

Philip Ledger

This holy child

*A setting of the Christmas story
with five original carols*

Sample pages from This holy child
are shown in this file

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This holy child

Words: from the Apocrypha,
Wisdom of Solomon 18.14-15

Music: PHILIP LEDGER

I. Introduction

Preciso ♩ = 76

ORGAN

mf

Ped.

5

Man.

10

Ped.

15

Man.

molto rit.

20

mp

Ped.

♩ = ♪

25 **BARITONE SOLO**

mp

In

pp

29

qui - - - et si - - lence

Solo

p

33

night in the midst of her small course, _____

2. Jesus Christ the apple tree

Words: from Divine Hymns
or Spiritual Songs (1784)

Gently flowing ♩ = 54 *mp*

SOPRANOS

1. The_

(Ped.)

5

tree of life my soul_ hath seen, _____

9

La - den with fruit and al - ways green: _____ The

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a soprano and piano. It begins with a tempo marking 'Gently flowing' and a metronome marking of 54 quarter notes per minute. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/2. The soprano part starts with a rest for four measures, then enters with the lyrics '1. The_'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands. A pedaling instruction '(Ped.)' is placed under the first two measures of the piano part. The score is divided into three systems. The first system covers measures 1-4. The second system starts at measure 5 and includes the lyrics 'tree of life my soul_ hath seen, _____'. The third system starts at measure 9 and includes the lyrics 'La - den with fruit and al - ways green: _____ The'. The piano part features a long pedal point in the bass line across several measures.

13

S. A. *mf*

trees of na - ture fruit - less be _____ Com -

T. B. *mf*

17

-pared with Christ the ap - ple tree, The trees of na - ture fruit-less be Com -

21

-pared with Christ the ap - ple tree. _____

p

3. The Annunciation

Words: adapted from Gabriel and Mary
by Selwyn Image (1849-1930)

GABRIEL: BARITONE SOLO

mf

Bar. Solo

'Ma - ry! God sends me with good news to tell.'

MARY: SOPRANO SOLO

mf

S. Solo

'What is this news, O Gab - ri - el?'

6

Bar. Solo

'God gives you grace._____ For a

p

Ped.

9

child you shall bear and his name shall be called__

p

Ped.

4. The voice of the angel Gabriel

Words: traditional Cornish

Flowing but unhurried ♩ = 116 *mf*

S. A. *mf* 1. When

T. B. *mf*

p

Man.

5
gen - tle Jo - seph wed - ded was To Is - rael's He - brew maid, The

9
an - gel Gab - riel came from heav'n, And to the vir - gin said: 'Hail,

13
bless - ed Ma - ry, full of grace, The Lord re - main on thee: Thou

17

f

shalt con - ceive and bear a son, Our Sa - viour for to be: Then

f

f

21

Ped.

sing you all, both great and small, No - well, No - well, No - well! We

25

may re - joice to hear the voice Of the an - gel Gab - ri - el.

p

5. The shepherds

Words: adapted from The shepherds' song
by Selwyn Image (1849-1930)

Ponderoso ♩ = 72

The score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The tempo is marked 'Ponderoso' with a quarter note equal to 72 beats per minute. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand. The vocal lines are for Tenor (T.) and Bass (B.).

Ped.

5 SHEPHERDS: T. & B.

T. B. *mf* Deep, deep_ snow, Wild, wild_ wind,

9 *mf* Deep, deep_ snow, Dark, dark_ night.

13 *f*

Where shall we shep-herds go God's Son to find?_____

17 ANGELS: S.S.A. *pp*

S. I See, shep-herds, see!_____

S. II See, shep-herds, see!_____

A. See, shep-herds, see!_____

pp

21

O'er Beth-le-hem town, What may this glo-ry be?

O'er Beth-le-hem town, What may this glo-ry, this glo-ry be?

O'er Beth-le-hem town, What may this glo-ry be?

Note: the small notes in the organ part (bar 19-31) are optional.

6. In the bleak mid-winter

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-94)

Espressivo ♩ = 96

S. *p*

1. In the bleak mid - win - ter Frost - y wind made moan,

T. *p*

5 *mp* *mf* *mp*

Earth stood hard as i - ron, Wa - ter like a stone;

mp *mf* *mp*

9 *p*

Snow had fal - len, snow on snow, Snow on snow,

p

13 *mp* *p*

In the bleak mid - win - ter, Long a - - go.

mp *p*

mf 18

2. Our God, heav'n can - not hold him Nor earth sus - tain;

mf

22 *f*

Heav'n and earth shall flee a - way When he comes to reign:

f

26 *mp* *mf*

In the bleak mid - win - ter A sta - ble - place suf - ficed The

mp *mf*

30 *p*

Lord God Al - migh - ty Je - - - - sus Christ.

p

mp 35

3. E - nough for him, whom che - ru - bim Wor - ship night and day, A

mp

7. Invitation to the manger

Words: adapted from Noel
by Selwyn Image (1849-1930)

Gently rocking $\text{♩} = 54$

Piano introduction in G major, 2/2 time. The music is marked *p* (piano) and includes a *Ped.* (pedal) instruction. The right hand features a simple melody of dotted half notes, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment of chords.

