

for Ellen and Jack Lambert

**WAKE UP, LITTLE BETHLEHEM TOWN!**

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied\*

Words and Music by  
JEAN ANNE SHAFFERMAN

Slowly and freely

SOPRANO  
ALTO

ACCOMP.

*p*

Pedal carefully.

4

5 *unis. (or opt. solo)*  
*p*

Ma - ry had a ba - by, yes, Lord!

7

*mp*

Ma - ry had a ba - by, yes, my Lord! Ma - ry had a ba - by,

*mp*

\* Also available for S.A.B. voices, No. 16054.

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10 S. *rit.* *Swing!* (♩ =  $\frac{3}{4}$ ) *cresc. e accel.* *(tutti) mf* 3

A. yes, Lord!— A lit-tle ti-ny ba-by born in Beth - le - hem! O lit-tle

T. *mf unis.* 3

B.

*rit.* *Swing!* (♩ =  $\frac{3}{4}$ ) *cresc. e accel.*

13 *Moderate gospel swing* (♩ = ca. 104-108) lit-tle town of Beth - le - hem!

town, O lit-tle slum-ber-in' town— Beth - le - hem!

Beth - le, Beth-

*Moderate gospel swing* (♩ = ca. 104-108) *mf*

16 A ba-by is born— on this glo-ri-ous morn,— wake up!—

babe is— born,

- le-hem town! A

19 Wake up! Wake up!

wake up, chil-dren, wake up! O lit-tle town, O lit-tle

*mf unis.* 21

*mf unis.*

3

*mf*

22 slum-ber - in' town, - lit - tle Beth - le - hem! lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem!

lit - tle town of Beth - le, Beth - le - hem town! O

25 hear the good news, - the glo - ri - ous news, -

hear the good news, - the ti - ny ba - by is born! -

28

29

He's the Lord of all in a cat - tle stall, —  
*unis.*

31

*mf unis.*

child and yet di - vine. — He's the Prince of Peace and a

34

O lift your voic-es and sing! —

*cresc.*

heav-en - ly King! — Wake up!

Lift *cresc.* your

37 *f* <sup>3</sup> 38 *mf unis.* lit-tle

voic-es and sing!— O lit-tle town, O lit-tle slum-ber-in' town,—

*f unis.* *mf*

*f* *mf*

40 town of Beth-le-hem!— A ba-by is born— on this

Beth-le-hem!— babe is—

Beth-le, Beth-le-hem town! A

43 glo-ri-ous morn,— *f* <sup>3</sup>

born,— wake up, lit-tle Beth-le-hem town,— wake up! O lit-tle

*f unis.*

46

lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem! -

*unis.*

town, O lit - tle slum - ber - in' town, — Beth - le - hem! -

Beth - le, Beth -

Musical notation for measures 46-48. The vocal line is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The piano accompaniment is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are: "town, O lit - tle slum - ber - in' town, — Beth - le - hem! - Beth - le, Beth -".

49

O hear the good news, — the glo - ri - ous news, — the

hear the good news, — the

- le - hem town! O

Musical notation for measures 49-51. The vocal line is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The piano accompaniment is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are: "O hear the good news, — the glo - ri - ous news, — the hear the good news, — the - le - hem town! O".

52

ti - ny ba - by is born, — the

Musical notation for measures 52-54. The vocal line is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The piano accompaniment is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are: "ti - ny ba - by is born, — the". There are triplets in both the vocal and piano parts in measure 52.

Musical score for "Wake Up, Little Bethlehem Town!". The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features three systems of staves: a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment, and a guitar accompaniment.

**Vocal Line:** The lyrics are "ti - ny ba - by is born!". The music starts at measure 55. The tempo is marked *rit.* (ritardando). The dynamics are *ff* (fortissimo).

**Piano Accompaniment:** The piano part provides harmonic support for the vocal line. It also features *rit.* and *ff* markings.

**Guitar Accompaniment:** The guitar part includes a *rit.* marking and a *ff* marking. It features a melodic line with triplets and a bass line. There are also some performance markings like "Ta." and "\*" below the staff.

**Wake Up, Little Bethlehem Town!** may be appropriate for seasonal concerts by school choirs or for Christmas worship by church choirs. When used in worship, suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Psalm 97, Isaiah 62: 11-12, Titus 3: 4-7 and Luke 2: 15-20. One basic homiletical theme is spreading the good news: Emmanuel is born in Bethlehem!

This original Christmas gospel tune is best performed with an easy swing, well-balanced voices and ensemble precision. Rehearse the anthem from mm. 12-end on staccato "doo" until the simple, regular syncopations are perfectly aligned and an intensive energy is achieved. Change the vowel to "noo" and rehearse legato without sacrificing ensemble precision or energy. Avoid the temptation to oversing! Singing too loudly adds weight to the sound and will result in blurred rhythms.

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