

AN ENGLISH CHRISTMAS

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

The Holly and the Ivy and
The First Nowell - TRADITIONAL ENGLISH
O Little Town of Bethlehem - PHILLIPS BROOKS (1835-1893)

TRADITIONAL ENGLISH MELODIES
 Arranged by DAVID CATHERWOOD

Joyfully (♩ = ca. 118)

ACCOMP.

mf

4

SOPRANO *mf unis.* 6

ALTO

The hol-ly and the i - vy when

mf

8

they are both full grown; Of all the trees that are in the wood the

12

hol-ly bears the crown.

16

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

18 *mp*

mf unis.

Hol - ly bears a blos - som as

The hol-ly bears a blos - som as

20

white as a flow'r; — Ma - ry bore Je - sus to

white as an - y flow'r; And — Ma - ry bore sweet Je - sus Christ to —

24 *mp* 26

be our Sav - ior. O the ris - ing of the sun — and the

be our sweet Sav - ior.

mp *

28

run - ing of the deer, — the — play - ing of the men - ry or - gan, sweet —

32 *rit.*

sing - ing in the choir.

(mp) *rit.*

* Accompaniment may be omitted in m. 27-33, playing instead the vocal parts if necessary.

A little slower
(♩ = ca. 96)

40
p unis.

37

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

Oo

A little slower (♩ = ca. 96)

mf *p*

42

still we see thee lie! A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the

p cresc. poco a poco

p cresc. poco a poco

48

46

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the

si - lent stars go by. In thy dark streets shin - eth the

si - lent stars go, stars go by.

mf

mf

50

unis. *mp*

ev - er - last - ing light; The hopes and fears of all the years are

Ah

mp

54

met in thee to - night.

poco rit.

mf

poco rit.

58

Tempo I

Tempo I

mf

62 (a few sopranos) *p* 63

Ah _____ as bit-ter as an - y

S. *mf*
A. The hol-ly bears the bark _____ as bit - ter as

T. *mf*
B.

62 63

mf

66

_____ Ah _____

gall; And Ma - ry bore sweet Je - sus Christ for _____ to re - deem us

gall; _____ And Ma - ry bore sweet Je - sus for to re - deem us

Je - sus for

66

70 71

Ah _____ Ah _____

all. *mp*

all. O the ris-ing of the sun _____ and the run-ning of the deer, _____ The _____

mp

70 71

mp

75 *cresc. e rit.* (rejoin section) *f*

No -

cresc. e rit. *f unis.*

play-ing of the mer-ry or - gan, sweet _____ sing-ing in the choir. No -

cresc. e rit. *f unis.*

75 *cresc. e rit.* *f*

79

Allargando

well, _____ No - well, No - well, _____ No -

Allargando

82

ff

rit.

well, _____ Born is the King _____ of Is - ra -

ff

rit.

86

el!

(Alternate ending)

86 Tempo I

el!

Tempo I

An English Christmas is a medley of traditional English seasonal melodies that may be especially appropriate for a service of lessons and carols. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Psalm 111, Isaiah 61: 10 - 62: 3, and Luke 2: 1-21. One basic homiletical theme is Emmanuel: God with Us.

In rehearsal, strive for sensitive text declamation within fluid four measure phrases. The sections in 3/4 meter should be interpreted as having one beat per measure with an almost dance-like quality until the final Allargando. Carefully observe the dynamics in sections such as m. 18-25 so that the melody is easily heard above the harmonizing voices. To improve ensemble precision, practice the entire anthem on staccato "doo", pulsing every eighth note. Add the flowing legato without sacrificing the forward motion of that inner pulse.

David Catherwood is the Assistant Director of Music at Campbell College in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Graduated with honors in music from the Queen's University in Belfast, he is an accomplished conductor of both bands and choirs and frequently serves as guest clinician for summer music camps in Ireland and England.

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