

SATB

The Ballad of Bethlehem

A TIMELESS STORY OF GOD'S LOVE

Pepper Choplin

Orchestration by Michael Lawrence

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The Ballad of Bethlehem Available Products

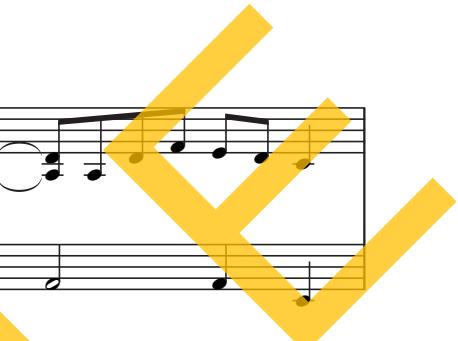
	Physical edition	Digital edition
SATB Choral Book	65/2123L	e65/2123L
SATB Choral Book with Performance CD	65/2124L	e65/2125L
SAB Choral Book	65/2125L	
<i>Orchestration by Michael Lawrence for Picc, Fl 1-2, Ob, Cl 1-2, Bsn, Tpt 1, Tpt 2-3, Hn 1-2, Tbn 1-2, Tuba, Timp, Perc, Harp, Pno, Vln 1-2, Vla, Cello, St Bass</i>		
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Bass Rehearsal Track		e99/4841L-4

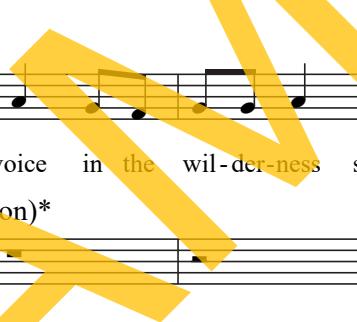
Voice in the Wilderness

(Prepare the Way)

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

Words and Music by
Pepper Choplin






1 With strength $\text{d} = \text{ca. } 72$

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

TB The voice said, "Cry."

Lord." The voice said, "Cry."

23

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

10

51 (4)

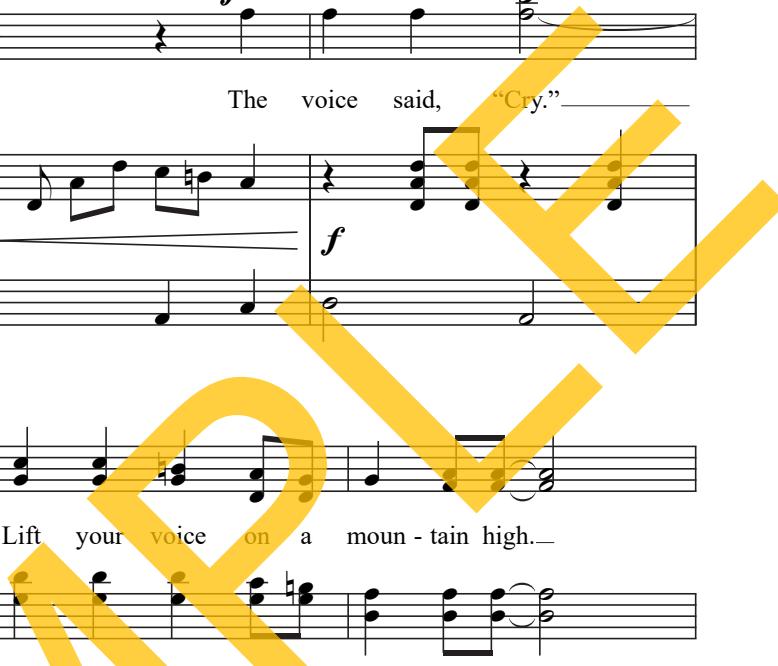
f

The voice said, "Cry." What

Lord."

The voice said,

"Cry."

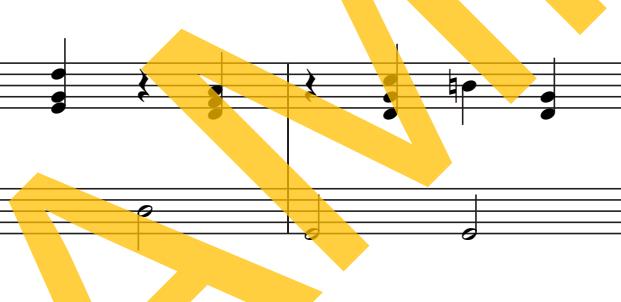
f


Musical score for two voices (Soprano and Bass) in common time. The vocal parts are in 2/4 time. The Soprano part has a basso continuo line below it. Measure 51 starts with a rest followed by eighth notes. Measure 52 begins with a bass note, followed by eighth-note pairs. Measure 53 starts with a bass note, followed by eighth-note pairs.

