

Bach's Christmas Carol

Music adapted from the Gavotte of J S Bach's Orchestral Suite No. 4
for SATB Choir and Keyboard

Arranger's note:

After noticing melodic and harmonic similarities between the Gavotte from J. S. Bach's Orchestral Suite No. 4 and Mendelssohn's carol, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, I suspected Mendelssohn must have subconsciously (or consciously?) borrowed from Bach's Gavotte for this carol. In turn, I thought it would be interesting to create "Bach's own version" by setting the words of the carol to Bach's original music. -N.P.

J. S. Bach, arr. Nigel Poole

Words: Charles Wesley

Moderato ♩ = 106

Musical score for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Piano/Keyboard. The score is in G major and common time (C). The tempo is Moderato, marked with a quarter note equal to 106 beats per minute. The Soprano, Alto, and Tenor parts are currently blank. The Bass part is also blank. The Piano/Keyboard part begins with a *mf* dynamic and a *cresc.* marking. The keyboard part consists of a right-hand melody of chords and a left-hand accompaniment of eighth notes.

Musical score for the first four lines of the carol. The score is in G major and common time (C). The tempo is Moderato, marked with a quarter note equal to 106 beats per minute. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and the Piano/Keyboard part are shown. The lyrics are: "Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing, Glo - ry to the new born king, Peace on". The dynamics are marked *f* for the vocal parts and *f* for the keyboard part. The keyboard part consists of a right-hand melody of chords and a left-hand accompaniment of eighth notes.

10

earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners re - con - ciled.

earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners re - con - ciled.

earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners re - con - ciled.

earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners re - con - ciled.

The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand part with chords and moving lines, and a left-hand part with a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

14

Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - las - ting

Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - las - ting

Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - las - ting

Christ by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - las - ting

The piano accompaniment continues with a similar texture to the previous system, supporting the vocal lines.

19

Lord, pleased as man with man to dwell, Je - sus our Im - man - u - el.

Lord, pleased as man with man to dwell, Je - sus our Im - man - u - el.

Lord, pleased as man with man to dwell, Je - sus our Im - man - u - el.

Lord, pleased as man with man to dwell, Je - sus our Im - man - u - el.

24

mf
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, -

mf
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, -

mf
Born that man no more may

mf
Born that man no more may

29

Born to raise the sons of earth,
 Born to raise the sons of earth,
 die. Born to give them se - cond birth.
 die. Born to give them se - cond birth.

34

f Light and life to all he brings, *mf* risen
f Light and life to all he brings,
f Light and life to all he brings,
f Light and life to all he brings, *mf* risen

38

with heal - ing in his wings, Hark! the
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, Hark! the
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, Hark! the
 with heal - ing in his wings, Hark! the

mf *f* *mf* *f*

cresc. *f*

42

her - ald an - gels sing, Glo - ry to the new_ born king!
 her - ald an - gels sing, Glo - ry to the new_ born king!
 her - ald an - gels sing, Glo - ry to the new_ born king!
 her - ald an - gels sing, Glo - ry to the new_ born king!

rall. *rall.*