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GABRIEL PIERNÉ



THE CHILDREN AT BETHLEHEM

A MYSTERY IN TWO PARTS

POEM BY GABRIEL NIGOND

ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY M. LOUISE BAUM

VOCAL SCORE

[THE CHILDREN'S CHORUS PARTS  
ARE TO BE HAD SEPARATELY]

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TO THE MEMORY OF  
MARCEL SCHWOB  
AUTHOR OF "THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE"

∴

TO THE LITTLE INTERPRETERS OF  
"THE CHILDREN AT BETHLEHEM"

*O ye of childly voice and sweet,  
Voice that stirs the heart to weep,  
Ye children who will smile and sing  
Above the Christ-Child's lowly sleep,*

*And tell the story of the star  
That shone across the desert wild  
To lead the shepherd children where  
The sad, sweet Mary rocked her Child:—*

*As the shepherds and the kings  
Brought their poor and precious things,  
Gifts for Him who knew no wrong;  
So children, pure of heart and true,  
Humbly offer we to you  
Our music and our song.*

GABRIEL NIGOND  
GABRIEL PIERNÉ



# THE CHILDREN AT BETHLEHEM

## A MYSTERY IN TWO PARTS

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### CHARACTERS

|                                      |                         |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| THE VIRGIN                           | <i>Mezzo-Soprano</i>    |
| THE STAR                             | <i>Soprano</i>          |
| JEANNETTE }<br>NICHOLAS }<br>LUBIN } | <i>Sopranos</i>         |
| THE NARRATOR                         | <i>Speaking Part</i>    |
| THE ASS                              | <i>Tenor</i>            |
| THE OX                               | <i>Bass or Baritone</i> |
| A HERDSMAN }<br>A CELESTIAL VOICE }  | <i>Baritones</i>        |

### *Chorus of Children*

*The Chorus of Children requires 100 voices at least, and 30 outside for Part II. Voices of women, sopranos and altos, may take part at need, but always from the sides, in the performance of the tutti, in case the children's voices seem inadequate.*

*N. B. The singer taking the rôle of the Star should be placed behind the orchestra, at the back of the stage and in the centre, visible to audience and conductor. The rôles of the three children, Jeannette, Nicholas, and Lubin, should be given to very young singers. In Part II these three characters should be placed in the second row, behind the Virgin, the Ox, the Ass, and the Narrator.*

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# THE CHILDREN AT BETHLEHEM

## PART I

### *The Plain*

*The Pasture-lands surrounding a Village. In the winter twilight a group of Shepherd Children are watching their Flocks.*

#### *The Narrator*

The voice of the frosty night shivers and breaks  
in the stillness,  
And child-shepherds watch along the frozen  
wold;  
Fleecy forms of the sheep are fading from the  
uplands,  
As shadows o'er the flock their sombre wings  
unfold.

'Tis the hour when the call of the herdsmen  
Sighs and dies in the heart of the air,  
When the dusk of the village is suddenly bright,  
And tall flames make young again, and fair,  
The agèd faces in the hearthfire's light.

But braving the cold, though it bite so sore,  
And loath to leave the last year's pasture-land,  
Blithe of heart, a frolicsome band,  
The shepherd children dance once more.

#### *The Children*

Heads of brown and heads of yellow,  
Redhead makes a braver show!  
Clack, clack! our sabots are dancing,  
Round we go!

#### *The Star*

Noël! Noël! Noël! The star of day hath  
dawned!  
'Mid this night, when frost-flowers are shining,  
Is Jesus, son of Mary, in lowly manger born!  
The daystar now doth rise;  
Jesus, dear son of Mary, in a manger lies.

#### *The Children*

Jack and Joan they cried for the moon, sir!  
How she mocked them from the blue!  
Jack and Joan (my tale's begun, sir!)  
One, sir!

Thought they'd best be laughing, too!  
One, sir! Two!

Pot of oil and pot of honey,  
Love is never bought for money,  
Love is free to you and me!  
Three!  
Love is free to you and me!  
One! Two! Three!

#### *Jeannette*

Shadows lengthen, growing deep,  
The night descends o'er our pathway.  
Let us homeward lead our flock,  
Our lambkins bleat, no longer browsing;  
With fierce hunger wolves are lurking near!

#### *The Children*

One more round, sister dear!—  
Simple maid, no longer wander,  
For the prince is waiting yonder,  
Sleeping by the farmer's ricks!  
Six!  
Sleeping by the farmer's ricks!  
Four! Five! Six!

#### *(A Few)*

He will say, "O Maiden Mary,  
Who toilest in field and dairy,  
Thou hast found the King's own son!"

*(All)*

One!

*(A Few)*

"Thou hast found the King's own son!"

*(All)*

Now we're done!

*(A Few)*

Now we are done, five, six, seven!

(All)  
All good children go to heaven!  
(A Few)  
One, two, three, four, five, six, seven!

(All)  
All good children go to heaven!

*The Star*  
Noël! Noël! Noël!  
*Jeannette*  
Hear ye the Voice, the Voice that sings?—  
Lubin!

*Nicholas*  
Be still! I'm afraid!—Jeannette!

*Lubin*  
Speak not so loud!—Nicholas!

*Nicholas*  
O! what is it!

*Jeannette*  
I do not know!

*Lubin*  
I'm afraid! Let's go!

*Nicholas*  
An angel, maybe! or naughty spirit?

*Jeannette*  
I do not know! Let's go!

*Lubin*  
O look! Look at this tree, all a-tremble!

*Nicholas*  
Let us hide our heads in thy mantle!

*Jeannette*  
O, I'm afraid!

*All Three*  
Let's go!

*The Children*  
Let's go! Our shoes in our hands,  
So we can run the faster!

*Jeannette, Nicholas, Lubin*  
Good Fido! Good Fido! Poor fellow!  
Go gather in the sheep!

*The Children*  
Good dog! Good dog!  
Go gather in the sheep!

*All together*  
Let's run! Let's run!  
(*The children gather their flock together.*)

*A Herdsman*  
*Et o louvalet, o louvalet, louvalet derelo.*  
*Louvalet, louvalet, louvalet la la a-let.*

*The Children*  
We'll sing, but very low!  
Hand in hand let us go,  
So the naughty sprite cannot find us,  
And with ne'er a glance behind us,  
On our homeward way we go!  
(*They start off. They hurry, but do not go very fast, and as the little ones are ready to cry, the older ones begin to sing, in weak voices, trembling with fear, an old lament of the chimney corner.*)

In my father's field  
Chanticleers are three;  
One asleep with drooping wings,  
One his noisy challenge flings,  
One that neither sleeps nor sings!  
Ah! la la la!

