompaniment in 3/4 time, featuring a folk style with a tempo of approximately 120 beats per minute. The music is in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is primarily in the right hand, with chords and a simple bass line in the left hand. A large yellow 'SAMPLE' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

5 Solo (or Unison Choir) mp

O

This block contains the second system of the musical score, marked with a square box containing the number 5. It is for solo or unison choir, with a piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked as mezzo-piano (mp). The music continues in the same key and time signature. The vocal line begins with a whole note 'O' on a high note. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a simple bass line. A large yellow 'SAMPLE' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

25

mind me God still loves the world, that

mf

29

hope and peace will come. Oh,

mp

33

sing me a bal-lad of Beth - le - hem where

37

God would send His Son.

(10)

42 SA *mf*
O sing me a bal-lad of Beth - le -

TB *mf*

46
hem, of two thou - sand years a - go;

50
when peo - ple strug - gled to live in

66 *mf*

here, and Mi - cah fore - told that in Beth - le -

70 *dim.* *mp* God would ap - pear.

hem the Child of God would ap - pear, the

74 *dim. e rit.* *p* Child of God ap - pear.

dim. e rit. *p*

65/2123&24L-23

Bethlehem Prophecy

Words based on
Micah 5:2, 4

Words and Music by
Pepper Choplin

12 Bright and fresh ♩ = ca. 52

mp

Musical notation for the first system of the piece. It consists of a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The treble staff contains a melody of eighth and sixteenth notes, while the bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment with dotted half notes. The tempo is marked 'mp' (moderato piano).

4 mf

Musical notation for the second system. The treble staff continues the melody, and the bass staff has a few notes. The dynamics change to 'mf' (mezzo-forte) in the middle of the system.

7 SA mp
TB

O ti - my Beth - le - hem, though you are small, from

Musical notation for the third system, which includes vocal parts. The treble staff has a vocal line for Soprano (SA) and Tenor (TB), with lyrics underneath. The bass staff is empty. The tempo remains 'mp'.

mp

Musical notation for the fourth system. It returns to a grand staff with piano accompaniment. The treble staff has a more complex melody with some triplets, and the bass staff continues the accompaniment. The dynamics are marked 'mp'.

19 *mf* from

mf O ti - ny Beth - le - hem, though you are small, from

21 you comes the prom - ised Mes - si - ah.

23 Won - der - ful Coun - se - lor, Al - might - y God.

52

Come to the place— where the Child is born.

54

Won - der - ful Coun - se - lor, Al - might - y God.

56

E - ter - nal Fa - ther, He is the Prince of Peace.

(16)

68 (17)

bring. *mf* *cresc.* O ti - ny Beth - le - hem,

mf *cresc.*

mf *cresc.*

71

though you are small, from you shall come *f* *cresc.*

f *cresc.*

f *cresc.*

73

Christ, the Sav - ior and Lord. *ff*

ff

ff (2 beats)

Narrator: *(music begins)* And Joseph went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn (*Luke 2:4-7*).

The Ballad of Bethlehem

The Birth

Words and Music by
Pepper Choplin

18 Feel in one ♩ = ca. 114

6

11

32

hem, a Ba - by just has been born.

36

There's rest for Mar - y, the

39

Child's a - sleep. She holds Him safe and

43

rit.
warm.

rit. *dim.* *p*

Still Gentle Mary

New words by P. C.

Pepper Choplin

Tune: STILL, STILL, STILL

Traditional Austrian Carol

(20) Peacefully ♩ = ca. 72

The musical score is written in 6/8 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It begins with a piano introduction marked *p*. The first system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 1-3. The second system continues the piano accompaniment for measures 4-6. The third system introduces the vocal parts: Soprano Alto (SA) and Tenor Bass (TB). The SA part begins at measure 7 with a melody marked *mp*. The TB part enters at measure 8 with a melody marked *mp* and labeled '(mel.)'. The lyrics are: 'Still, still, still, the night is peace - ful and'. The piano accompaniment continues throughout the vocal lines.

10

still. Still, still, still, the

13 (21)

night is peace - ful and still. The new - born

The new - born - ba - by,

mp *mf* *mf*

16

ba - by wrapped in love.

Mar - y is hold - ing, wrapped in heav - ven's love en - fold - ing.

19

Still, still, still, the night is peace - ful and

rit. dim.

dim.

rit. dim.

