

Come to the Manger

Written and Arranged by Mark Hayes

A Cantata for S. A. T. B. Voices, 2 Narrators and Optional Soloists, Unison Children's Choir and Congregation



- **Choral Score** (2022) ISBN 0-7390-1996-1
- **Preview Pack** (2023) Choral Score and Listening CD ISBN 0-7390-1997-X
 - **Accompaniment/Performance CD** (2024) ISBN 0-7390-1998-8
 - **InstruPax** (2025) ISBN 0-7390-1999-6



Alfred Music Publishing Co., Inc.
P.O. Box 10003
Van Nuys, CA 91410-0003
alfred.com

Copyright © MMI by Alfred Music Publishing Co., Inc.
All rights reserved

No part of this book shall be reproduced, arranged, adapted, recorded, publicly performed, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted by any means without written permission from the publisher. In order to comply with copyright laws, please apply for such written permission and/or license by contacting the publisher at alfred.com/permissions.

CONTENTS

Overture.....	3
---------------	---

I. THE NATIVITY OF JESUS

1. Away in a Manger (A Medley of Traditional Carols).....	7
2. Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella.....	14
3. Midnight Noel (It Came Upon the Midnight Clear <i>and</i> The First Noel).....	23

II. THE VISIT OF THE WISE MEN

4. What Can I Give Him?.....	34
5. The Coventry Carol.....	38
6. Christmas in the Manger (A Medley of Traditional Carols).....	45
Reproducible Program.....	62

FOREWORD

Come to the Manger is a compelling Christmas cantata that sparkles with the artistry of its composer/arranger, Mark Hayes. In the first half, *The Nativity of Jesus*, we visit the humble manger in Bethlehem and gather with the shepherds to worship the Christ Child. An inventive combination of traditional carols and spirituals enlivens the scene, and two narrators provide biblical commentary.

In the second half, *The Visit of the Wise Men*, we celebrate the gift of God's Son with the magi. The final medley, *Christmas in the Manger*, gradually builds to a joyous conclusion as the people of God shout the glad news throughout the world that Jesus Christ is born!

Designed as an inspiring yet flexible Christmas program, **Come to the Manger** may be performed in its entirety, lasting approximately 30 minutes, or in two parts, the first at Christmas and the second at Epiphany. The author highly recommends the use of featured soloists, a unison children's choir and congregational singing, as indicated in the score, although the entire work may be presented by an S.A.T.B. choir.

Come to the Manger may be accompanied by keyboard instrument alone or with Mark's outstanding orchestration. An InstruPax is available separately, No. 20025, consisting of director's score and individual parts, including 2 flutes, piccolo, oboe, B \flat clarinet, French horn (opt. flugel horn), 2 B \flat trumpets, piccolo trumpet, trombone, bass trombone, master rhythm, piano, percussion, solo violin and solo cello. A fully-orchestrated performance/accompaniment CD recording, No. 20024, is also available.

2. BRING A TORCH, JEANNETTE, ISABELLA

Spirited (♩ = ca. 92-96)

*CHILDREN, GO WHERE I SEND THEE

NARRATOR 2: A decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all people should

ACCOMP.

be counted. This was the first census, and it was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all people traveled to the towns of their births to be counted. (Luke 2: 1-3)

Slower (♩ = ca. 76)

11 NARRATOR 1: Joseph traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem, which is the city of David. He went with Mary, to whom he was engaged, and who was expecting her first child.

While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn Son, wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Joseph named Him Jesus. **23** Lively (♩ = ca. 66)

(Luke 2: 4-7; Matthew 1: 25b)

* Traditional spiritual.