

# How Lovely Are the Messengers

Words and Music by  
**Felix Mendelssohn**

Arranged by  
**Russell Robinson**

Also Available:  
38009 SSA  
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*Alfred Archive Edition*

## HOW LOVELY ARE THE MESSENGERS

### PERFORMANCE NOTES

“How Lovely are the Messengers” was written by Felix Mendelssohn for his oratorio *St. Paul*. An oratorio is very much like an opera, in that it is a large work with soloists, choir, and orchestra; however, the oratorio is always based on a religious text. The text for this movement of the oratorio is based on the following verses in the Bible, Romans 10: 15,18. *St. Paul* was composed by Mendelssohn in 1834-1836; the first performance was at the Lower Rhine Festival in Düsseldorf, Germany on May 22, 1836.

Mendelssohn is considered one of the finest writers of the early Romantic period in music. The Romantic period is generally considered to be the years 1820-1900. Mendelssohn was born in Germany in 1809; however, he was very popular in England until his early death in 1847.

The original setting of “How Lovely are the Messengers,” in the key of G major, was for SATB voices and is generous in allowing each voice part to have dominant passages throughout. This arrangement has been lowered to the key of F and a piano part has been arranged to make the work accessible to SAB choirs. Great care has been taken to preserve the original quality of Mendelssohn’s timeless work. I hope you enjoy singing this beautiful choral setting.

Russell Robinson, Arranger

# HOW LOVELY ARE THE MESSENGERS

for S.A.B. voices and piano  
with optional PianoTrax CD\*

Arranged by  
**RUSSELL ROBINSON**

Words and Music by  
**FELIX MENDELSSOHN (1809-1847)**

Reverently (♩. = ca. 60) *mp*

SOPRANO How

ALTO *mp*  
How

BARITONE

PIANO *mp*

5

love - ly are the mes - sen - gers that preach us the gos - pel of peace, how

love - ly are the mes - sen - gers that preach us the gos - pel of peace, how

\* PianoTrax 2 Accompaniment CD available (31290).

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love - ly are the mes - sen-gers that preach us the gos-pel of peace.

love - ly are the mes - sen-gers that preach us the gos-pel of peace, the

gos - pel of peace, the mes - sen-gers that preach \_\_\_\_\_ us the

How love - ly are the mes - sen-gers that preach us the gos-pel of

17

gos-pel of peace. How love - ly  
 peace, how love - ly are the mes - sen-gers that preach us the gos-pel of

21

*mf* 23  
 To all the na - tions is  
 are they that preach us the gos-pel of peace! To all the na - tions is  
 peace, the gos - pel of peace! To all the na - tions is

25

gone forth the sound of their words, to all \_\_\_\_\_ the na - tions is  
 gone forth the sound of their words, the sound, \_\_\_\_\_ is  
 gone forth the sound of their words, to all \_\_\_\_\_ the na - tions

29

gone forth the sound of their words, \_\_\_\_\_ is gone forth the sound of their  
 gone, \_\_\_\_\_ is gone forth the sound \_\_\_\_\_  
 is gone forth the sound of their words, \_\_\_\_\_ their

32

33

words. How

of their words. How love - ly

words. How love - ly are the mes - sen - gers that preach us the gos - pel of

36

love - ly are the mes - sen - gers that preach us the gos - pel of peace, \_\_\_\_\_

are the mes - sen - gers that preach us, that preach us the gos - pel of

peace, the mes - sen - gers that preach us \_\_\_\_\_ the

they \_\_\_\_\_ that preach us the gos - pel of peace. To all \_\_\_\_\_ the  
 peace, that preach us the gos - pel of peace.  
 gos-pel of peace, that preach us the gos - pel of peace. To

na - tions is gone forth the sound of their words,  
 To all \_\_\_\_\_ the  
 all \_\_\_\_\_ the na - tions, to



49

52

to all the  
na - tions is gone forth the sound of their words, to all the  
all the na - tions

53

na - tions is gone forth the sound of their words, is  
na - tions is gone forth the sound of their words, is  
is gone forth the sound of their

gone forth the sound of their words, \_\_\_\_\_ to all \_\_\_\_\_ the

gone forth the sound of their words, \_\_\_\_\_ to all \_\_\_\_\_ the

words, is gone forth the sound of their words, to all the

The musical score for measures 56-58 consists of four staves. The top two staves are vocal lines in treble clef with a key signature of one flat. The third staff is a bass line in bass clef. The bottom two staves are piano accompaniment in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The lyrics are: "gone forth the sound of their words, \_\_\_\_\_ to all \_\_\_\_\_ the" (top two staves) and "words, is gone forth the sound of their words, to all the" (third staff).

na - tions is gone forth the sound of their words, through - out

na - tions is gone forth the sound of their words, through - out

na - tions is gone forth the sound of their words, through - out

The musical score for measures 59-61 consists of four staves. The top two staves are vocal lines in treble clef with a key signature of one flat. The third staff is a bass line in bass clef. The bottom two staves are piano accompaniment in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The lyrics are: "na - tions is gone forth the sound of their words, through - out" (top two staves) and "na - tions is gone forth the sound of their words, through - out" (third staff).

62

all the lands their glad tid - ings.

all the lands their glad tid - ings. *mp* How

all the lands their glad tid - ings.

*mp*

66

*mp* How

love - ly are the mes - sen - gers that preach us the gos - pel of peace, how

*mp* How

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