22

With more movement ♩ = ca. 84

p

still.

mp

22

With more movement ♩ = ca. 84

mp

mf

25

ST *slight rit.* *mp a tempo*

AB

*Gen - tle Mar - y laid her Child

slight rit.

mp a tempo

* Words: Joseph Simpson Cook (1859-1933)

Tune: TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

55

Mar - y is hold - ing, wrapped in heav - en's love en - fold - ing.

hum - ble birth, beau - ti - ful the sto - ry.

58

Still, still, still, the night is peace - ful - ly

Praise His name in all the earth. Christ, the King of

61

still.

glo - ry.

64 25 *rit.*

66 *mf a tempo*

Joy, joy, joy, Your ar -

mf a tempo

68 *ri -* val brings us joy.

82

joy - ful praise through all the earth, joy - ful praise through
all the earth, joy - ful praise through all the earth.

85 *rit. e dim.* *mp*
all the earth. You are Christ, the King of
dim. *mp*
You are Christ, the King of

rit. e dim. *mp*

88
Glo - ry. ry. (4 beats)
Glo - ry.

Narrator: (*music begins*) And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

The Ballad of Bethlehem

The Shepherds

Words and Music by
Pepper Choplin

With a sturdy feel, a little faster than before ♩ = ca. 132

28

mp

5 SA *mf*

TB *mf*

cresc.

9

sing me a bal-lad of Beth-le-hem, of

mf

13

shep - herds out in the field. While keep - ing

18

watch o'er their flocks by night, what won - drous news was re -

23

(29) vealed. *cresc. f*

vealed, re - vealed. When an - gels came to ap - pear to—

cresc. f

28

them, the glo - ry of God was dis - played, dis -

dim. played.

dim. played.

32

mf played. The sight of an - gels would star - tle them and

mf

mf

37

dim. they were so a - fraid.

dim. *mp rit.*

dim. *mp rit.*

I Hear the Angels Shouting Glory!

Words based on
Luke 2

Words and Music by
Pepper Choplin

30 With animated excitement ♩ = ca. 120

4 SA *mp*
Fear not, I come to you,

7 *mf*
shar - ing this thing with you. To - day a

10 *f*
ho - ly child is born in Beth - le - hem.

The musical score is written for a soprano/alto (SA) voice and piano. It begins with a piano introduction in D major, 4/4 time, marked 'mp' (mezzo-piano). The introduction consists of three measures of arpeggiated chords. The first system (measures 4-6) features the vocal line with the lyrics 'Fear not, I come to you,' and the piano accompaniment. The second system (measures 7-9) continues with 'shar - ing this thing with you. To - day a'. The third system (measures 10-12) concludes with 'ho - ly child is born in Beth - le - hem.' The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines. Dynamics include mezzo-piano (mp), mezzo-forte (mf), and forte (f). The tempo is indicated as 'ca. 120' (approximately 120 beats per minute).

13 SA *mf*

You'll find Him as you go, wrapped up in swad-dling clothes.

TB *mf*

mf

17

f

He is a Sav - ior who is Christ the Lord.

f

f

21

mp *cresc.* *f*

24

mf

without pedal

27

(31)

29

f brightly articulated

I heard the an - gels shout - ing, "Glo - ry to God. —

52

to God, glo - ri - a.” *mf* boldly

to God, glo - ry.” Hail the heav’n - born Prince of Peace.

55

f Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry.

f Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry.

57

Hark, the her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the

60

(34)

new - born King.”

dim.

63

mf

I heard the an - gels shout - ing, “Glo - ry to God.”

mf

I heard the an - gels shout - ing,

mf

65

Glo - ry to God — up in the high - est heav - ens.”

83 *mf*

down to earth to pro - claim His birth to

mf

mf

87 (36)

us.

f

91 *f*

I heard the an - gels shout - ing, "Glo - ry to God. —

93

Glo - ry to God — up in the high - est heav - ens.”

95

I heard the an - gels shout-ing, “Glo - ry to God. —

97

Glo - ry to God,” — the an-gels shout-ed from on high.

(37)

dim.

100

mf *cresc.*

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing. —

mf *cresc.*

103

f

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing. — Hark! the her - ald

f

Hark!