54

shall I cry?

Lift your voice on a moun - tain high.



Musical score for two voices (Soprano and Bass) in common time. The vocal parts are in 2/4 time. The Soprano part has a basso continuo line below it. Measure 54 starts with eighth-note pairs. Measure 55 begins with eighth-note pairs. Measure 56 starts with eighth-note pairs.

57

Hear the proph - et now proph - e - sy:

mf

"Pre - pare, —

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

*mf**mf smoothly*

with pedal

60

11

pre - pare, pre - pare the way of the

pre - pare, pre - pare the way of the

cresc.

63

ff

Lord."

ff

Lord."

65 (5)

f

mf

*O

*Tune: VENI EMMANUEL, plainsong.

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

(6)

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

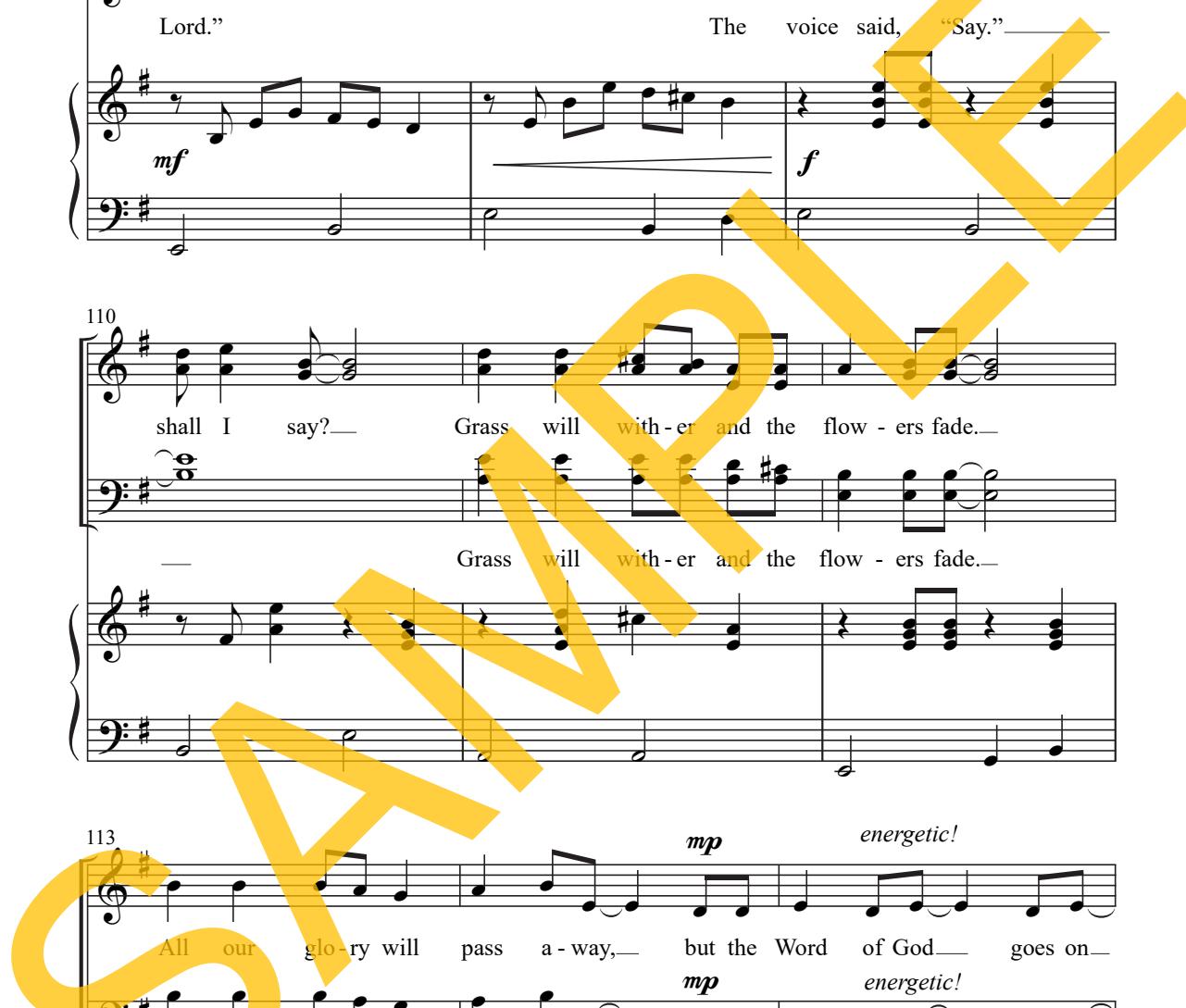
104

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* > > > >
 TB The voice said, "Say." What
 Lord." The voice said, "Say."

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

 113 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.

— and on — and on — and on. Pre - pare, —

mf

mf

Pre - pare, —

mf

119

cresc.

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

f

cresc.

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

f

123

Lord.

Lord.

4 3

1 2

4 3

1 2

4 3

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 $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 120$

5 Solo (or Unison Choir) mp

20

25

mind me God— still loves the— world, that—

*mf**mp*

29

hope and peace— will— come.

mp

33

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

37

(10)

God would send— His— Son.

42 SA *mf*

TB *mf*

O sing me a bal-lad of Beth - le -

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 -

mf

God would ap - pear.

70 *dim.*

hem the Child of God would ap - pear, the

dim.

dim.

mp

74 *dim. e rit.*

p

Child of God ap - pear.

p

dim. e rit.

p

Bethlehem Prophecy

Words based on
Micah 5:2, 4

Words and Music by
Pepper Choplin

(12) Bright and fresh ♩ = ca. 52

6

4

7

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

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19

