

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 from 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 composers 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 for SSA 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

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HOW LOVELY ARE THE MESSENGERS

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

Arranged by
RUSSELL ROBINSON

Words and Music by
FELIX MENDELSSOHN (1809-1847)

Reverently (♩ = ca. 60)

SOPRANO I

SOPRANO II

ALTO

PIANO

Reverently (♩ = ca. 60)

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

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

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* Also available for S.A.B. (33064).
PianoTrax 2 Accompaniment CD available (31290).

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.

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

the

mf [14]

How love - ly are the mes - sen-gers that preach _____ us the

mf

How love - ly are the mes - sen-gers that preach _____ us the

mf

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

mf

17

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

How love - ly

21

peace. To all _____ the na - tions is

peace, the words _____ of peace. To all the na - tions is

are they that preach us the gos - pel of peace. To all the na - tions is

are they that preach us the gos - pel of peace. To all the na - tions is

25

A musical score for voice and piano. The vocal part is in soprano clef, and the piano part has bass and treble staves. The music consists of four systems of two measures each. Measure 25 starts with eighth-note chords in the piano, followed by eighth-note patterns in the vocal line. Measure 26 begins with a forte dynamic (f) in the piano. Measure 27 continues the eighth-note patterns. Measure 28 begins with a forte dynamic (f) in the piano. Measure 29 starts with eighth-note chords in the piano, followed by eighth-note patterns in the vocal line. The lyrics are: "gone forth the sound of their words, to all _____ the na - tions is gone forth the sound of their words, to all _____ the na - tions gone forth the sound of their words, the sound, is gone forth the sound of their words, is gone forth the sound of their words, their gone, _____ is gone forth the sound _____ the sound _____ is gone forth the sound _____ the sound _____". A large red diagonal watermark reading "Preview Only Legal User Requires Purchase" is overlaid across the page.

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

29

32

33

mf

words.

How

mf

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

— of — their words.

How love - ly

mf

— of — their words.

36

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

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

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

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

40 44

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

45

all _____ the na - tions,

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

38009

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A musical score for piano and voice. The score consists of two staves. The top staff is for the voice (soprano) and the bottom staff is for the piano. The music is in common time. The key signature changes between measures 49 and 53. The vocal line includes lyrics in parentheses. The piano accompaniment features various chords and patterns. Measure numbers 49, 52, and 53 are visible above the staves.

49

52

to all _____ the

all _____ the na - tions

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

53

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

is gone forth the sound of their

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

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

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

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



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



62

all the lands their glad tid - ings.

all the lands their glad tid - ings.

all the lands their glad tid - ings. How

66

How

How

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

70

A musical score for voices and piano. The vocal parts are in soprano and alto voices. The piano part is in the bass clef. The lyrics describe messengers bringing peace. Measure 70 starts with piano chords, followed by the soprano and alto singing. Measures 71-73 continue the vocal parts with piano accompaniment.

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

74

A musical score for voices and piano. The vocal parts are in soprano and alto voices. The piano part is in the bass clef. The lyrics continue to describe the messengers. Measure 74 has dynamic marks *p* and *f*. Measures 75-77 continue the vocal parts with piano accompaniment.

they _____ that preach us the gos - pel of peace.
peace, that preach us the gos - pel of peace.
peace, that preach us the gos - pel of peace.

78

A musical score for voices and piano. The vocal parts are in soprano and alto voices. The piano part is in the bass clef. The lyrics conclude with a piano coda. Measure 78 includes dynamic marks *rit. e decresc.*, *pp*, and a fermata over the piano part.