

# Blessed be that maid Marie

Traditional English  
arr. Joy Sherman

Chantlike  $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 60$   
*mp*

T B

Bless-ed be that maid Mar - ie. Born He was of her bo - dy.

5

T B

Ver - y God ere time be - gan. Born in time the Son of Man.

9 *cantabile*  
*mp*

S  
A  
T  
B

Chris - tus ho - di - e Na - tus est de Vir - gi - ne. *poco rit.*

Chris - tus ho - di - e Na - tus est de Vir - gi - ne. *poco rit.*

Chris - tus ho - di - e Na - tus est de Vir - gi - ne. *poco rit.*

Chris - tus ho - di - e Na - tus est de Vir - gi - ne. *poco rit.*

*mp* piano for rehearsal only *poco rit.*

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13 Poco più mosso

*mp* Sweet and bliss-ful was the song Chant-ed by the an-gel throng.

*mp* Chant-ed by the an-gel throng.

Peace on

17 **For Perusal Only** *mf*

Peace on earth. Al-le-lu-ia. In-ex-cel-sis Glo-ri-a.

Al-le-lu-ia. Glo-ri-a.

*mp* Peace. Al-le-lu-ia. In-ex-cel-sis Glo-ri-a.

earth, on earth, Al-le-lu-ia. Glo-ri-a.

Chris - tus ho - di - e Na - tus est de Vir - gi - ne. *rit.*

Chris - tus ho - di - e Na - tus est de Vir - gi - ne. *rit.*

Chris - tus ho - di - e Na - tus est de Vir - gi - ne. *rit.*

Chris - tus ho - di - e Na - tus est de Vir - gi - ne. *rit.*

*cresc.*

# For Perusal Only

25 *f* *Alla marcia, più allegro*

Fare three kings from far off land In - cense, gold, and myrrh in hand.

*mf* Fare three Kings from far off land, myrrh in hand.

*mf* Fare three Kings from far off land, myrrh in hand.

*mf* Fare three Kings from far off land, myrrh in hand.

Finger Cymbals

Hand Drum

25 *f* *Alla marcia, più allegro*

*mf*

In Beth-le-hem the Babe they see Stel - le - duc - ti - lu - mi - ne.

In Beth - lem babe they see lu - mi - ne.

In Beth - lem babe they see lu - mi - ne.

In Beth - lem babe they see lu - mi - ne.

**For Perusal Only**

33 *mp with devotion*

Chris - tus ho - di - e Na - tus est de Vir - gi - ne.

*mp with devotion*

Chris - tus ho - di - e Na - tus est de Vir - gi - ne.

*mp with devotion*

Chris - tus ho - di - e Na - tus est de Vir - gi - ne.

*mp with devotion*

Chris - tus ho - di - e Na - tus est de Vir - gi - ne.

33 *mp*

39 *mf* *rhythmically*

S  
A

Make we mer - ry On this fest.

T *mp* *rhythmically*

\* Bawm, bawm, bawm, bawm, bawm, bawm, bawm, (simile...)

B *mp* *rhythmically*

\* Bawm, bawm, bawm, bawm, bawm, bawm, bawm, (simile...)

Tambourine *p*

39

43 \* *Close immediately to M*

S  
A

In quo Chris - tus na - tus est, On this Child I pray you call.

T

B

43

© protection

47

*poco rit.* **52** *mp* **Tempo I**

S Na - tus est de Vir - gi - ne. Chris - tus

A Na - tus est de Vir - gi - ne. Chris - tus

T ho - di - e Na - tus est de Vir - gi - ne. Chris - tus

B ho - di - e Na - tus est de Vir - gi - ne. Chris - tus

*poco rit.* **52** *mp* **Tempo I**

ho - di - e Na - tus est de Vir - gi - ne.

ho - di - e Na - tus est de Vir - gi - ne.

ho - di - e Na - tus est de Vir - gi - ne.

ho - di - e Na - tus est de Vir - gi - ne.

molto rit.

molto rit.

molto rit.

molto rit.

molto rit.

molto rit.

For Perusal Only

#### The piece

The text accompanying *Blessed be that maid Marie* appeared in William Ballet's *Lute Book*, published in manuscript form in 1594. The tune appears in harmonized form in the *University Carol Book*, ed. by Erik Routley (1961). This anthology cites William Ballet's *Lute Book* as the source of the melody; that attribution may be incorrect according to Roy Stanley of The Trinity College Library in Dublin, where Ballet's lute book is housed. Routley's publication suggests that the tune may be derived from a French tune, *Promptement levez-vous mon voisin*, published in the *Oxford Book of Carols*. With its beautifully flowing, chant-like melodic line, the lovely tune is a refinement of the rustic folk carol.

#### The text

The text of each verse carries a different mood making sensitivity to textual meaning paramount to successful performance.

Blessed be that maid Marie.  
Born He was of her body.  
Very God ere time began.  
Born in time the Son of Man.  
Christus hodie  
Natus est de Virgine.

Sweet and blissful was the song  
Chanted by the angel throng.  
Peace on earth. Alleluia.  
In excelsis Gloria.  
Christus hodie  
Natus est de Virgine.

Fare three kings from far off land  
Incense, gold, and myrrh in hand.  
In Bethlehem ere time began.  
Stelle ducti lumine.  
Christus hodie  
Natus est de Virgine.

Make we merry on this fest.  
In quo Christus natus est,  
On this Child I pray you call.  
To assoil and save us all.  
Christus hodie  
Natus est de Virgine.

#### The arranger: Joy Sherman

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#### Translation of the Latin

Christus hodie natus est de virgine  
*Today Christ is born of the Virgin*  
In excelsis gloria  
*Glory in the highest!*  
Stellae ducti lumine  
*Led by the light of a star.*  
In quo Christus natus est  
On which Christ was born.

Note: assoil is an archaic term meaning to absolve or pardon wrong doings.

#### Notes on performance

The piece can be effectively performed with the accompaniment of the percussion instruments indicated. The addition of a *colla parte* recorder consort would also be very effective.

#### Range

S A T B