

Thomas Merritt

arranged by Jonathan Bielby

*Hail, sacred day*

Christmas carol for mixed voices & organ  
(with optional brass)

About this work

The composer, Thomas Merritt, was the son of a tin miner. He composed Christmas carols which are sung by Cornish men and women the world over.

This choral piece has been reimagined by Jonathan Bielby with thanks to Bach, Handel, Berlioz, as well as the Swing Era.

The composer's scoring of this carol  
for mixed voices, brass and organ  
is available with full score and brass parts for hire/rental from the publisher.

Do not use vocal score organ part when brass version employed (use brass version organ part).

Also available by Jonathan Bielby  
LET THERE BE RESPECT FOR THE EARTH  
for SAATBB, words by Revd. Peter Trow,  
suitable for New Year, Lent, Harvest, Climate Change or General use,  
dedicated to John Scott and the Choir of St Paul's Cathedral

MAY CHOIRS OF ANGELS RECEIVE HIM  
In memoriam John Scott,  
for soprano soli, SATB and organ,  
words from the Requiem Mass

# Hail, sacred day

Words: A Selection of Carols, Pieces and Anthems  
suitable for Christmas  
F. Rodda, Printer, Penzance (1880)

Music: Thomas Merritt (1863–1908),  
arranged by Jonathan Bielby (b. 1944)

**Allegro con brio** ♩ = 126

**f**

SOPRANO  
ALTO

TENOR  
BASS

1. Hail, sa - cred

**f**

**Allegro con brio** ♩ = 126

**ff**

ORGAN

Ped.

5

day, au - spi - - - cious morn,  
day, au - spi - cious morn,

**ff**

9 *f* On which the

*f* On

13 Prince of Life was born,

which the Prince of Life was born,

*ff*

18 *f* On which the Prince of Life was

*f* On which the Prince of Life was

22 **Larghetto**

born!

born!

**Larghetto**

RH Oboe

*p* LH Flute

29 **Tempo primo**

*mf*

Mes - si - ah leaves his

**Tempo primo**

Sw. *mf*

Man.

34

Fa - ther's throne,

Gt. *f*

Ped.

40 *mf*

Mes - si - ah leaves His Fa ther's throne,

*mf*

44 **Allegretto** **Tempo primo** *f* The

**Allegretto** **Tempo primo** *f* The

The glo - rious Lord of

*mf* LH Clarinet *f*

Man. Ped.

49 glo - rious Lord of Life comes down, The glo - - rious

The glo - rious Lord of Life comes down, of

The glo - rious Lord of

Life comes down, The glo - - rious Lord of

*f*

52 Lord of Life comes down,

Life comes down,  
Life comes down,

Life comes down

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of music, measures 52-55. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The piano part has a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The lyrics are: "Lord of Life comes down, Life comes down, Life comes down, Life comes down".

56 The glo - - rious Lord of Life comes

The glo - - rious Lord of Life comes

The glo - rious Lord of Life comes

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of music, measures 56-59. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The piano part has a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The lyrics are: "The glo - - rious Lord of Life comes The glo - rious Lord of Life comes".

60 Allegretto

poco rall.

down.

down.

**Allegretto**  
Oboe

**mf** Clarinet

Man.

Detailed description: This block contains the third system of music, measures 60-63. It features three parts: Oboe, Clarinet, and Man. The Oboe part starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The Clarinet part starts with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The Man. part starts with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "down. down.". The tempo markings are "Allegretto" and "poco rall.". The time signature is 3/8.

**Moderato (slower than opening)** ♩ = 116

A - rise, my soul, and hail the day,

65 *poco f*

*poco f*

2. A - rise, my soul, and hail the day,  
soul, and hail the day,

*poco f*

**Moderato (slower than opening)** ♩ = 116

Trumpet

*poco f*

Ped.

69

Nor sleep the so - - lemn

Nor sleep the so - lemn

73

hours a - way;

hours a - way;