In my father's fold  
Three white lambs there be;  
One to crop the tender grass,  
One to chase the winds that pass,  
One to love and follow me!  
Ah! la la la!

*The Star*  
Noël! Noël! Noël!

*Jeannette*  
Ah! The Voice descends out of the sky!

*Nicholas*  
O, I'm afraid!

*Lubin*  
Jeannette! I'm frightened!

*Jeannette*

No, for here is the path!  
Now the house is at hand!  
Come! I'll carry thee on my arm!  
Hide thou thy head upon my shoulder!

*The Children*

*(trembling, pressing close to one another)*

We brave the cold and the northwind,  
Be it blowing low or high!

*Jeannette, Nicholas, Lubin*

We brave the cold and the northwind,  
Be it blowing low or high!

*The Star*

Behold! to His own He cometh,  
For them on the cross to die!

*Lubin*

Oh! lovely Voice, so sad and tender!  
Surely, some lonely little bird  
In the dark night has lost his mother,  
And complains  
That his shy lament is not heard!  
Ah! I love the Voice! Fearless I'd follow!  
I long to clasp it in my arms!  
Lovely Voice! how sad and how tender!

*Jeannette, Nicholas*

Happy am I when I hear it!  
It weeps and smiles in one breath!  
Broods o'er my heart with a touch so tender,  
Voice of calm, mysterious splendor,  
The breath is shelter and bread!  
Was a voice e'er more benign, more friendly?  
O blessed Voice, bringing us comfort!  
How sweet and how sad, how tender and sad!

*The Children*

I see the little lights of the village,  
Where our dear mother waits for us!

*Jeannette, Nicholas, Lubin*

I see the lights of the town,  
Where our dear mother waits for us!

*The Children*

Brother dear, the table is spread!  
Supper's ready, we shall be fed!

In my father's field  
Chanticleers are three.  
We brave the cold and the northwind,  
Be it blowing low or high!

*Nicholas, Lubin*

I am no longer hungry, I thirst no more!

*Jeannette*

Weary no more am I.

*Nicholas*

Lubin! Jeannette! O, I am happy! am happy!  
And yet am I fain to weep!

*Lubin*

Jeannette! Nicholas! O, I am happy! am happy!  
And yet am I fain to weep!

*Jeannette*

Yes, I am happy,  
And yet I fain would weep!

*The Children*

In my father's fold  
Three white lambs there be.  
We brave the cold and the northwind,

*All together*

Be it blowing low or high!

*The Star*

Behold! now the Saviour cometh,  
For you on the cross to die!

*All together*

Noël! Noël! Noël! Noël!

*(The children go into their homes.)*

*(The fields stretch away into the distance, frozen and deserted. Silence and solitude reign. Little lines of smoke from the chimneys alone rise in the clear air, and the little lamps keep watch from behind the window-panes.)*

*The Narrator*

Goodman Winter, is it your rough breath we  
hear?  
When shall the roses bloom, and grain again  
be gold?  
Rage as you will, with wind-blown cheeks dis-  
tended;  
From plain and hill the flocks are safe in fold.

Shadows veil the woodland;  
'Neath the shy, peering moon,  
Night advances, wolves are bold,  
It is cold!

What sound of weeping falters near?  
Is it some wanderer? some tricky sprite?  
Or the cry of a little lamb  
Astray at night?

Free wind, you who threat with angry gust,  
And sudden at the shutter thrust,  
When shall the roses blush again?  
When shall the grain be bright?  
Alas for nestling, bird or child,  
Abroad in night so harsh and wild!

*The Star*

Children dear, loving and loved,  
Pure of heart, trustful of spirit,  
Lo! the Lord, born in a manger,  
Calls for you: Rouse you from sleep!  
Mary His mother finds refuge,  
Hid in a humble retreat;  
Cruel frosts of the night  
Chill the little one's tiny bare feet!  
Hark! the baby Jesus is crying!  
Nor clothèd nor cradled He;  
Mary His mother is sobbing!  
Could He but comforted be!  
He sleeps, though chilled to the marrow:  
Follow me! follow me! pity afford!  
Lo! for I am the star  
That leads you to Him, your Lord!  
Children dear, loving and loved,  
Pure of heart, trustful of spirit,  
Lo! the Lord, born in a manger,  
Calls to you: Rouse you from sleep!

*Jeannette, Nicholas, Lubin*

Yes! We must waken, must follow! Up! arise!  
Father! Mother! Unbar the doorway!  
Up! and make no delay!  
Our dear brother waits for us!  
Arise! Up! Rise! Follow!

*The Children*

Yes! We must waken, must follow! Up! arise!  
Up! and make no delay!  
Father! Mother! Unbar the doorway!

Come! Rise! Follow!  
Our dear brother waits for us!

*Jeannette, Nicholas, Lubin*

Why rush about in panic so?

*The Children*

The little Christ-Child suffers so!

*Jeannette*

Nicholas, bring thy warm, new mantle!

*Nicholas*

Sister, no! 't is not worth the trouble!

*Jeannette*

The babe has naught to keep Him warm.

*The Children*

The babe has naught to keep Him warm.

*Nicholas*

To Jesus I'll carry, in homage true,  
A new golden loaf of our sweet white bread!

*Jeannette*

I'll carry to Jesus my whitest lamb!

*The Children*

*(A Few)*

My apples!

*(Others)*

Some nuts!

*(Others)*

Some milk!

*(Still Others)*

And our cheeses!

*Lubin*

A fond heart alone have I  
(Alas, portion slender!)  
A fond heart alone have I,  
Grateful praise to render!

*The Star*

O shepherd, let thy weeping cease!  
The Lord bids them come to Him!

*Chorus*

I'll carry to Jesus, etc.

*Jeannette*

What do I hear! Who's coming yonder?  
For the steady galloping stride  
Of horsemen in cadence that ride,  
Resounds along the echoing highway!  
Jean! Look yonder!

*Nicholas*

O look! see, see, little Netta!

*All together*

O listen, how proudly they march to the music!  
See, they are coming! Ah! here they are!