mf

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

mf

mf

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.

53

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

54

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

56

(16)

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

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

(17)

*mf**cresc.*

bring.

O ti - ny Beth - le - hem,

*mf**cresc.*

{
}

cresc.

though you are small, from you shall come

cresc.

{
}

cresc.

Christ, the Sav - ior and Lord.

(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

Sheet music for piano and voice, 3/4 time, key of G major. The music consists of three staves of notes. Measure 18 starts with a dynamic *p*. Measures 6 and 11 follow.

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 $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 72$

p

4

7 SA *mp*

TB *mp* (mel.)

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

mp

Sheet music for three voices (SA, TB) and piano. The vocal parts are in soprano (SA) and tenor (TB) ranges. The piano part includes melodic lines and harmonic chords. The music is set in common time, with various key signatures (F major, C major, G major). The vocal parts enter at measure 7, singing the lyrics "Still, still, still, the night is peace - ful and". The piano part continues throughout the piece.

10

still. Still, still, still, the

13 [21]

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

The new - born - ba - by,

ba - by wrapped in love.

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

19

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

rit. dim.

With more movement $\text{♩} = \text{ca. 84}$

p

[22]

With more movement $\text{♩} = \text{ca. 84}$

mp

mf

25 ST slight rit.

mp a tempo

AB

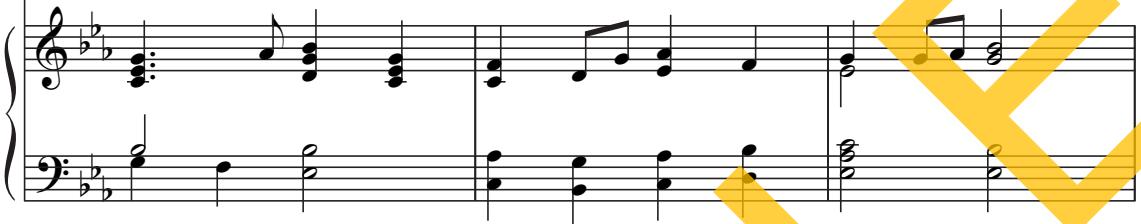
*Gen - tle Mar - y laid her Child

* Words: Joseph Simpson Cook (1859-1933)

Tune: TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM



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



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



still.

glo - ry.



43

64 (25) rit.

