

Performance Suggestions from the Arranger...

Many churches use “Happy Birthday” to help children celebrate Christ’s birth. I arranged this anthem to incorporate this song into your services in a worshipful way. Below are some ideas on how you can make this a part of your music ministry. Please let me know how you use it in your church.

Have a child soloist or children’s choir sing the upper staff. Notice the optional SA parts for the choir women to support the children if desired. A C-instrument doubling the melody could also bolster their confidence. It is especially effective to have a child (or children) sing alone at m. 49-57 and m. 77-81.

If you don't have a children’s choir, you can rehearse your young ones a few minutes each Sunday of Advent. Make this a lesson about preparing to celebrate Jesus’ birth. Since they know the melodies, this should prepare them to sing with the adults after a brief joint rehearsal. You may also choose to rehearse the children with the publisher’s promotional CD or web site (www.lorenz.com) recording.

To form a Christmas Family Choir, invite family members for one rehearsal (perhaps even just before the service) and have them sing the melodies. The harmony section in verse two is designed to sound good even with the men singing the melody.

This anthem could be sung after a children’s sermon. The child soloist (or children’s choir) could lead as the other children are encouraged to sing from their places at the front.

Some churches celebrate Christ’s birth through a party with a children’s nativity scene and a birthday cake. This anthem would be a natural choice for such an event.

The anthem would also make a nice sing-a-long in ministry presentations at retirement villages or children’s homes.

The optional congregation section could be approached as if the worshippers are joining the children to help them sing it strong.

Sing this anthem for other events such as Christmas programs, pageants, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, or on those Sundays immediately before or after December 25th.

With Christmas blessings,

Pepper Choplin

Birthday in a Manger

Away in a Manger/Happy Birthday to You

SAB or SATB with opt. Children's Choir, Solo, or Congregation

Arranged by
Pepper Choplin

Gently flowing ♩ = 80

The score is in 3/4 time and B-flat major. It begins with a piano introduction marked *p*. The piano part features a flowing melody in the right hand and a supporting bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *p*, *mp*, *rit.*, and *p a tempo*. The vocal parts enter at measure 11, with lyrics: *A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a. The vocal parts are marked *mp*. The piano accompaniment continues with a steady bass line and chords in the right hand.

Children's Choir or Child Soloist

11 *mp*

SA (optional) *mp*

*A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a

*A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a

* *Away in a Manger*: Music attributed to James R. Murray, 1867;

Text: *Little Children's Book for Schools and Families*, c. 1885.

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15

bed, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus lay down His sweet

bed, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus lay down His sweet

19

head. The stars in the sky — look down where He

head. The stars in the sky — look down where He

23

lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the

lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the

27

mp

hay. The

SA *mp*

hay. The—

TB *mp*

with a lighter tone

31

cat - tle are low - ing, the Ba - by a - wakes, but

cat - tle are low - ing, the Ba - by a - wakes, but

35 *mf*

lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes; I

lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes; I

mf

39

love Thee, Lord Je - sus, look down from the sky, and

love Thee, Lord Je - sus, look down from the sky, and

mf

43

stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.

stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.

mp

mp

mp

47

SA (optional)

*Hap-py birth - day to

mp

*Hap-py birth - day to

mp

* *Happy Birthday to You*: Music attributed to **Patty and Mildred J. Hill**, 1893;
 Words: Traditional, alt. **Pepper Choplin**.

51

You, hap-py birth - day to You, hap-py birth - day, dear

You, hap-py birth - day to You, hap-py birth - day, dear

55

Je - sus, hap-py birth - day to You.

Je - sus, hap-py birth - day to You.