*Jeannette*

Noble sirs, three monarchs are ye,  
Pacing on in royal array,  
Without tumult taking your way,  
So very grave, so silent ye!

*Lubin*

See! the first, so grand and tall,  
Clad all in scarlet and gold!

*Nicholas*

And the next, covered with scales:  
O, but his armor is bright!

*Jeannette*

Look at the third one, ah see!  
His face, tho' it's very clean, no doubt,  
Is black and all shining!

*The Narrator*

Behold, they come with cortège meet,  
Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar;  
Their noble steeds nor haste nor stay,  
As from the East they take their way,  
The heavenly Guest to greet.  
Gifts they bear with jealous charge:  
O, Thou innocent and mild,  
On Thy face one smile to stir,  
A king doth incense bring, and myrrh!  
One a veil of colors rare,  
Sheer and clear as morning air,  
Web where flowers entwined are,  
And many a star!

While the king of ebon brow  
(Haughty eyes are lowered now)  
Brings Thee strings of pearly shell,  
Gathered 'neath the surge and swell  
At ocean's bitter marge!  
Behold, they come, etc.

*Jeannette*

O, splendid pageant! Children, watch it!  
See the camels, dromedaries also,  
And monkeys astride of them all!

*The Children*

Ho! see the first with only one hump!  
Look! look at the fourth, he has two!  
Hi! bears! how fierce their little eyes are!  
Do not let them come too near to you!

*Nicholas*

See! see! Beneath his tinsel trappings,

*Jeannette*

(Be careful, child!)

*Nicholas*

Purple, orange, red, blue and yellow,  
See, he comes! The elephant comes!

*The Children*

See how kind and gentle he is, tho'!  
How he toils along with his pack!  
I wish I might just climb on his shoulder,  
Stroke him softly over his back!

*The Narrator*

Three kings pass by, with cortège meet,  
Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar;  
Their noble steeds nor haste nor stay,  
As from the East they take their way,  
The heavenly Guest to greet.

*Jeannette*

Ho! the musicians come!  
The flutes, yes, tambourines too!  
And the king, as black as a crow!  
Yes, and the drum! and the cymbals!  
O see! There they go!

*Lubin*

Ho! the musicians come!  
The flutes, yes, tambourines too!

O, how it shines, how it sounds!  
O see! it is splendid! O look!

*Nicholas*

And the king, as black as a crow!  
The flutes and tambourines,  
And the cymbals!  
O, is n't it grand! O look!

*All Three*

Noël! Noël! Noël! Noël!

*The Children*

Ho! the flutes and the cymbals!  
Ho! the tambourines and the kettledrums!  
O, how it sounds! how it shines!  
It is glorious! O look!

*All together*

Where away, fond and fearless?  
Where away, footing free?

To the manger I go,  
My dear brother Jesus seeking!  
Babe so sweet, babe so dear,  
Why art Thou cradled here?  
Whoever may deny Thee,  
To Thee I take my way!

*The Star*

Noël! Noël! Noël!

*All together*

We brave the cold and the northwind,  
Let him blow low or high!

*The Star*

Behold, now the Saviour cometh,  
For you on the cross to die!

*All together*

Noël! Noël! Noël! Noël!

PART II

*The Stable*

*The Virgin*

Lull to sleep, O voice of the desert,  
This dear babe with none to defend!  
Though close in my garment I fold Him,  
So faint He breathes, I hush to hear Him,  
Such a pitiful little child!

The thyme soon will bloom,  
And marigold blow,  
The thyme soon will bloom,  
And the lilac flower,  
And heavy my sorrow,  
And bitter this hour!  
The thyme soon will flower,  
The marigold blow,  
The bee find their bloom,  
And my heart a tomb!

Dearth of linen whitely sewn,  
I with straw his bed am strowing.  
Here 'mid the kine's quiet lowing  
Is my poor little Jesus born!  
Ass and ox, on your guest in loving-kindness  
tending,

Of your grace, dear humble friends,  
O'er my poor babe while He sleeps  
Let your breath be warmly blending!

*The Virgin, the Ass, the Ox*

Sad lips and eyes, strangers to smiling,  
That you may be braver and brighter,  
Wan, wee face, whence the rose is sped,  
The ox, ass, and Mother Marie  
Watch and ward will keep o'er Thy bed!

*The Ass*

In lowly stall we've enthroned Thee,  
For to Thee, O Saviour dear,  
Heart of beasts hath opened here,  
Ere the heart of man hath owned Thee!

*The Ox*

O'er Thee, a conqueror mild,  
Though now Thy plight pitiful seem,  
The lowliest creatures wonder,  
Adoring a little child!

*The Ass*

While the ass, with open ears,  
Listens long, guarding Thy sleep.

*The Ox*

While the ox, with bated sigh,  
Adores a little child.

*The Children*

Where away, fond and fearless?  
Where away, footing free?

*The Ox*

Who's coming this way?

*The Children*

To the stable I go,  
My dear brother Jesus seeking.

*The Virgin*

Do I hear, far across the night,  
The voices of children singing?

*The Children*

Babe so sweet, babe so dear,  
Why art Thou cradled here?

*The Ass*

Not a doubt, but they make hurly-burly and  
noise!

*The Children*

Whoever may deny Thee,  
To Thee I take my way!

*The Ox*

See! Three lords approach, my brother,  
With shoes of silver, robes of gold!

*The Children*

Where away, fond and fearless?  
Where away, footing free?

*The Ass*

Look! what curious beasts, as well!  
They've lost their way, I'm thinking.

*The Children*

To the stable I go,  
My dear brother Jesus seeking.  
(with *Jeannette, Nicholas and Lubin*)

Babe so sweet, babe so dear,  
Why art Thou cradled here?—  
Whoever may deny Thee!—  
Where away, fond and fearless?  
Where away, footing free?  
To the manger I go,  
My dear brother Jesus seeking.  
Noël! Noël! Noël!  
To Thee I take my way!  
Noël! Noël! Noël!

*Jeannette*

Noël! The star over our heads is standing!  
Then, children, He is close at hand!  
O ye Magi! It is here!  
This bleak roof shelters the Christ-Child!  
No refuge but this can He find!  
Behold here the dwelling-place lowly  
Of Him who makes a stable holy.

*The Children*

Unbar the door! Noël! Noël!

