

# The First Nowell

For Four Part Chorus of Mixed Voices

*a cappella*

Traditional English

Arranged by Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

**Cheerfully** *mf*

Soprano  
The first Now - ell the an - gel did say, Was to

Alto  
The first Now - ell the an - gel did say, Was to

Tenor  
The first Now - ell the an - gel did say, Was to

Bass  
The first Now - ell the an - gel did say, Was to

Piano  
(only for rehearsal)

**Cheerfully** *mf*

5

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; In - fields where

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; In fields where

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; In - fields where

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; In fields where

5

This carol has been recorded by the Robert Shaw Chorale in RCA Victor Album #LM 2139. Approximate duration 2:20.

10

they lay keep-ing their sheep, On a cold win-ter's night— that  
they lay keep-ing their sheep, On a cold win-ter's night— that  
they lay keep-ing their sheep, On a cold win-ter's night— that  
they— lay keep-ing their sheep, On a cold win-ter's night— that

10

10

15

was— so deep: Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now -  
was— so deep: Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now -  
was so deep: Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, — Now -  
was— so deep: Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, — Now -

15

15

20

25

ell, Born is the King of Is - ra - el!

ell, — Born is the King of Is - ra - el!

ell, — Born is the King of Is - ra - el! They look - ed —

ell, — Born is the King of Is - ra - el! They looked

*mp legato*

*p legato*

20

25

*mp legato*

*p*

30

up and saw a star Shin-ing in the East be -

up and saw a star Shin-ing in the East be -

30



*mp* (35) And to the earth it gave great  
*mp* And to the earth it gave great  
*p* yond them far, (Humming)  
yond them far,

*mp* (35)  
*p*

(40) *mf* light, And so it con- tin- ued both day and night. Now -  
*mf* light, And so it con- tin- ued both day and night. Now -  
*mf* Now -

(40) *mf*



45

ell. — Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Born is the King — of  
 ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, — Born is the King of  
 — Now - ell, Now - ell, — Now - ell, — Born is the King of  
 ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, — Now - ell, — Born is the King of

mf

The first system of the musical score consists of four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in a G major key signature and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 'ell. — Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Born is the King — of'. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand. A dynamic marking of 'mf' is present. A circled number '45' is located at the top right of the system.

45

Is - ra - el. Then let us all with one ac -  
 Is - ra - el. Then let all with one ac -  
 Is - ra - el. Then let all with one ac -  
 Is - ra - el. Then let us all with one ac -

f

50

The second system of the musical score continues with four vocal staves and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'Is - ra - el. Then let us all with one ac -'. The piano accompaniment includes a dynamic marking of 'f'. A circled number '50' is located at the top right of the system.

50

55

cord, Sing prais - es to our Heav'n - ly Lord. If

cord, Sing prais - es to our Heav'n - ly Lord. If

cord, Sing to our Heav'n - ly Lord. If

cord, Sing prais - es to our Heav'n - ly Lord. If

This block contains the musical notation for measures 55 through 59. It includes four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment section with treble and bass clefs. The lyrics are: "cord, Sing prais - es to our Heav'n - ly Lord. If". The piano part features a steady accompaniment with some melodic lines in the right hand.

55

we in our time shall do well, We shall be

we in our time shall do well, We shall be

we in our time shall do well, We shall be

we in our time shall do well, We shall be

This block contains the musical notation for measures 60 through 64. It includes four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment section. The lyrics are: "we in our time shall do well, We shall be". The piano part continues with a similar accompaniment style to the previous section.

60

65 *molto cresc.*

free — from death — and hell. Now-ell, Now - ell, Now -  
*molto cresc.*

free — from death — and hell. Now - ell, — Now - ell, Now  
*molto cresc.*

free from death and hell. Now-ell, Now - ell, Now-ell, —  
*molto cresc.*

free — from death — and hell. Now - ell, Now - ell, Now -

65 *molto cresc.*

*al* — *ff* 70 *poco rit.*

ell, — Now - ell, — Born the King — of Is - ra - el!  
*poco rit.*

*al* — *ff* 70 *poco rit.*

ell, Now - ell, Born is the King of Is - ra - el!  
*poco rit.*

*al* — *ff* 70 *poco rit.*

Now - ell, Born — is Is - ra - el!  
*poco rit.*

*al* — *ff* 70 *poco rit.*

ell, — Now - ell, — Born is the King — of Is - ra - el!  
*poco rit.*

