



The Virgin's Song

for
SATB Choir

Text loosely translated from
British Museum Harleian Manuscript
7322, Folio 135, back

Music by
James Geoffrey Allan

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The Virgin's Song

for SATB Choir

Music : James Geoffrey Allan (1953-)

Text : Loosely translated from the British Museum's Harleian Manuscript 7322,
Folio 135, back.

Composed : 3-8 December 2025

Loose translation used

Jesu, son most sweet and dear,
Mean the bed you lie on here,
And that afflicts me sore,
For your cradle's like a bier,
Ox and ass are with you here,
And I must weep therefore.

Jesu, sweet one, show no wrath.
I have not the poorest cloth
To wrap you in its fold.
Not a rag in which to wrap,
Hold you safe upon my lap,
[Against my breast to nap]
And shield you from the cold.

[added JGA]

Original

lesu, swete sone dere!
On porful bed list þou here,
And þat me greusþ sore;
For þi cradel is asa a bere,
Oxe and asse beth þi fere;
Weope ich mai þar-fore.

lesu, swete, beo nop wroþ
þou ich nabbe clout me cloþ
þe on for to folde,
þe on to folde ne to wrappe;
For ich nabbe clout ne lappe;
Bote ley þou þi fet to my pappe,
And wite þe from the colde.

The Virgin's Song

Anon from BM Harleian Manu. 7322 Fol. 135, back

Geoff Allan

Moderato (♩=100)

Sop. solo

S

A

T

B

Piano for

Practice only

8

bed_ you_ lie_ on here, And that af - flicts me sore, mm

bed_ you_ lie_ on here, And that af - flicts me sore, mm

mm_ And that af - flicts me sore, For your

mm_ And that af - flicts me sore, For your

15

mm mm mm mm And ,
 mm mm Ox and ass are with you here,
 8 cra - dle's like a bier, Ox and ass are with you here,
 cra - dle's like a bier, mm mm ,
 f ,

21

I must weep there - fore. mm mm , p
 f I must weep there - fore. Mm mm , p
 8 I must weep there - fore. Mm Je - su, sweet one,- mf
 f I must weep there - fore. Mm mm , p

29

mp *f*

mm _____ mm _____ mm _____ To wrap you _____

mp *f*

mm _____ mm _____ mm _____ To wrap you _____

f

8 show _____ no wrath. I _____ have not the poo - rest cloth To wrap you _____

mf *f*

mm _____ I _____ have not the poo - rest cloth To wrap you

mp *f*

36

mf *f*

in its fold. _____ Not a rag _____ in _____ which to _____ wrap, Hold you safe _____ u-

mf *f*

in its fold. _____ Not a rag _____ in _____ which to _____ wrap, Hold you safe _____ u-

p *mp*

8 in its fold. _____ Mm _____ mm _____ mm _____

p *mp* *f*

in its fold. _____ Mm _____ mm _____ mm _____

43

- pon my lap, A - gainst my_ breast_ to nap And shield you_ from the

- pon my lap, gainst my breast_ to nap shield you from the

mm_ gainst my breast_ to nap_ shield you from the

mm_ gainst my breast_ to nap shield you from the

Solo Sop
mf

50

Je - su, son_ most_ sweet_ and dear,

cold. Mm mm mm

cold. Mm mm mm

cold. Mm mm mm

cold. Mm mm mm

58

f rall.

Mean the bed you lie on here, And that af - flicts me sore.

f

Mm mm that af - flicts me sore.

f

Mm mm that af - flicts me sore.

mp

f

⁸ Mm mm that af - flicts me sore.

mp

f

Mm mm that af - flicts me sore.

mp

Composed 3-7 December 2025

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