*The Ox*

I warn you all, do not dare  
To force this guarded doorway!

*The Children*

Unbar the door! Noël! Noël!

*The Ass*

Baby Jesus lies a-sleeping,  
And you might crush Him to death!

*The Children*

A shelter! a shelter! In the name of our great  
Master!

*The Virgin*

If you please, make yourselves better known,  
sirs!

*Nicholas*

Shepherds are we, who hither come,  
Just to greet the son of sweet Mary,  
With sobbing breath and courage spent;  
O let us in, O let us in!  
For we are but children, too!

*The Children*

O let us in, O let us in!  
For we are but children, too!

*The Virgin*

What! despite the cold and the night wind,  
Despite the danger and the dark!  
Come in, poor lambs! Open the door wide!  
But fie! the child that trembles  
A sleeping babe to mark!

*(The children enter, and stand hesitating on the threshold.)*

*The Children*

Where is the baby?

*The Virgin*

He is asleep now!

*The Children*

But where, Jeannette?

*Jeannette*

There, betwixt the ox and this old long-ears!

*Nicholas*

How forlorn and wretched a house!

*Lubin*

There, shining 'mid the dark,  
Something fairer than roses  
Peaceful reposes,  
Breathing light:—can it be—  
Is it Jesus?

*The Virgin*

'Tis He!

*The Children*

He does not dream that we are watching!  
He sleeps as in a downy bed!

*Lubin*

If I only dared go nearer!

*The Virgin*

Come nearer, all! But softly, so,  
Lest He too soon awake!

*Jeannette*

Be careful!

*(All the children surround Jesus and kneel about the manger.)*

*The Children*

By, by, baby dear,

Dream of moonlight pure and tender;  
By, by, baby dear!

*Jeannette*

He folds His tiny fingers fast,  
Just like all the other wee babies!

*The Children*

By, by, little lamb,  
Safely folded for the night, dear!  
By, by, little lamb!

*Lubin*

Is n't He pretty! Is n't He good  
To look so much like all the others!

*The Children*

By, by, well-belov'd!  
Angels tend Thy troubled pillow;  
*(The Child Jesus opens His eyes.)*  
By, by, well-belov'd!

*Nicholas*

He looks at us without crying,  
Like our Janey when she first awakens!

*The Children*

By, by, well-belov'd!  
By, by, well-belov'd!

*Lubin*

Let us lean on the manger! Come all!  
Jeannette, be the first one to lean there!

*Jeannette*

O see! a circle of pure radiance  
Comes to crown His dear baby head!  
*(They present their humble gifts.)*

*The Children*

Dear Saviour Jesus, receive us,  
Children who tend flocks and herds;  
We've brought Thee milk and some apples,  
New white bread and creamy curds.

*Lubin*

I have for Thee but a loving heart,  
Singing 'mid the winter,  
Singing as a little frog may,  
Hid in his warm, reedy pool!



*The Children*  
(*stroking the Ox and Ass*)

Ass and ox, receive our caresses,  
Ye who have watched o'er the Child!  
Who with balmy breath so mild  
Have comforted His distresses!

*The Ass, the Ox*

Young things, your kind solicitations  
To tenderness move a rude heart!  
For loving word and caress  
Fall rarely enough to our part.

*Jeannette, Nicholas, and the Children*

I carry to Jesus, in homage true,  
A new golden loaf of our sweet white bread!  
I carry to Jesus my whitest lamb,  
My apples and milk, my homage to render!

*Lubin*

I have for Him naught but a loving heart,  
All my praise to render!  
I have for Him naught but a loving heart,  
(Alas! portion slender!)

*The Narrator*

In silence dreaming lies the land:  
The loving children kneel;  
In tear-gemmed eyes soft gleaming  
The sacred flame they feel.  
The ox breathes breath like clover new,  
And lest the Child awake,  
The mother sways full slowly  
The cradle rude and lowly,  
Her fingers folded fair  
Along its edge in prayer. . . .  
And near at hand  
The ass is to his vigil true.  
The royal Magi, wonder-filled,  
In holy reverie are stilled;  
'Neath silent skies that drift and dream  
Of one pure star's celestial gleam  
Still sleeping lies the land.

*The Star*

The ox and ass shall keep Thee warm,  
Dear child new-born, dear Saviour Child!  
Thou Jesus, who in pity holy  
Comfort hast and care for the lowly.

*All the Others*

Pray for us all! Pray for us all!

*The Star*

Thou Jesus, meek and loving Master,  
Who shalt lead the way to life eternal.  
Thou the betrayed! Thou the crucified!  
Smiling on us e'en though Thou weep.

*All Children*

Pray for us all! Pray for us all!

*The Star*

Thou Jesus, encrown'd King of kings,  
'Neath thorns and bloodstains of the cross!

*All Children*

Pray for us all! Pray for us all!

*The Virgin*

By ingratitude never blinded,  
To the vision your souls be true!  
And may His coming find you faithful!

*All Children*

Pray for us all! Pray for us all!

*Celestial Voice*

O God, my God! why hast Thou forsaken me?

*The Virgin*

Children, haste your return,  
Where home and mother wait you!  
May all innocent joys,  
To my Jesus unknown,  
With gladness fill your pure hearts!  
God bless you, Children all!

*All Children (going)*

Little Christ-Child, adieu!

*The Virgin*

(*standing near her son while the children depart*)

Shepherd youths, with fair hair glancing,  
Happy hearts and feet a-dancing,  
O pray for Him! pray for Him!

*All Children*

We'll pray for Him!

*The Virgin*

For your Friend, whose childhood tender  
Has here on earth no defender!

*All Children*

We 'll pray for Him!

*The Virgin*

Then pray for Him in heaven's name,  
And in the name of His mother!

*All Children*

We 'll pray for Him!

*The Virgin*

(again alone beside the manger, over which the  
Ox and the Ass have continued to breathe)

The thyme soon will bloom,  
And marigold blow,

The thyme soon will bloom  
And the lilac flower!

And heavy my sorrow,  
And bitter this hour!  
The thyme soon will flower,  
And marigold blow,  
The bee find their bloom,  
And my heart a tomb!

*The Children*

We 'll pray for Him! We 'll pray for Him!

*The Virgin*

Sleep! Sleep, well-belov'd!

*The Children*

Noël!

