

to Wilbur and Delia Skeels

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

for SATB Choir and Piano

Text by Louis F. Benson (1899)

Music by Lothar Bandermann (2007)

Piano *mp*



The piano introduction consists of two staves. The right hand plays a series of chords in the treble clef, while the left hand plays a simple bass line in the bass clef. The music is in 3/4 time and the key signature has two sharps (F# and C#).

5 Unison *mp*

1. O sing a song of Beth - le hem, of shep - herds watch - ing



The first line of the song begins at measure 5. It features a unison vocal line in the treble clef and piano accompaniment in both treble and bass clefs. The lyrics are: "1. O sing a song of Beth - le hem, of shep - herds watch - ing".

8

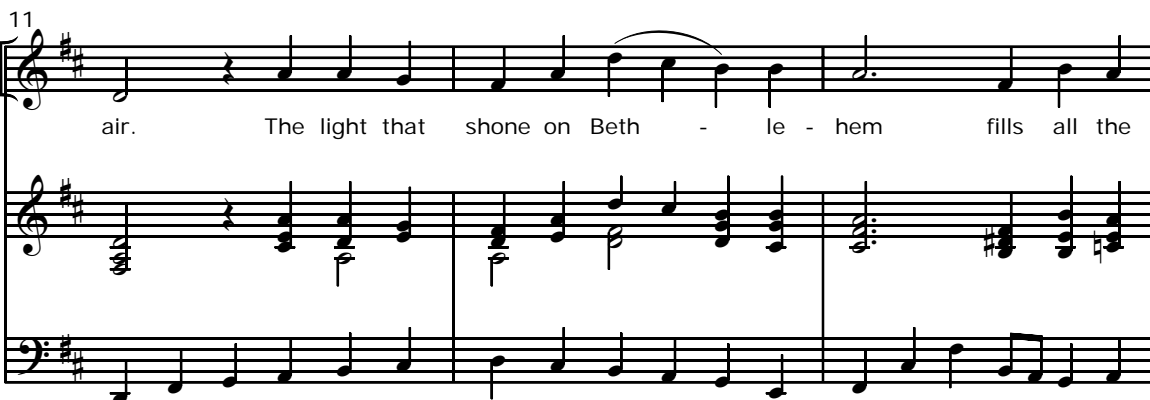
there, and of the news that came to them _____ from an - gels in the



The second line of the song begins at measure 8. It continues the unison vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "there, and of the news that came to them _____ from an - gels in the".

11

air. The light that shone on Beth - le - hem fills all the



The third line of the song begins at measure 11. It concludes the unison vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "air. The light that shone on Beth - le - hem fills all the".

14

world to-day; of Je - sus' birth and peace on earth the an-gels

17

Women *mf*

sing al-way. 2. O sing a song of Na - za-reth,

mf

20

of sun - ny days of joy.

Men *mf*

O sing of fra-grant flow - ers' breath,

mf

Background Notes

These lyrics belong to a rather small category of hymns which set forth various stages in the life of Christ in successive stanzas, making them suitable for almost any season of the church year. The author, Louis Benson, was the editor of the first hymnal of the Presbyterian Church USA, in 1895, and the author of *The Hymnody of the Christian Church*, and *Studies in Hymns*. The text has often been sung to the old English/Irish melody arranged as a hymn tune by Vaughan Williams under the name *Kingsfold*. This new melody and arrangement is by German-born California composer Lothar Bander mann. For his biography and other choral works, visit the publisher's Internet site at <cantusquercus.com>.

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

23

Sopranos *mf*

For now the flowers of Na - za -

Altos *mf*

For now the flowers of Na - za -

mf

and of a sin - less boy. For now the flowers of Na - za -

26

reth in ev-ery heart may grow; now spreads the fame of his dear

reth in ev-ery heart may grow; now spreads the fame of his dear

reth in ev-ery heart may grow; now spreads the fame of his dear

29

name on all the winds that blow.

name on all the winds that blow.

name on all the winds that blow.

33 *mp*

S 3. O sing a song of Ga - li - lee, of lake and woods and

A *mp* 3. O sing a song of Ga - li - lee, of lake and woods and

T *mp* 3. O sing a song of Ga - li - lee, of lake and woods and

B *mp* 3. O sing a song of Ga - li - lee, of lake and woods and

[rehearsal only thru m. 45]

I
N
C
O
M
P
L
E
T
E

page(s)
omitted

42

trouble roll, when faith has heard the Mas-ter's word, falls peace up - on the soul.

trouble roll, when faith has heard the Mas-ter's word, falls peace up - on the soul.

trouble roll, when faith has heard the Mas-ter's word, falls peace up - on the soul.

trouble roll, when faith has heard the Mas-ter's word, falls peace up - on the soul.

Musical score for measures 42-45, featuring vocal lines and piano accompaniment in B-flat major.

46

Poco più mosso *f*

4. O

4. O sing a song of
Poco più mosso

mf *cresc. e poco rall.* *f*

con 8vb ad lib.

Musical score for measures 46-48, including a piano solo section with dynamic markings and performance instructions.

49

sing a song of Cal - va - ry, its glo - ry and dis - may, of

Cal - va - ry, its glo - ry and dis - may, of him who

Musical score for measures 49-51, featuring vocal lines and piano accompaniment.

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

52

him who hung up - on the tree, and took our sins a-way. For

hung up - on the tree, and took our sins a - way. For he who

55

he who died on Cal - vary is ris - en from the grave,

died on Cal - va - ry is ris - en from the grave, and

58

rit. **Molto allargando**

and Christ, our Lord, by heaven a-dored, is might-y now to save.

Christ, our Lord, by heaven a - dored, is might-y now to save.

rit.

8vb