106

cresc.

an - gels sing on high,

cresc.

ff

“Glo - ry to God.” —

ff

cresc.

ff

8^{va}

Narrator: Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East, and are come to *worship Him.*” (*music begins*)

The Ballad of Bethlehem

The Wise Men

Words and Music by
Pepper Choplin

38 Vibrant ♩ = ca. 132

mp

4 Solo (or all men down one octave): *mp*

We sing of trav' - lers to

Beth - le - hem, these men so

25

mp

led to Beth - le - hem. If

mp

29

we are wise, we will fol - low

32

them to bow and wor - ship

35

slight rit.

Him.

dim. *slight rit.* *p*

Only the Wise

Words and Music by **Pepper Choplin**
Incorporating “We Three Kings”
Author: **John H. Hopkins** (1820–1891)
Tune: **KINGS OF ORIENT**

40 Reflectively ♩ = ca. 104

Musical score for measures 40-44. The piece is in 3/4 time. Measure 40 starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The melody is in the right hand, and the bass line is in the left hand. The music is marked 'Reflectively' with a tempo of ca. 104.

Musical score for measures 45-49. The piece is in 3/4 time. Measure 45 starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The melody is in the right hand, and the bass line is in the left hand. The music is marked 'Gently rhythmic' with a tempo of ca. 92. There is a 'rit.' (ritardando) marking in measure 47 and an 'a tempo' marking in measure 49.

Musical score for measures 50-54. The piece is in 3/4 time. Measure 50 starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The melody is in the right hand, and the bass line is in the left hand. The music is marked 'mp'.

41

Musical score for measures 55-59. The piece is in 3/4 time. Measure 55 starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The melody is in the right hand, and the bass line is in the left hand. The music is marked 'mp'. The lyrics 'On - ly the wise.' are written below the staff.

Musical score for measures 60-64. The piece is in 3/4 time. Measure 60 starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The melody is in the right hand, and the bass line is in the left hand. The music is marked 'mp'.

15

— would look to the skies — to —

18

see the star — and the mes - sage it would bring.

21

(mp)

On - ly the wise —

23

would o - pen their eyes_____

(mp)

On - ly the wise_____ would

25

and fol - low the star_____ to

o - pen their eyes_____

mf

mf

27

find the new - born King.

They saw the

42

30 *(mf)*

star with roy - al

star of won - der, star of night, _____

feeling in 2

33 *f*

beau - ty bright, _____ west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing,

f

36 *(43)* *mf* *mp*

guide us to _____ thy per - fect light. _____

mf *mp*

mf *mp* *feeling in 4*

39

mf

On - ly the wise _____ would wor - ship the Child _____

42

mf

they — found in the lit - tle town of Beth - le -

45

hem. Kneel - ing down, _____

90 *f*
as we're bow - ing, lead us now — and

92 *mf*
guide us to — Thy per - fect light.

94 *rit.*
mp

96

Reflectively ♩ = ca. 80

mp

Now we

Reflectively ♩ = ca. 80

98

mp O - pen our eyes, —

mp

O - pen our eyes, —

o - pen our eyes, —

and

100

o - pen our hearts, —

o - pen our hearts, —

o - pen our hearts, —

102

as we of - fer gifts — of wor - ship

105

to the Lord.

slight rit.

With gentle movement ♩ = ca. 82

p

gently

p

107

(6 beats)

Narrator: As the wise men gather to worship the Child, there is still room. (*music begins*)
There is room for *all* of us to worship. Whether we come with joy or grief, with hope or despair,
whether we struggle or thrive, there is still room to come and worship the Savior who is Christ the Lord.

A Thrill of Hope

Words and Music by
Pepper Choplin

[48] Slow and reflective ♩ = ca. 60

[49] With a faster, steady beat ♩ = ca. 72

9

We have new hope for our lives.

11

mp Those in de - spair will *mf* be lift - ed, and will

13

[50] *f* thrive.

15 *mf* *pressing forward*

All who are wan-d'ring through the dark - ness,

17 *f*

a light has come to guide your way. Through a

19 *gradual rit. e dim.*

ho - ly birth, *dim.* God comes to earth. So

gradual rit. e dim.