# The Children at Bethlehem

## Part I

### The Plain

The pasture-lands surrounding a village. In the winter twilight a group of shepherd children are watching their flocks.

Moderato tranquillo (♩.=63)

Gabriel Pierné

Piano

*p*

*pp*

*sf*

1 *tr*

*senza rigore*

2 *p*

N.B. The songs of the children are suggested by popular airs, but have not been borrowed from any collection.

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Copyright, 1908, by G. Schirmer

Piano introduction musical notation, featuring a treble clef staff with a melodic line and a bass clef staff with a simple accompaniment. The music is marked *pp* (pianissimo).

Piano accompaniment musical notation, featuring a treble clef staff with a melodic line and a bass clef staff with a simple accompaniment. The music is marked *pp* (pianissimo).

The Narrator (3) [The voice of the frosty night shivers and breaks in the stillness, And child-shepherds watch along the frozen wold; Fleecy forms of the sheep are fading from the uplands, As shadows o'er the flock their sombre wings unfold.

Vocal line musical notation, featuring a treble clef staff with a melodic line and a bass clef staff with a simple accompaniment. The music is marked *pp* (pianissimo). The text "(after the voice)" is written below the staff.

'Tis the hour when the call of the herdsmen

Piano accompaniment musical notation, featuring a treble clef staff with a melodic line and a bass clef staff with a simple accompaniment. The music is marked *poco accel.* (poco accelerando).

Sighs and dies in the heart of the air, When the dusk of the village is suddenly bright, And tall flames

Piano accompaniment musical notation, featuring a treble clef staff with a melodic line and a bass clef staff with a simple accompaniment. The music is marked *a tempo pp* (a tempo, pianissimo) and *pp poco rit.* (pianissimo, poco ritardando).

make young again, and fair, The aged faces in the hearth-fire's light. Allegretto giocoso (♩. = 116) Tempo di Rondò

Piano accompaniment musical notation, featuring a treble clef staff with a melodic line and a bass clef staff with a simple accompaniment. The music is marked *d tempo pp* (d tempo, pianissimo) and *perdendosi legg.* (perdendosi, leggiero).

But braving the cold, tho' it bite so sore, And loath to leave the year's last pasture land,

Piano accompaniment musical notation, featuring a treble clef staff with a melodic line and a bass clef staff with a simple accompaniment. The music is marked *pp* (pianissimo).

Blithe of heart, a frolicsome band, The shepherd children dance once more.

4 *tr.* *tr.* *tr.*

The Children (gaily)

Ch. Heads of brown and heads of

*p.* *p.* *p.*

Ch. yel - low, Red-head makes a brav - er show, Red - head makes a brav - er

*mf* *mf*

Ch. show! Clack, clack, our sa-bots are dancing! Round we go! Clack, clack, our sa-bots are

*dim.* *dim.*

5 The Star (far away)

S. No - ë! No - ë! No - ë!

Ch. dancing! Round we go!

5

s. — The star — — — — of day hath dawn'd! — — — —

Ch. *pp*  
Our gay sa-bots are a-dancing,

The first system of the musical score. It consists of three staves. The top staff is for the Soprano (s.) and contains the lyrics 'The star — — — — of day hath dawn'd! — — — —'. The middle staff is for the Chorus (Ch.) and contains the lyrics 'Our gay sa-bots are a-dancing,' with a *pp* dynamic marking. The bottom two staves are for the piano accompaniment, showing chords and a rhythmic bass line.

s. — 'Mid this night, — — — — when frost - - -

Ch. Round we go! Round we go!

The second system of the musical score. It consists of three staves. The top staff is for the Soprano (s.) and contains the lyrics '— 'Mid this night, — — — — when frost - - -'. The middle staff is for the Chorus (Ch.) and contains the lyrics 'Round we go! Round we go!'. The bottom two staves are for the piano accompaniment, showing chords and a rhythmic bass line.

s. flow'rs are shin - - - ing, Is Je - - - sus, son of

Ch. *pp*  
Red-head makes a brav-er show!

The third system of the musical score. It consists of three staves. The top staff is for the Soprano (s.) and contains the lyrics 'flow'rs are shin - - - ing, Is Je - - - sus, son of'. The middle staff is for the Chorus (Ch.) and contains the lyrics 'Red-head makes a brav-er show!' with a *pp* dynamic marking. The bottom two staves are for the piano accompaniment, showing chords and a rhythmic bass line.

S. Ma - - - ry, In low - ly man - ger born! 6

Ch. brav-er show! *p* Heads of

*p leggero*

S. *pronunziato* The day -

Ch. brown and heads of yel- low, Red-head makes a brav- er show!

*sost.*

S. *molto semplice* *poco rit* star now doth rise, Je - sus, dear son of Ma - ry, In a man - ger

*poco rit*

7 *a tempo*

S. lies.

Ch. Children *mf*

Jack and Joan they cried for the moon, sir! How she mocked them from the

*mf*

7 *a tempo*

Ch. *f*

blue! Jack and Joan (my tale's be - gun, sir!) One, sir! Thought they'd best be

*f*

8 (almost shouted)

Ch. *mf*

laughing, too! Two, One, sir! Two! Pot of oil and pot of hon - ey, Love is

*mf*

Ch. *f*

nev - er bought for mon - ey, Love is free to you and me! Three!

*f*



9

Jeannette *f*

J. *f* Shad - ows

Ch. *ff* Love is free to you and me! One! Two! Three!

9

*ff* *p*

J. *dim.* length - en, grow - ing deep, The night de - scends

J. o'er our path - way. Let us home - ward lead our flock,

*poco rinf.*

J. Our lambkins bleat, no long - er browsing; With fierce hun - ger

10

J. Wolves are lurk - ing near!

Ch. Children *mf* One more round, sis - ter dear! *f* One more

*cresc.*

*mf leggero*

Ch. round! Sim - ple maid, no fur - ther wan - der, For the

*f* *mf*

Ch. prince is wait - ing yon - der, Sleeping by the far - mer's ricks! Six!

