

WHAT STAR IS THIS?

for S.A.T.B. voices, opt. flute, accompanied*

Words by
CHARLES COFFIN (1676–1749)
Translation by
JOHN CHANDLER (1806–1876)

Music by
STAN PETHEL (ASCAP)

Delicately (♩ = ca. 80)

FLUTE

mp

ACCOMP.

mp

4 SOPRANO / ALTO **mp** **5**

What star is this, with beams so bright, more love-ly than the

TENOR / BASS

5

* To purchase a full-length performance recording (42920) of this piece, go to alfred.com/downloads.
8.5"x11" PDF of the Flute (or C-Instrument) part is available as a free download at alfred.com/choralparts
(enter 42920 when prompted).
Also available: FlexTrax Accompaniment CD (42536).

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8

noon-day light? Sent to an-nounce a new-born King, glad

11

tid-ings of our God to bring.

mp

'Tis now ful-filled what

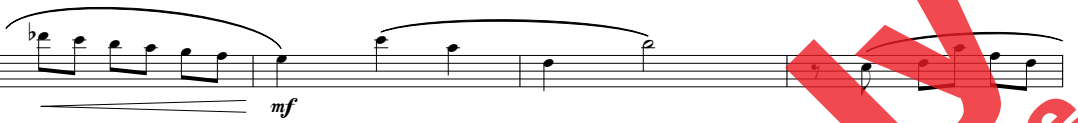
22

mf

23

While out-ward signs the star dis-plays, an in-ward light the

mf

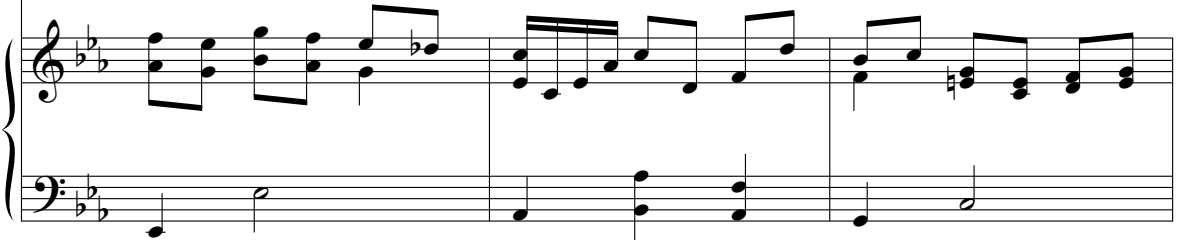


23

mf

26

Lord con-veys and urg - es them, with ten - der might, to



rit.

mp

seek the Giv - er of the light.

True

mp

rit.

mp

mp rit.

33

a tempo

love can brook no dull de - lay; nor toil nor dan - gers

a tempo

33

a tempo

36

stop their way. Home, kin-dred, fa - ther, land and all, they

39

leave at their Cre - a - tor's call. *f* 42 O while the star of

f 42

heav'n-ly grace in - vites us, Lord, to seek Thy face, may we no more that

This system contains the vocal line and piano accompaniment for measures 43 through 46. The vocal line is in a soprano clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The piano accompaniment is in a bass clef. The lyrics are: "heav'n-ly grace in - vites us, Lord, to seek Thy face, may we no more that".

grace re - pel, nor quench that light which shines so well! To

This system contains the vocal line and piano accompaniment for measures 47 through 50. The vocal line continues with the lyrics: "grace re - pel, nor quench that light which shines so well! To". The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

grace re - pel, nor quench that light which shines so well! To

This system contains the vocal line and piano accompaniment for measures 51 through 54. The vocal line continues with the lyrics: "grace re - pel, nor quench that light which shines so well! To". The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

51

God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it,

51

54

Three in One, may ev - 'ry tongue and na - tion raise an

57

rit. *mf*

end-less song of thank-ful praise! What

The first system of music features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The vocal line begins with a melodic phrase, followed by a long note with a fermata. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines. A 'rit.' (ritardando) marking is placed above the vocal line, and 'mf' (mezzo-forte) is placed above the piano staff.

rit.

rit.

The second system continues the musical piece. It includes a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a long note with a fermata. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines. A 'rit.' (ritardando) marking is placed above the vocal line, and another 'rit.' is placed above the piano staff.

61 *a tempo*

star is this, with beams so bright, Sent

mf

more love-ly than the noon-day light?

a tempo *mf*

The third system of music features a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a melodic phrase, followed by a long note with a fermata. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines. A '61' box is placed above the vocal line, and 'a tempo' is written above it. 'mf' (mezzo-forte) is placed above the piano staff. A 'rit.' (ritardando) marking is placed above the vocal line, and another 'a tempo' and 'mf' are placed above the piano staff.

61 *a tempo*

mf

The fourth system of music features a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines. A '61' box is placed above the piano staff, and 'a tempo' is written above it. 'mf' (mezzo-forte) is placed above the piano staff.

65

dim.

to an-nounce a new-born King, glad tid-ings of our God to bring, _____

dim.

dim.

dim.

69

mp

70

_____ glad tid-ings of our God to bring, _____

mp

mp

70

mp

73

The musical score is arranged in three systems. The first system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The vocal line begins with a rest, followed by the lyrics "What star is this?". The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand. The second system continues the vocal line with a melodic phrase and the piano accompaniment. The third system shows the vocal line concluding with a final note and the piano accompaniment ending with a sustained chord. Dynamics include *p* (piano), *rit.* (ritardando), and *pp* (pianissimo). A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the score.

What star is this?

What Star Is This? Charles Coffin was a French priest in the early 18th century. This folksong-like setting of his poem “What Star Is This?” is appropriate for Christmas Eve services or general use during Advent. The melody is easily remembered, and the three- and four-part sections are simply written. The text is poetic and reflective on the significance of the star of Bethlehem.

Stan Pethel is a Professor of Music at Berry College near Rome, Georgia. He has been on the music faculty there since 1973, and served as department chair from 1994 to 2013. He holds a Bachelor of Music and Master of Fine Arts degrees from the University of Georgia, and Doctorate of Musical Arts degree from the University of Kentucky. Dr. Pethel teaches music theory, composition and arranging, world music, and low brass lessons.

He is a widely published composer and arranger with over 1,300 works in print by 27 different publishers. His writing includes works for choir, piano, organ and piano duet, symphonic band, jazz ensemble, orchestra, handbells, solo instrument and piano, and various chamber music ensembles. He is a regular recipient of the ASCAP Standard Award.