

**Once in Royal David's City** is a dramatic arrangement of a beloved Christmas hymn that is especially appropriate for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Epiphany, and the Baptism of Jesus. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Isaiah 9: 1-7 and Luke 2: 1-21. One basic homilical theme is the fulfillment of the prophecy: the Messiah has come.

Carefully shape the 4-measure phrases in this highly expressive setting. In m. 20-27, the men should articulate the "brm" syllables with a crisp "b", a quickly rolled "r", and a resonant, sustained "m". Interpret m. 35-48 somewhat freely, reflecting the drama of the moment when humankind first sees the Child of God, lying in a humble manger.

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# ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied,  
with optional trumpet\*

Words by  
CECIL FRANCIS ALEXANDER  
(1823-1895)

IRBY  
By HENRY J. GAUNTLETT (1805-1876)  
Arranged by JAY ALTHOUSE

Moderato (♩ = ca. 116 - 120)

SOPRANO ALTO

TENOR BASS

TRUMPET (opt.)

ACCOMP.

5

Roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle - shed, Where a

5

\*Optional Bb trumpet part may be found on page 12.

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9 *mf*

Mar - y

moth - er laid her Ba - by in a man - ger for His bed.

This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, starting with a measure rest and ending with a half note 'y' on the word 'Mar - y'. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef, featuring a melodic line with eighth notes and a bass line with quarter notes. A dynamic marking of *mf* is placed above the vocal staff.

13 *mf* *unis.* *decresc.*

was that moth - er mild. Je - sus Christ her lit - tle Child.

*mf* *decresc.*

*mp* *cresc.*

This system contains the second two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, with lyrics 'was that moth - er mild. Je - sus Christ her lit - tle Child.' It includes dynamic markings *mf*, *unis.*, and *decresc.*. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef, with lyrics 'was that moth - er mild. Je - sus Christ her lit - tle Child.' It includes dynamic markings *mf*, *decresc.*, and *mp cresc.*. A box containing the number '13' is located at the beginning of the vocal staff.

13 *mf*

This system contains the third two staves of music. The top staff is a piano accompaniment in treble clef, with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef. A box containing the number '13' is located at the beginning of the top staff.

17 *mf* 20

He came down to earth from —

*mf*

brm

This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It begins at measure 17 and includes a dynamic marking of *mf* and a measure number box containing '20'. The lyrics 'He came down to earth from —' are written below the notes. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment line in bass clef, also in two flats, with a dynamic marking of *mf* and the letters 'brm' below it.

17 20

This system contains two staves of piano accompaniment. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef, both in two flats. Measure numbers '17' and '20' are indicated. A large red watermark is overlaid on this system.

21

heav - en who is God and Lord of — all, And His shel - ter was — a —

brm brm brm brm

This system contains three staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of two flats, starting at measure 21. The lyrics 'heav - en who is God and Lord of — all, And His shel - ter was — a —' are written below. The bottom two staves are piano accompaniment in bass clef, with the letters 'brm' written below each staff.

21

This system contains two staves of piano accompaniment in two flats. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Measure number '21' is indicated. A large red watermark is overlaid on this system.

25

sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall. With the poor and mean and

brm brm brm

25

28

29

low - ly, Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.

29

*mf*

33 *rit.* *mp* **Andante, quasi-rubato**  
 And our eyes at last shall

*f* *rit. e dim.* *mp* **Andante, quasi-rubato**

33 *f* *rit. e dim.* *mp* **Andante, quasi-rubato**

37 see Him through His own re-deem-ing love; For that Child so dear and

37 ( )

With growing intensity

41

gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove. — He shall lead His chil - dren

He shall lead, lead us

*mf*

With growing intensity

41

With growing intensity

*mf*

44

With growing intensity

45

on To the place where He is gone.

*dim.* *mp* *accel.*

*mp accel.*

45

*dim.* *mp* *accel.*

49 **Tempo I** *unis. f* 51

Not in that poor low - ly — sta - ble with the

*unis. f*

**Tempo I**

*mf cresc.* *f*

49 **Tempo I** 51

*mf cresc.* *f*

53 *unis.*

ox - en stand - ing — by We shall see Him, but — in — heav - en, set at

*unis.*

Musical notation for the piano accompaniment in the fifth system.

53



57 59

God's right hand on high. When like stars His chil - dren

57 59

60 *unis.*

crowned, all in white shall wait a - round. Once in

*unis.*

60



64

roy - al Da - vid's\_ cit - y, \_\_\_\_\_ Once in

Once in roy - al Da - vid's\_ cit - y, Once in

64

68

*cresc.*

*molto rit.*

*ff*

roy - al Da - vid's\_ cit - y He was born! \_\_\_\_\_

*cresc.* *ff*

*cresc.*

*ff*

68

*cresc.*

*molto rit.*

*ff*

# ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

B $\flat$  TRUMPET

IRBY

By HENRY J. GAUNTLETT (1805-1876)

Arranged by JAY ALTHOUSE

Moderato (♩ = ca. 116 - 120)

5 8 13 3

*mp*

*mf* *cresc.*

18 20 8 28 3

*mf*

31 36 44

*mf* *rit. e dim.*

35 // *Andante, quasi rubato* 7 44 *With growing intensity*

*mf*

46 *Tempo I*

*mf accel.* *mf cresc.*

50 51 2

*f* *f*

55 59 3 3

*f*

63 64

66 *cresc.*

69 *molto rit.* *ff*