SOPRANO SOLO

Measures 5-9. The soprano solo begins with a *p* (piano) dynamic. The lyrics are: "See, the love-ly babe a - sleep Ly - ing". The piano accompaniment continues with the same harmonic pattern as the introduction, marked *p*.

Measures 10-14. The soprano solo continues with a *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic. The lyrics are: "on his moth-er's breast, Ah! how ten-der - ly,". The piano accompaniment features a crescendo leading to a *mp* (mezzo-piano) dynamic.

Measures 15-19. The soprano solo continues with a *mp* dynamic. The lyrics are: "Ah! how ten-der - ly, ten - der - ly ca - ressed!". The piano accompaniment features a crescendo leading to a *p* (piano) dynamic.

20 *p*

Let us kneel, and vi - gil keep

25 *mp* *mf*

At this qui - et crad - le - side, Ma - - -

30

- ry! may we here a - bide?

35 *p* *mf*

At this qui - et crad - le - side, May we here

40 *dim.* *pp*

— with Je - - sus a - bide?

46 SOPRANO SOLO *p*

SOPRANOS *p*

See, the love-ly babe a -

See, the love-ly babe a - sleep

51 *mp* *mf*

sleep *mp* Ly - ing on his moth-er's breast, how_ *mf*

Ly - ing on his moth-er's breast, Ah! how

8. Hush! my dear, lie still and slumber

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

L'istesso tempo

pp

S. Solo

- bide?
SOPRANO & ALTO

pp

S. A.

- bide?

p

Man.

5 *p* unis.

1. Hush! my dear, lie still and slum - ber; Ho - ly an - gels

8

guard thy bed! Heav'n - ly bless - ings with - out num - ber

11

Gent - ly fall - ing on thy head. Sleep, my babe; thy

14

food and rai - ment, House and home, thy friends pro - vide;

17

All with-out thy care and pay-ment, All thy wants are well sup-plied. div.

21

p

pp

25

S. A. *mp*
Lul - la - by,

T. B. *mf unis.*
2. How much bet - ter thou'rt at - tend - ed Than the Son of
3. See the love - ly babe ad - dress - ing: Love - ly in - fant,

mp

28

mf unis.
lul - la - by, When from hea - ven he de - scend - ed,
When he wept, the mo - ther's bless - ing

div. *mp*
God could be Lul - la - by,
how he smiled!

9. Good people all

Words: adapted from A carol for Christmas Eve
by Selwyn Image (1849-1930)

Come prima

mf

Man.

The piano introduction is in 2/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (D major). It features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The melody starts with a quarter rest, followed by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The bass line consists of a few chords and single notes.

BARITONE SOLO

5

f *recitativo*

Good peo - ple all, Now sing _____ his praise from

mf

Ped.

The vocal line is in bass clef, starting with a quarter rest, followed by a series of notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The piano accompaniment is in treble and bass clefs, with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The piano part includes a pedal point in the bass line.

9

Beth - le-hem! Be - deck the stall, Where

The vocal line continues with notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The piano accompaniment continues with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, including a pedal point.

13 *mp*

Ma - - ry lays her in - fant, with your

p

17 **Poco rit.** *f*

choi - - cest gifts your ho - - mage make. O

In tempo misurato

21 *mf*

haste ye, O haste ye, O

25 **Poco rit.**

haste ye to Beth - - le - hem!

10. A little child there is yborn

Words: anon. 15th century

Preciso ♩ = 76

p

Ped.

The piano introduction consists of four measures in 2/4 time. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. A pedaling line is indicated below the bass staff.

S. A. *p*

1. A lit - tle child there is y - born, And he sprang out_ of_ Jes - se's

T. B. *p*

The vocal parts (Soprano and Tenor) and piano accompaniment are shown for the first line. The vocal lines are in 2/4 time, with the Soprano part starting on a higher pitch than the Tenor. The piano accompaniment is in 2/4 time, with the right hand playing a simple harmonic accompaniment and the left hand playing a bass line. The lyrics are: "1. A lit - tle child there is y - born, And he sprang out_ of_ Jes - se's".

9

thorn, To save all us _____ that_ were _____ for - lorn.

The vocal parts and piano accompaniment are shown for the second line. The vocal lines continue from the first line, with the Soprano part starting on a higher pitch than the Tenor. The piano accompaniment is in 2/4 time, with the right hand playing a simple harmonic accompaniment and the left hand playing a bass line. The lyrics are: "thorn, To save all us _____ that_ were _____ for - lorn.".

13 *mp*

Be -

mp

17 *poco cresc.*

S. A. - ne - di - ca - mus Do - mi - no, Be - ne - di - ca - mus Do - mi - no, —

T. B. *poco cresc.* *mf* Be -

21 *mf* *p*

S. A. Be - - ne - di - ca - mus Do - mi - no.

T. B. *mf* *p*

- - - ne - di - ca - mus

p