11 *ff* (a few) *mf*

Ch. Sleep - ing by the far - mer's ricks! Four! Five! Six! He will

*ff* *p*

say, "O Maid-en Ma - ry, Who toil-est in field and dair - y, Thou hast

(All) *f* found the King's own son!" One! *mf* (a few) "Thou hast found the King's own son!" *p*

(12) (All) *ff* Now we're done! *mf* (a few) Now we are done, five, six, sev-en! (All) All good

(a few) (All) children go to heav'n! One, two, three, four, five, six, sev-en! All good children go to

13 The Star (nearer)

S. *f* No-ël! Noël! No-ël! ————— Jeannette (anxiously)

J. ————— Hear ye the Voice, the

Ch. heav-en!

13 (♩ = ♩)

*p* *leggero*

S. *poco a poco accel.* No - ël! No - ël! No - ël!

J. *poco a poco accel.* Voice that sings? ————— *f* Lu - bin!

N. *f* Be still! I'm a - fraid! ————— *f* Jean-

L. *p* *3* Lubin Speak not so loud!

*poco a poco cresc. ed un poco accel.*

J. I do not know!


N. nette! O! what is it!

L. *f* Nich-o-las! I'm a -

J. (14)  
I do not know! Let's go!

N.  
An an-gel, may - be! or naughty

L.  
fraid! Let's go!



N.  
spir - it? Let us

L.  
O look! Look at this tree, All a-trem - - - ble!




J. (15)  
O, I'm a - fraid! Let's go!

N.  
hide our heads in thy man-tle! Let's go!

L.  
Let's go! (Group I)

Ch.  
Children *f*  
Let's go! Our shoes in our



Ch. hands, So we can run the fast-er!

(Group II)

Let's go! Our shoes in our hands, So we can run the

J. *mf* Good Fi - do! *p* Go ga-ther in the

N. *mf* Poor fel-low! *p* Go ga-ther in the

L. *mf* Good Fi - do! *p* Go ga-ther in the

Ch. fast - - er!

16 J. sheep!

N. sheep!

L. sheep!

Ch. (All) *p* Good dog! good dog! *dim.* go ga-ther in the

## Jeannette, Nicholas, Lubin

J.  
N.  
L.

*pp*

Let's run! Let's run!

Ch.

sheep! Let's run! Let's run!

(The Children gather their flock together)

Listesso tempo ( $\text{♩} = \text{♩.}$ )

*p saltando ed inquieto*

*poco string.*

*f*

Tempo I ( $\text{♩} = 63$ ) moderato e tranq.

rit. (17)

*p*

A Herdsman (with full voice, but very far away)

(18) molto largam. senza rigore

H.

*f* (1)

Et o — lou - va - let, — o lou - va - let,

*ppp*

H. *lou-va-let de-re - lo. Lou-va-let lou-va - let, — lou - - va -*

*lunga perdendosi* (19) **Allegro ma non troppo** (♩ = 116)

H. *let la la — a-let. —*

Ch. **Children (Group I)**  
*p*  
*We'll sing, but ver - y*

(19) *pp*

Ch. **(Group II)** *p* **(All)** *poco*  
*low! We'll sing, but ver - y low! Hand in hand let us*

*poco*

Ch. *go! Hand in hand let us go. —*

**(Group I)** **(Group II)**  
*We'll sing, but ver - y low! So the*

*pp*



20 (All)

Ch. naugh-ty sprite can-not find us, And with ne'er a glance be - hind us, On our

(They start off. They hurry, but do not go

Ch. homeward way we go! *cresc.*

very fast, and as the little ones are ready to cry, the older ones begin to sing, in weak voices, trembling with fear, an old lament of the chimney corner)

*f* *dim.* *poco rit.*

21 The Children (Group I) *p dolente* *p* (Gr. II.)

Ch. In my fa-ther's field Chanticleers are three, In my fa-ther's field

*a tempo* *leggero*

(All)

Ch. Chanticleers are three; — One a-sleep with drooping wings,

Ch. One his nois-y challenge flings, — One that nei-ther sleeps nor sings, One that

Ch. neither sleeps nor sings! — Ah! la, la, la, — la, la, la, — la, la, la, —

22 *doloroso*  
*rinf.* *dim.*

Ch. *rit. p a tempo* In my father's fold Three white lambs there be; — *(Gr. II)* *p* In my father's fold

Ch. *(All)* Three white lambs there be; — One to crop the tender grass,

Ch. One to chase the winds that pass, — One to love and fol-low me, one to

23 *doloroso*  
*rinf.*

Ch. love and fol - low me! Ah! la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la,

Ch. *rit.* *a tempo* *dim. sempre*  
In my fa-ther's fold Three white lambs there be,

24 The Star (very near)

S. *mf*  
No-ël! No-ël! No-

Ch. *molto rit.* *pp* *a tempo*  
In my fa-ther's fold Three white lambs there be.

24 *a tempo*

S. *colla parte*  
ë! Jeannette (senza rigore)

J. *a tempo*  
Ah! The Voice de-scends out of the sky!

N. *p*  
Nicholas  
O, Im a-fraid!

L. *p*  
Lubin  
Jean-

L'istesso tempo (♩ = ♩) (♩ = 108)

(un poco meno)  
(tenderly and reassuringly)

*rinf.*

J. No! for here is the path! Now the house is at hand! Come!

N. nette, I'm fright-ened!

*dolce e legato*

J. I'll car-ry thee on my arm! Hide thou thy head up-on my shoul-

J. - der! Come! Come! I'll

Children (a few)

Ch. Let's run! Ni-cho-las! I'm fright- end! Jean- nette! Lu- bin!

*f* *dim.* *mf* *p*

25

J. car-ry thee on my arm, Hide thou thy head up-on my shoul-

Ch. Ah!

*pp* *p* *poch. rit.*

25

26 *a tempo*

J. der!

Ch. *a tempo* (All, trembling, pressing close to one another)

*a tempo* We brave the cold and the north - wind, Be it

The Star (with great sweetness and sadness)  
*pronunziato*

S. Jeannette Be - hold! to His

J. *pp* Nicholas We brave the cold and the

N. *pp* Lubin We brave the cold and the

L. *pp* We brave the cold and the

Ch. blow - ing low or high!

*poco*

S. own He com - - eth, For

J. north - wind, Be it blow - ing low or high!

N. north - wind, Be it blow - ing low or high!

L. north - wind, Be it blow - ing low or high!

Ch.

