

# How Far Is It to Bethlehem

For Four-Part Chorus of Mixed Voices  
*a cappella*

Frances Chesterton

Traditional English  
Arranged by Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

**Quietly and simply**

Soprano  
How far is it to Beth-le-hem, not ve-ry far? Shall\_

Alto  
How far is it to Beth-le-hem, not ve-ry far? Shall

Tenor  
How far is it to Beth-le-hem, not ve-ry far? Shall\_

Bass  
How far is it to Beth-le-hem, not ve-ry far? Shall

Piano  
(for rehearsal only)

⑤

Soprano  
we find the sta-ble room lit by a star? Can we see the

Alto  
we find the sta-ble room lit by a star? Can we see the

Tenor  
we find the sta-ble room lit by a star? Can we see the

Bass  
we find the sta-ble room lit by a star? Can we see the

Piano  
(for rehearsal only)

This carol has been recorded by the Robert Shaw Chorale in RCA Victor Album #LM 1711

⑩

lit - tle child, Is He with - in? If\_ we lift the wood - en latch,

lit - tle child, Is He with - in? If we lift the wood - en latch,

lit - tle child, Is He with - in? If\_ we lift the wood - en latch,

lit - tle child, Is He with - in? If we lift the wood - en latch,

⑩

⑮ *mp* ⑳ *p*

May we go in? May\_ we stroke the crea - tures there, Ox, ass or sheep? Hm, -

May we go in? *p* Hm, \_\_\_\_\_ *mp* May\_

May we go in? *p* Hm, \_\_\_\_\_

May we go in? *p* Hm, \_\_\_\_\_

⑮ *mp* ⑳

*mp* (25) If we touch His  
 we peep like them and see Je - sus a - sleep? Hm,  
 Hm,  
 Hm,  
 Hm,

The first system of music features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in a soprano, alto, tenor, and bass arrangement. The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand melody and a left-hand bass line. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The system begins with a circled measure number '25'. The lyrics are: 'If we touch His we peep like them and see Je - sus a - sleep? Hm, Hm, Hm, Hm,'.

(30) ti - ny hand, Will He a - wake? Hm,  
 Will He a - wake? Will He know we've come so far  
 Will He a - wake? Hm,  
 Will He a - wake? Hm,

The second system of music continues the vocal and piano parts. It features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The key signature remains three flats, and the time signature is 4/4. The system begins with a circled measure number '30'. The lyrics are: 'ti - ny hand, Will He a - wake? Hm, Will He a - wake? Will He know we've come so far Will He a - wake? Hm, Will He a - wake? Hm,'.