66 *mf a tempo*

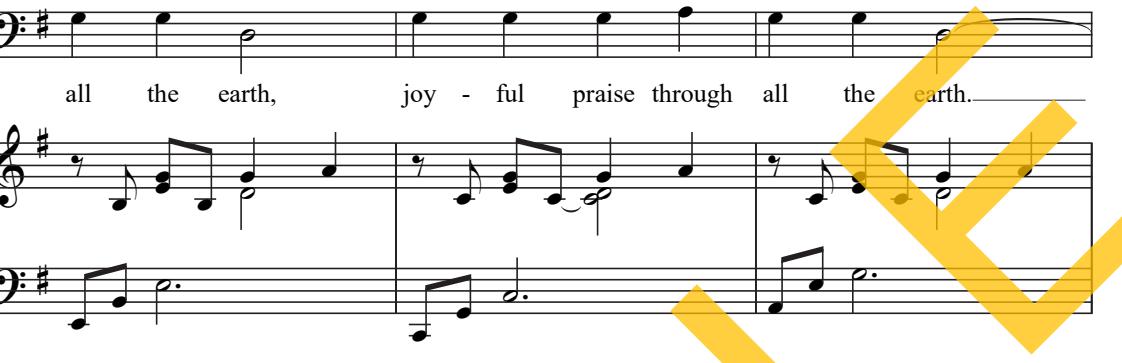
Joy, joy, joy, Your ar -

mf a tempo

ri - val brings us joy.

65/2123&24L-43

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



all the earth.
dim.

You are Christ, the King of

You are Christ, the King of

rit. e dim.

mp

Glo

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

With a sturdy feel, a little faster than before • - ca. 152

(28)

SA
TB
BA

9
sing me a ballad of Bethlehem,

mp

cresc.

mf

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**

vealed.

24

f

28

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

32

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

37

dim. *mp rit.*
they were so a - afraid.

I Hear the Angels Shouting Glory!

Words based on **Luke 2**

Words and Music by
Pepper Choplin

13 SA *mf*

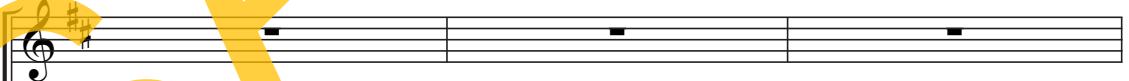
TB You'll find Him as you go, wrapped up in swad-dling clothes.

TB *mf*17 *f*

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

TB *f*

21



mp

cresc.

f





Musical score page 24. The top two staves are blank. The third staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 2/4 time signature. It consists of six measures. The first measure has a bassoon-like part with eighth-note pairs. The second measure has a piano-like part with eighth-note chords. The third measure has a bassoon-like part with eighth-note pairs. The fourth measure has a piano-like part with eighth-note chords. The fifth measure has a bassoon-like part with eighth-note pairs. The sixth measure has a piano-like part with eighth-note chords. The dynamic marking *mf* is placed above the piano part in the third measure. The instruction "without pedal" is written below the piano part in the fourth measure.

(31)



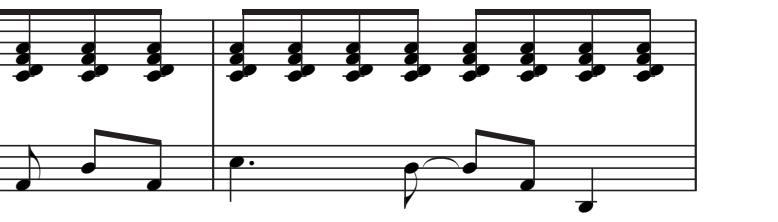
Musical score page 27. The top two staves are blank. The third staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 2/4 time signature. It consists of five measures. The first measure has a piano-like part with eighth-note chords. The second measure has a piano-like part with eighth-note chords. The third measure has a piano-like part with eighth-note chords. The fourth measure has a piano-like part with eighth-note chords. The fifth measure has a piano-like part with eighth-note chords. A large yellow 'X' is drawn across the middle of the page, covering the third staff.

f brightly articulated

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



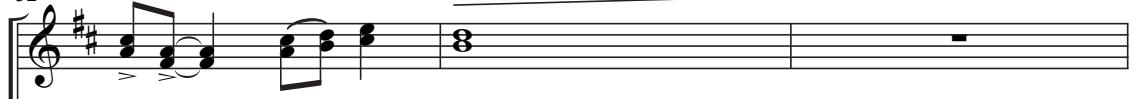
Musical score page 29. The top two staves are blank. The third staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 2/4 time signature. It consists of four measures. The first measure has a piano-like part with eighth-note chords. The second measure has a piano-like part with eighth-note chords. The third measure has a piano-like part with eighth-note chords. The fourth measure has a piano-like part with eighth-note chords. A large yellow S-shaped line is drawn across the middle of the page, covering the third staff.