S. them on the cross to die! \_\_\_\_\_

J. \_\_\_\_\_

N. \_\_\_\_\_

L. \_\_\_\_\_

Ch. *ppp* (like a lament)  
Ah! \_\_\_\_\_

L. **27** Lubin (calmly) *espr.*  
Oh! love - ly Voice, so sad and

Ch. \_\_\_\_\_

**27** \_\_\_\_\_

*il basso un poco espr.*

L. ten - - der! \_\_\_\_\_ Sure - ly, some lone - ly lit - tle bird \_\_\_\_\_ In the

*poco*

L. dark night has lost his moth - er, And com -

*dim.*

L. plains That his shy la - ment is not heard!

*p*

L. (28) *f* Ah! I love the Voice! Fear - less I'd

*espr.*

L. fol - low! I long to clasp it

*animando cresc.*

*animando*

*cresc.*

L. *poch. rit.* in my arms! *a tempo* Love - ly

Ch. *poch. rit.* We brave the cold and the

(29) *a tempo*

The Star (with infinite

S. *Jeannette* Be -

J. *Nicholas* We

N. We

L. Voice! how sad and how ten - - der!

Ch. north-wind, Be it blow - ing low or high!

*dim.*

tenderness)

S. hold! to His own He com - - - eth, For

J. brave the cold and the north-wind, Be it blow - ing low or high!

N. brave the cold and the north-wind, Be it blow - ing low or high!

L. Be it blow - ing low or high!

Ch.

*p.*



S. them on the cross to die!

J.

N.

L.

Ch. *ppp*  
Ah!

*poco rit.*  
*p calmo*

Jeannette  
*dolce espr.* *a tempo*

J. Hap-py am I when I hear it! It weeps and smiles in one

Nicholas *dolce espr.*  
N. Hap-py am I when I hear it! It

*a tempo*

J. breath! Broods o'er my heart with a touch so ten - der,

N. weeps and smiles in one breath! Broods o'er my heart with a touch so

*poco cresc.*

*rinf.* (30) *dolce*

J. Voice of calm, mys - te - rious splen - dor, Thybreathis shel - ter and

*rinf.*

N. ten - der, Voice of calm, mys - te - rious splen - dor!

*rinf.* (30) *p*

J. bread! — Was a voice eér more be-nign, more friend - ly?

*dolce* *cresc.*

N. Thybreathis shel - ter and bread! — Was a voice eér more be-nign, more

*cresc.*

*appass.* *f*

J. O bless-ed Voice, bring-ing us com - fort, Ah! bless - ed

*appass.* *f*

N. friend - ly? O bless-ed Voice, bring-ing us joy! — Ah!

*f*

J. *dim.*  
Voice, bring-ing us com - fort! How sweet and how

N. *dim.*  
bless - ed Voice, bring-ing us com - fort! Love-ly Voice,

*dim.*

J. (31)  
sad, a - las! how sad!

N. how ten - der, ah, how ten - der and sad!

Ch. Children (Gr. I.) *espr.*  
I see the lit-tle lights of the

(31) *espr.*

J. Jeannette *Gioioso (ritmato)* *mf*  
I see the lights of the town,

N. Nicholas *mf*  
I see the lights of the town,

L. Lubin *mf*  
I see the lights of the town,

Ch. I see the lights of the town,  
vil - lage, Where our dear moth - er waits for us!

*Gioioso (ritmato)* *mf*

*cresc.*  
 J. Where our dear moth - er waits for us!  
 N. Where our dear moth - er waits for us!  
 L. Where our dear moth - er waits for us!  
 Ch. Children (Gr. I and part of Gr. II)  
*ben ritmato*  
 Broth - er dear, the ta - ble is spread!

*cresc.*  
*f*

Ch. Sup - per's read - y, we shall be fed! Sup - per's read - y, we shall be fed!

*ff*

32  
 J. Wear - y no  
 N. I am no long - er hun - gry,  
 L. I am no long - er hun - gry,

*f*

(gaily)  
 Ch. (The rest of Group II)  
 In my fa - ther's field Chan - ti - cleers are three, In my fa - ther's field

32

J. more am I.

N. I thirst no more!\_\_\_\_\_

L. I thirst no more!\_\_\_\_\_

Ch. *f* We brave the cold and the north-wind, Be it  
*cresc.* Chan - ti-cleers are three! Be it

N. *f* Lu - bin!\_\_\_\_\_ Jean - nette!\_\_\_\_\_ O, I am

L. *f* Jean-nette! Ni-cho - las! O, I am

Ch. blow - ing low or high!\_\_\_\_\_

blow - ing low or high!\_\_\_\_\_

33

J. Yes, I am hap - - - py, And yet I  
 N. hap - py! am hap - - py, And yet am I  
 L. hap - py! am hap - - py, And yet am I

Ch. *ff*  
 In my fa - ther's fold Three white lambs there be, In my fa - ther's fold

33

J. fain would weep! — Ah! be it *cresc.*  
 N. fain to weep! — Ah! be it *cresc.*  
 L. fain to weep! — Ah! be it *cresc.*

Ch. (Gr. I) *ff* *cresc.* We brave the cold and the north-wind, Be it  
 (Gr. II) *ff* *cresc.* Three white lambs there be. We brave the cold and the north-wind, Be it

*cresc.*

The Star (slowly and with majesty)

34

S. *ff* > > > > > >

Be-hold! now the Sav - iour

J. blow - ing low or high!

N. blow - ing low or high!

L. blow - ing low or high!

h. blow - ing low or high!

blow - ing low or high!

Un poco allarg. (*ma poco*)

34

*ff*

35

S. com - eth, For you on the cross to die!

J. *ff con entusiasmo* No - ë! No - ë! No -

N. *ff* No - ë! No - ë! No -

L. *ff* No - ë! No - ë! No -

h. *ff All (almost shouted)* No - ë! No - ë! No -

35

*atempo*

*ff ben ritmato*

J.  
 N.  
 J.  
 N.

äl! No-äl!  
 äl! No-äl!  
 äl! No-äl!  
 äl! No-äl!

(The Children go into their homes)

*un poco allarg.*

Maestro's piano accompaniment for the first system, featuring chords and melodic lines in both hands.

*ma poco*

Maestro's piano accompaniment for the second system, including a wavy line indicating a tempo change.

*poco a poco rit.*

Maestro's piano accompaniment for the third system, featuring a *dim.* marking and a *p* dynamic.

