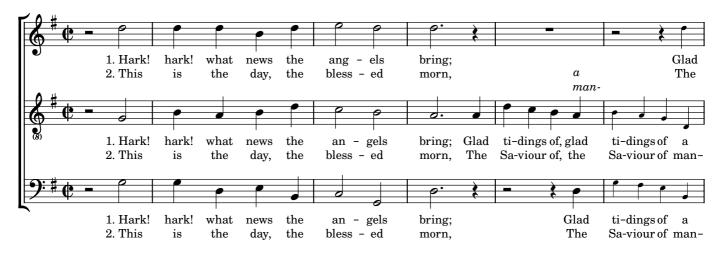
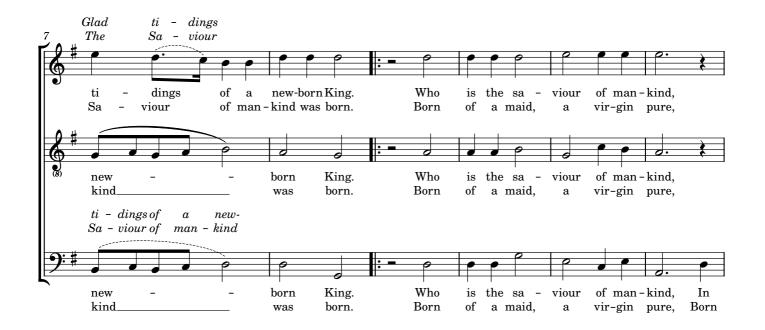
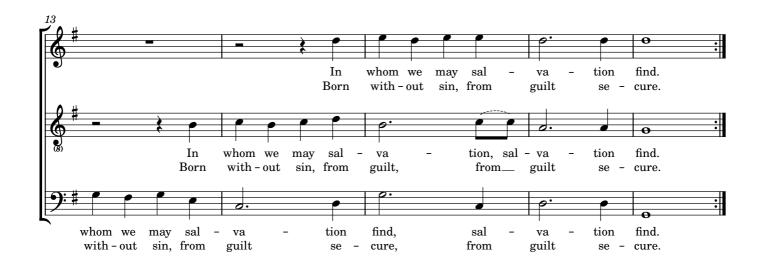
## Hark! Hark! What News the Angels Bring

"The Old Hark"

after Joseph Stephenson of Poole (1723-1810)







3.

If Angels sung at Jesus' birth, Sure we have greater cause for mirth, For why? because 'twas for our sake Christ did our human nature take.

5.

I am resolv'd whilst here I live, As I'm in duty bound, to give All glory to the deity, One God alone, in persons three. 4.

My soul, learn by thy Saviour's birth, For to debase thyself on earth; That thou may'st be exalted high, To live with him eternally.

This three-part setting of the eighteenth-century carol known as "The Old Hark", probably originally by Joseph Stephenson of Poole, appears in William Sandys' *Christmas Carols, Ancient and Modern* (1833) "to show the manner in which the carol-singers sing in parts". In West Gallery performance it would probably have been sung SSTB, with the middle (melody) line sung at both octaves by sopranos and tenors, and all lines supported by instruments.

A bar appears to be missing from Sandys' transcription, and I have supplied it in small notes from Stephenson's original version as given in *The New Oxford Book of Carols* (1992). However, the setting could be performed without it, and an alternative underlay is supplied above the stave in case this is preferred.

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