40 As before ♩ = ca. 66

mp with intensity

As before ♩ = ca. 66

mf

mp with intensity

All who are qui - et - ly

42

griev - ing, with fac - es rest - ing in your

44

mf brighter

lift up your heads and see the

hands,

mf brighter

53

46

f *accel.*

sun— rise a - gain.

f *dim.* *accel.*

With a faster, steady beat ♩ = ca. 72

49

mf

The bur - dened souls will be lift - ed

mf

With a faster, steady beat ♩ = ca. 72

mf

51

f

and wound - ed hearts will be re - stored. New

f

A little faster ♩ = ca. 63

66 *ff*

fall on your knees! Fall on your knees. O

A little faster ♩ = ca. 63

68

come and lis - ten to hear the an - gel voic - es. O

70

night di - vine, O

f

f

72

night when Christ was born. O

74 *cresc.* night di - vine, *ff*

night, O night, di - vine, night di - vine, O

night di - vine, night di - vine, *ff*

76 *gradual rit.* *dim.* night when Christ was born! *f*

dim. *f*

gradual rit. *dim.* *f*

(56)

Peacefully ♩. = ca. 60
mf

Fall _____ on your

mf

Peacefully ♩. = ca. 60

mf

mp *gradual rit.*

knees and find new hope, the

mp

mp *gradual rit.*

mp *gradual rit.*

thrill of hope and joy.

p

p

8va

p (4 beats)

The Ballad of Bethlehem

93

Underscore

Words and Music by
Pepper Choplin

57 Smoothly, in one ♩ = ca. 112

Musical score for measures 57-64. The score is in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. It features a piano accompaniment with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The tempo is marked 'Smoothly, in one ♩ = ca. 112'. The dynamic is marked 'mp' (mezzo-piano). A large yellow 'SAMPLE' watermark is overlaid on the score.

Narrator: As we've sung this ballad, we have followed the wondrous story that leads us to worship at the manger's side. Now, as we rise and go out into the world, let us share the story – and live the story, so all may experience the hope and peace, the love and the joy of Christmas.

Musical score for measures 9-20 and 21-24. The score is in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. It features a piano accompaniment with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The tempo is marked 'Smoothly, in one ♩ = ca. 112'. The dynamic is marked 'mp' (mezzo-piano). A large yellow 'SAMPLE' watermark is overlaid on the score.

Proceed without pause

dim. e rit. **p**

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Shout with the Shepherds

Words and Music by
Pepper Choplin

58 Freely ♩ = ca. 76
Solo

SA

TB

mf I want to

mf I want to

Freely ♩ = ca. 76

f

3

shout with the shep - herds and sing with the an - gels and

shout and sing and

mf

5

hur - ry to the town— of Beth - le - hem. I want to

hur - ry to the town— of Beth - le - hem.

mf

mf

7

walk with the wise - men to where the Child was

walk to where the Child was

poco rit.

poco rit.

poco rit.

(59)

9

Suddenly faster ♩ = ca. 90

born. I want to wor - ship Christ the

born. Wor - ship Christ the

Suddenly faster ♩ = ca. 90

11

solo ends

Lord. (d)

Lord. (d)

(mf)

I want to
(mf)

31
shout with the shep - herds and sing with the an - gels and

33
hur - ry to the town of Beth - le - hem. I want to

35
walk with the wise - men to where the Child was born. I want to

f

f

f

(62)

mf

37

wor - ship Christ the Lord. (d)

mf

39

I want to fol-low the wise - men who

f

41

trav-eled ver - y far, and lift my eyes in - to the skies and

f

43

see the beau-ti-ful star.

I want to bow— in wor-ship and

45 *(f)*

And when I go, I'm sure to know that

lay my of-f'rings down.

47 **[63]** Solo (or a few sopranos): *(f)*

I want to

(f)

glo-ry's all— a-round.

(f)

I want to

(f)

63 *accel.*

God. Glo-ry to God in the high - est.

accel.

66 **Faster** ♩ = ca. 98 65

Faster ♩ = ca. 98

With congregation:

70 **(f)**

*Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, — “Glo - ry to the new-born King;

(f)

*Tune: MENDELSSOHN, by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788); alt. George Whitefield (1714-1770)

(66)

74

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, — God and sin - ners re - con - ciled!"

78

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

82

with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is — born in

85

Beth - le - hem!" Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing,

88 *slight rit.* — Cong. Broadly ♩ = ca. 92

"Glo - ry — to the new - born King! Glo - ry — to the

Broadly ♩ = ca. 92

slight rit.

92 *cresc.* *ff* new - born King."

cresc. *ff*

cresc. *ff*