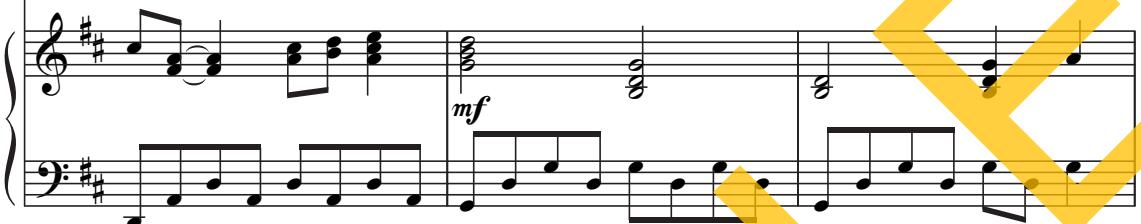
Musical score page 29. The top two staves are blank. The third staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 2/4 time signature. It consists of four measures. The first measure has a piano-like part with eighth-note chords. The second measure has a piano-like part with eighth-note chords. The third measure has a piano-like part with eighth-note chords. The fourth measure has a piano-like part with eighth-note chords. The dynamic marking *f* is placed above the piano part in the third measure.

56

52

*mf boldly*

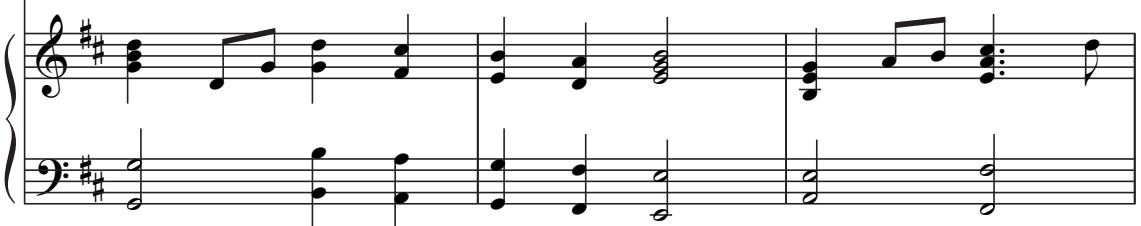
to God,— glo - ry.” Hail the heav’n - born Prince of Peace.



55



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



60 [34] 57

new - born King."

*dim.*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."

b.

60

83

down to earth to pro - claim His birth to

84

85

mf

87

[36]

us.

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.

dim.

100

mf *cresc.*

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing.

mf *cresc.*

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing.

103 *f*

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

f

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing.

106 *cresc.*

cresc.

an - gels sing on high, "Glo - ry to God."

cresc.

ff

an - gels sing on high, "Glo - ry to God."

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

3

3

Solo (or all men down one octave):

4

mp

We sing of trav' - lers to

Beth - le - hem, these men so

25

mp

led to Beth - le - hem. If

29

we are wise, we will fol - low

32

them to bow and wor - ship —

35

slight rit.

Him.

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 $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 104$

5

Gently rhythmic $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 92$

a tempo

rit.

9

mp

[41] SA

mp

On - ly the wise _____

TB

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15

would look to the skies. to—

18

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

21

(*mp*)

On - ly the wise

65/2123&24L-67

23

would open their eyes
(mp)
On - ly the wise would

25

and fol - low the star to
open their eyes

27 [42]

find the new - born King.
They saw the

30

(mf)

star with roy - al

star of won - der, star of night,

feeling in 2

33

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

guide us to thy per - fect light.

36

(43)

mf mp

mf mp feeling in 4

70

39



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

Musical staff with a treble clef and a bass clef. The bass clef has 'mf' dynamics above it. The lyrics 'would wor - ship the Child' are written below the notes.

42

mf

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

Musical staff with a treble clef and a bass clef. The bass clef has 'mf' dynamics above it. The lyrics 'they — found in the lit - tle town of Beth - le -' are written below the notes.

45

hem. Kneel - ing down,

Musical staff with a treble clef and a bass clef. The bass clef has 'mf' dynamics above it. The lyrics 'Kneel - ing down,' are written below the notes.

