

for Michaela Grace Custer on her first Christmas

# How Far Is It to Bethlehem?

SATB and Piano (or Organ)

Frances Chesterton

Gerald Custer

based on the original hymn tune: SHARON'S SONG

*♩ = ca. 72* *S.A.T.B. unison* ***mf***

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It features a vocal line for SATB unison and piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked as approximately 72 quarter notes per minute. The score is divided into three systems. The first system shows the beginning of the piece with the vocal line starting on a whole rest and the piano accompaniment beginning with a *mf* dynamic. The second system starts at measure 5 and includes the lyrics: "far is it to Beth - le-hem? Not ver - y far. Shall\_ we\_\_\_ find the". The third system starts at measure 10 and includes the lyrics: "sta - ble room lit by a star? Can\_ we\_\_\_ see the lit - tle\_ Child?". Dynamics include *mf* and *mp*.

How\_

5  
far is it to Beth - le-hem? Not ver - y far. Shall\_ we\_\_\_ find the

10  
sta - ble room lit by a star? Can\_ we\_\_\_ see the lit - tle\_ Child?

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15

Is He with - in? If\_ we\_\_\_ lift the wood - en latch, may we go

20

*S.A. div. mp*

in? May we? May we?

*T.B. unison mf*

May\_ we\_\_\_ stroke the crea - tures there:

25

May we? May we? May we? May\_ we?

ox, ass, or sheep? May\_ we\_\_\_ peep like them and see

29

May we? If we, Will He?

Je - sus a - sleep? If we touch His ti - ny hand

33

Will He? Will He know we've-

will He a - wake? Will He know we've come so far

37

come for His sake?

come for His sake?

just for His sake?

41 *mp*

Great \_\_\_\_\_ kings have pre - cious gifts and we have naught;

*mp*

Great \_\_\_\_\_ kings have pre - cious gifts and we have naught; \_\_\_\_\_

*mp*

8 Great kings \_\_\_\_\_ have pre - cious gifts and we have naught; \_\_\_\_\_

*mp*

Great kings have pre - cious gifts and we have naught;

(for rehearsal only)

*mp*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 41 through 44. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Great \_\_\_\_\_ kings have pre - cious gifts and we have naught;". The piano part provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both hands. The dynamic marking is mezzo-piano (mp).

45

lit - tle smiles and lit - tle tears are all \_\_\_\_\_ we brought. For \_

lit - tle smiles and lit - tle tears are all we brought. \_\_\_\_\_ For \_

8 lit - tle smiles and lit - tle tears are all \_\_\_\_\_ we brought. \_\_\_\_\_

lit - tle smiles and lit - tle tears are all we brought. \_\_\_\_\_

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 45 through 48. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "lit - tle smiles and lit - tle tears are all \_\_\_\_\_ we brought. For \_". The piano part continues with harmonic support. The dynamic marking is mezzo-piano (mp).

49

all wea - ry chil - dren Mar - y must weep.

all wea - ry chil - dren Mar - y must weep.

8 For all wea - ry chil - dren Mar - y must weep.

For all wea - ry chil - dren Mar - y must weep.

53

Here, on His bed of straw, sleep, chil - dren, sleep.

Here, on His bed of straw, sleep, chil - dren, sleep.

8 Here, on His bed of straw, sleep, chil - dren, sleep.

Here, on His bed of straw, sleep, chil - dren, sleep.