

A Christmas Carol Gallery

Portraits of the Season

Arranged and Orchestrated by Larry Shackley

Suite **1**



Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room

Narration 1: Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room

Written and Adapted by Jean Anne Shafferman

Reader 1:

Welcome one and welcome all to this hallowed Christmas hall.
Come and listen, come and see portraits in our gallery:
images in song and rhyme, stories out of space and time.
Gather now, from far and near; the advent of our Lord is here.

Reader 2: (*Charles Wesley, 18th century*)

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Reader 1:

Come with longing, come and see portraits in our gallery.
Banish sorrow, banish gloom;
let every heart prepare Him room.

Of the Father's Love Begotten (Choir Only)

Tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM 13th-century plainsong, arranged by C. Winfred Douglas, 1916;

Words by Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 4th century;

Translated by John M. Neale, 1854, and Henry W. Baker, 1859

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the world began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
of the things that are, that have been
and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Choir Only)

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL Music by **Thomas Helmore**, 1854, based on plainsong;

Words from 12th-century Latin hymn, translated by **John M. Neale**, 1851

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying (Choir Only)

Tune: WACHET AUF Music by **Hans Sachs**, ca. 1513, adapted by **Philipp Nicolai**, 1599;

Words by **Philipp Nicolai**, 1599, translated by **Catherine Winkworth**, 1858

Wake, awake, for night is flying, the watchmen on the heights are crying;
awake, Jerusalem, at last.
Midnight hears the welcome voices, and at the thrilling cry rejoices;
"Come forth, O faithful! Night is past."

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come (Choir and Congregation/Audience)

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL Music by **Thomas Helmore**, 1854, based on plainsong;

Words from 12th-century Latin hymn, translated by **John M. Neale**, 1851

ff Joy to the world! the Lord shall come; let earth re-ceive her King; let

73 ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him room, and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

76 heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n, and heav'n, and na - ture sing.

84 *f* Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; let men their songs em - ploy; while

88 fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -

91 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy. *ff*

The musical score is written in G major, 4/4 time, and consists of five systems of music. The first system begins with a forte (*ff*) dynamic marking. The second system starts at measure 73. The third system starts at measure 76 and includes a five-measure rest. The fourth system starts at measure 84 and begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic marking. The fifth system starts at measure 88 and ends with a forte (*ff*) dynamic marking. The score includes lyrics for each system, with some words underlined to indicate syllable placement. The piece concludes with a final chord in 3/4 time.

Postlude (Choir Only)

Sing for joy! Sing for joy!

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Suite 2 O Hear the Angels Voices

Narration 2: O Hear the Angel Voices

Written and Adapted by Jean Anne Shafferman

Reader 1:

Listen to the songs we sing, hymns and chants and caroling.
Now He comes, the Child divine; stars and angels give the sign:
signs of promise, signs of hope, prophesied so long ago.
See, a tender lamb appears, promised through eternal years.

Reader 2: (*Words by St. Germanus, 7th century, trans. John Mason Neale*)

A great and mighty wonder, a full and holy cure!
The virgin bears the Infant with virgin honor pure.
The Word becomes incarnate and yet remains on high!
And cherubim sing anthems to shepherds from the sky.

Reader 1:

Come in wonder, come and see portraits in our gallery:
heavenly radiance fills the air, angel voices everywhere!

The Snow Lay on the Ground (Choir Only)

Tune: VENITE ADOREMUS Traditional English melody and words

The snow lay on the ground, the star shone bright,
when Christ our Lord was born on Christmas night.
Venite adoremus Dominum!

See Amid the Winter's Snow (Choir Only)

Music by John Goss, 1871; Words by Edward Caswall, 1858

See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below;
see, the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.
Hail, thou ever-blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Venite adoremus Dominum!

The Birthday of a King (Choir Only)

Words and Music by **William H. Neidlinger**, 1890

In the little village of Bethlehem, there lay a child one day;
and the sky was bright with a holy light o'er the place where Jesus lay.
Alleluia! O how the angels sang. Alleluia! How it rang!
And the sky was bright with a holy light. 'Twas the birthday of a King.

O Holy Night (Choir and Congregation/Audience)

Tune: CANTIQUE DE NOEL Music by **Adolphe C. Adam**, 19th century;

Words by **Capeau de Roquemaure**, translated by **John S. Dwight**, 19th century

p
O ho - ly night! — The stars are bright - ly shin - ing; it is the
117 *mp*
night of the dear Sav - ior's birth. Long lay the world — in sin and er - ror
121 *mf*
pin - ing till He ap - peared, and the soul felt its worth. A
124 *accel.*
thrill of hope, the wea - ry world re - joic - es, for yon - der breaks a
127 *cresc.* **Faster** *f*
new and glo - rious morn! Fall — on your knees! — O
130
hear — the an - gel voic - es! O night — di -
133
vine! — O — night — when Christ was born! — O
136 *mf*
night — di - vine! O night — when Christ was born!