90

as we're bow - ing, lead us now — and

92

guide us to — Thy per - fect light.

rit.

rit.

f

f

mf

mf

mf

rit.

mp

The musical score consists of six staves of music for two voices. The top two staves begin with a forte dynamic (*f*) and contain lyrics: "as we're bow - ing, lead us now — and". The third staff begins with a forte dynamic (*f*) and contains lyrics: "guide us to — Thy per - fect light.". The fourth staff begins with a mezzo-forte dynamic (*mf*) and contains a ritardando instruction (*rit.*). The fifth staff begins with a mezzo-forte dynamic (*mf*) and contains a ritardando instruction (*rit.*). The bottom staff begins with a piano dynamic (*p*) and contains a mezzo-piano dynamic (*mp*). Large yellow annotations are present: a large 'S' and 'A' are overlaid on the first two staves; a large checkmark is on the third staff; a large 'P' is on the fourth staff; a large 'R' is on the fifth staff; and a large 'I' is on the sixth staff.

78

(47)

Reflectively ♩ = ca. 80

Musical score page 78, measures 96-97. The vocal line consists of two measures of rests followed by a single eighth note. The tempo is indicated as Reflectively ♩ = ca. 80.

mp

Now we

Musical score page 78, measure 98. The vocal line begins with a series of eighth notes followed by a measure of rests. The tempo is Reflectively ♩ = ca. 80. The dynamic is marked *mp*.

98

mp O - pen our eyes,

O - pen our eyes,

o - pen our eyes,

and

Musical score page 78, measure 99. The vocal line continues with eighth notes and rests. A large yellow 'S' is drawn across the page, starting from the beginning of the vocal line and ending near the end of the measure.

o - pen our hearts,

o - pen our hearts,

o - pen our hearts,

Musical score page 78, measure 100. The vocal line concludes with eighth notes and rests. The dynamic is marked *mp*.

102

as we of - fer gifts of wor - ship

to the Lord.

105 slight rit.

With gentle movement ♩ = ca. 82

p

With gentle movement ♩ = ca. 82

p

slight rit.

gently

p

107

8

(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 $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$

48

Slow and reflective $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$

Piano: *mp*

Vocals: SA, TB, BA

[49] With a faster, steady beat $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 72$

4

rit.

Piano: *rit.*

Vocals: SA, TB, BA

7 SA

TB *mp*

The weary world re - joic - es.

7

SA

TB *mp*

Vocals: SA, TB, BA

9

We have new hope for our lives.

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

13 (50) *f*

thrive.

40 As before $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 66$ *mp with intensity*

All who are quiet - ly

As before $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 66$

3 3

*mf**mp with intensity*

42

griev - ing,

with fac - es rest - ing in your

hands,

mf brighter

lift up your heads and see the

44

mf brighter

46

(53)

accel.

sun__rise a - gain.

47

f dim. accel.

With a faster, steady beat $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 72$

49

mf

The bur - dened souls will be lift - ed

With a faster, steady beat $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 72$

51

f

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

f

90

A little faster ♩. = ca. 63

66 ***ff***

fall on your knees!

Fall on your knees.

O

A little faster ♩. = ca. 63

ff

68

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

O

70

night di - vine,

O

f

f

f

72

night when Christ was born.

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

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

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

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

76 gradual rit. dim. 56 f

night when Christ was born!

dim. f

gradual rit. dim. f

Peacefully $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$ *mf*

Fall on your

*mf*Peacefully $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$ *mf**mp**gradual rit.*

knees and find new hope, the

*mp**mp gradual rit.**p*

thrill of hope and joy.

*p**8va*

(4 beats)

The Ballad of Bethlehem

Underscore

93

Words and Music by
Pepper Choplin

(57) Smoothly, in one $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 112$

5

mp

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.

9

15

21

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

Freely ♩ = ca. 76

3

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

shout and sing and

mf

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5

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

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

poco rit.

walk with the wise - men to where the Child was

walk to where the Child was

poco rit.

65/2123&24L-95

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

65/2123&24L-100

(62)

37

wor - ship Christ the Lord. (d) *mf*

mf

39

f

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

glo - ry's all_ a-round.

(f) I want to

(f) I want to

63

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

accel.

66 Faster $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 98$

[65]

Faster $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 98$

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)

74

(66)

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

86

88

85

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

86

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

88 *slight rit.*

— Cong. Broadly $\text{d} = \text{ca. } 92$

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

slight rit.

Broadly $\text{d} = \text{ca. } 92$

92 *cresc.* *ff*

new - born King."

cresc. *ff*

v v v v