Postlude (Choir Only)

O night divine! O night when Christ was born! O holy night.

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Suite 3 Born Is the King

Narration 3: Born Is the King

Written and Adapted by Jean Anne Shafferman

Reader 1:

Come in silence to the manger, ponder nothing earthly now.
See the tiny baby sleeping; honor Him, before Him bow.
This is Jesus, son of Mary, born a child and yet a King.
Gaze in reverence, awe and wonder; hear His mother softly sing.

Reader 2: (*Isaac Watts, 18th century, alt.*)

Hush! My dear, lie still and slumber; holy angels guard Thy bed!
Heavenly blessings without number gently fall upon Thy head.
See the lovely Babe addressing; lovely Infant, how He smiled!
When He wept, the mother's blessing soothed and hushed the holy Child.

Reader 1:

In the silence come and see portraits in our gallery.
Here is God, come down to earth! Softly sing our Savior's birth.

The First Nowell (Choir Only)

Traditional English Carol

The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in the fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

As Lately We Watched (Choir Only)

Traditional Austrian melody and words

As lately we watched o'er our flocks though the night,
a star there was seen of such glorious light!
All through the night, angels did sing
in carols so sweet of the birth of a King.

Then shepherds, be joyful, salute now your King;
let earth now resound with the song that you sing.
Blest be the hour, welcome in the morn,
for Christ, our dear Savior, on earth now is born.

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (Choir Only)

Tune: W ZLOBIE LEZY Traditional Polish melody and words

Infant holy, infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, nowells ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new;
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the Babe was born for you.

Silent Night (Choir and Congregation/Audience)

Tune: STILLE NACHT Music by Franz Gruber, 1818;

Words by Joseph Mohr, 1818, translated by John F. Young, 1863



The musical score for 'Silent Night' is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and includes a crescendo hairpin. The second staff starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The third staff starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic, includes a crescendo hairpin, and ends with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The fourth staff starts with a diminuendo (*dim.*) dynamic, includes a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic, and ends with a piano (*p*) dynamic.

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, won - drous star,
lend Thy light. With the an - gels let us sing
al - le - lu - ias to our King. Christ the Sav - ior is
born! Christ the Sav - ior is born!

Postlude (Choir Only)

Born is the King! Sing Nowell, Nowell!

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Suite **4**



Christmas Day in the Morning

Narration 4: Christmas Day in the Morning

Written and Adapted by Jean Anne Shafferman

Reader 1: (*John Byrom, 18th century English*)

Christians, awake! Salute the happy morn
whereon the Savior of the World was born!
Rise to adore the mystery of love
which hosts of angels chanted from above;
with them the joyful tidings first begun
of God incarnate and the virgin's Son.

Reader 2: (*Wexford Carol – Traditional Irish*)

Good people all, this Christmastime, consider well, and bear in mind,
what our good God for us has done in sending His beloved Son.
With Mary holy we should pray to God with love this Christmas day;
in Bethlehem, upon that morn, there was a blessed Messiah born.

Reader 1 & 2:

Wake and listen, rise and see portraits in our gallery.
Christus natus hodie*; Christ was born on Christmas day.

* KREE-stoos NAH-toos AW-dee-eh (Christ born today)

On Christmas Day All Christians Sing (Choir Only)

Tune: SUSSEX CAROL Traditional English melody and words

On Christmas day all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring.
News of great joy and of great mirth, news of our blessed Savior's birth.

Out of the darkness, we have light, which made the angels sing this night.
"Glory to God, and peace to men now and forevermore, Amen!"

Good Christians, Now Rejoice (Choir Only)

Tune: IN DULCI JUBILO Traditional German melody and words

translated by John M. Neale, 1853, alt.

Good Christians, now rejoice with heart and soul and voice.
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today.
Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now:
Christ is born today, Christ is born today.

Good Christians, now rejoice with heart and soul and voice.
Now ye hear of endless bliss. Jesus Christ was born for this.
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blessed forevermore.
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this.

I Saw Three Ships (Choir Only)

Traditional English melody and words

So let us all rejoice and sing on Christmas day, on Christmas day.
So let us all rejoice and sing on Christmas day in the morning!

O Come, All Ye Faithful (Choir Only)

Tune: ADESTE FIDELES Melody from John F. Wade's Cantus Diversi, 1751;

Words from traditional Latin hymn, translated by Frederick Oakeley, 1841

Come, let us adore Him! Come, let us adore Him!
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.
O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

(Choir and Congregation/Audience)

ff

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this hap - py morn - ing, Je - sus, to

176

Thee— be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther,

181

mp *mf*

now in flesh ap - pear - ing. O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a -

186

f

dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord.

Postlude (Choir Only)

O come, let us adore Him. Now let us all rejoice and sing!
Now let us all rejoice and sing for Christ is born! Jesus Christ is born!