Tempo I (moderato tranq.) (♩ = 63)

36

Maestro's piano accompaniment for the fourth system, marked *dolcissimo ed espr.*

*un poco rit.*

*a tempo (Allegretto non troppo)*

Maestro's piano accompaniment for the fifth system, including *pp*, *ppp*, and *sotto voce* markings.

*sotto voce*

*rit.*

Maestro's piano accompaniment for the sixth system, including a *pp a tempo* marking.

*pp a tempo*

*rit.* \*



(The fields stretch away into the  
Primo tempo (Moderato))

*poco rit.*

37

distance, frozen and deserted. Silence and solitude reign. Little lines of smoke from the chimneys alone rise in the clear air, and the little lamps keep watch from behind the window-panes.)

Narrator Goodman Winter, is it your rough breath we hear? When shall the roses bloom and grain again be gold?

Rage as you will, with wind-blown cheeks distended; From plain and hill the flocks are safe in fold.

Tempo allegretto

Shadows veil the woodland; Neath the shy, peering moon, Night advances, wolves are bold,

Tempo moderato

It is cold! (38) Tempo allegretto

What sound of weeping falters near?

Is it some wanderer?  
Some tricky sprite?

*poco rit.*

Or the cry of a little lamb  
Astray at night? *a tempo* Free

39

*a tempo*

wind you who threat with angry gust And sudden at the shutter thrust, When shall the roses

blush again? When shall the grain be bright? Alas for nestling, bird or child, Abroad in night so harsh and wild!

Lento (♩ = 104)

(♩ quasi del tempo precedente)

The Star (very tenderly) *dolce espr.*

*dolciss.*

S. *40* *un poco rinf.*

Calls for you: Rouse you from sleep!

S. *40* *un poco rinf.* *dim.*

Ma-ry His moth - er finds ref - uge, Hid in a hum - ble re -

*un poco rinf.* *dim.*

S. *41*

treat; Cru - el frosts of the night Chill the

S. *41* *p* *mf*

lit - tle one's ti - ny bare feet! Hark! the ba - by Je - sus is

*p* *mf*

s. cry- ing! Nor cloth-ed nor cra - dled He;

s. *p* Ma - ry His moth - er is sob - -bing! *dim.* Could He but com - fort - ed

42 (♩ = ♪)

s. be! He sleeps, tho' chill'd to the

s. mar - -row: *mf* Fol - low me! Fol - low

*cresc.*

s. me! Pit - y af - ford! Lo! for

s. I, ——— for I am the star ——— That leads you to

*cresc.* (43) *f*

s. Him, your Lord! ——— Chil - dren dear, ———

*p*

s. lit - tle ones lov'd, Pure of heart, trust - ful of

s. spir - - - it! Lo, the Lord,

s. born in a man - ger, Calls to you: Rouse you from sleep!

*p* *pp* *rit.*

(44)

s. *a tempo*

*espr.*

*p*

*pp* *p*

Allegro (♩ = 132)  
*ritmato*

Jeannette, Nicholas and Lubin

J. N. L. *mf deciso* Yes! We must wak - en, must fol - low! *f* Up! a - rise! Children *mf deciso*

Ch. Yes! We must

J. N. L. *mf* **(45)** *cresc.* Fa - ther! Moth - er!

Ch. wak - en! must fol - low! Up! a rise! **(45)** Up! and

*cresc.*

J. N. L. Unbar the door - way! *mf* *cresc.* Up! and make no delay!

Ch. make no delay! Fa - ther! Moth - er! Unbar the

J. N. L. *f* Our dear broth - er waits for us! A -

Ch. door - way! Come! Rise! Fol - low!

46

J.  
N.  
L. rise! Up! Rise! Fol - low! Why rush a -

Ch. Our dear brother waits for us! \_\_\_\_\_ A - rise!

*mf*

*tr.* *mf*

J.  
N.  
L. bout in pan - ic so?

Ch. The lit - tle Christ-Child

Jeannette

J. Nich - o - las, bring thy warm, new man -

Ch. suf - fers so!

*p*



J. *mf* Nicholas  
 N. Sis - ter, no! No! 'Tis not worth the trou - - -  
 ble!

J. (47) The babe has naught to keep Him warm.  
 N. ble.  
 Ch. Children *pp* (a few)  
 The babe has  
 (47) *espr.* 2 2 4

J. Nicholas (*molto tenero*)  
 N. To Je - sus I'll car - ry, in  
 Ch. naught to keep Him warm.  
*espr.*

N. hom - age true, A new gold - en loaf of our sweet white

Ch.

(48) Jeannette

J. I'll car - ry to Je - sus my whit - est lamb!

N. bread!

Ch. (a few) *p* My

(48)

L. Lubin (naïvely and tenderly)

Ch. (others) (others) (still others) A fond

ap - ples! Some nuts! Some milk! And our chees-es!

*leggeriss.*

L. heart a-lone have I, (A-las, por-tion slender!) A fnd heart a-

S. (49) *mf* The Star  
Oh shep- - -

L. lone have I, Grate-ful praise to ren-der!

S. herd, let thy weep-ing cease!— The Lord bids them come to

*breviss.*

50

S. Him!

J. Jeannette, Nicholas  
N. I'll car - ry to Je - sus, in hom - age true, A new

L. Lubin  
I have for Him naught but my lov - ing heart, but my

Ch. All the Children  
*dolce espr.*  
I'll car - ry to Je - sus, in hom - age true, A new

50

*dolce espr.*

S.

J. gold - en loaf of our sweet white bread! I'll car - ry to  
N. lov - ing heart, grateful praise to ren - der, I have for our

L. gold - en loaf of our sweet white bread! I'll car - ry to

Ch. gold - en loaf of our sweet white bread! I'll car - ry to

J.  
N.  
L.  
Ch.

*p* *dim.*

Je - sus my whit - est lamb, My ap - ples, some nuts, my

Je - sus my lov - ing heart, (A - las! por - tion slen - der!) (a -

Je - sus my whit - est lamb, My ap - ples, some nuts, my

*p* *dim.*

J.  
N.  
L.  
Ch.

*poco rit.* (51) *a tempo*

hom - age to ren - der!

*poco rit.* *a tempo*

las! por - tion slen - der!) - der!

*poco rit.* *a tempo*

hom - age to ren - der!

*poco rit.* (51) *a tempo* *Meno* (♩ = 88)

*a tempo* *sf*

*a tempo* *sf* *Meno*

Moderato molto tranquillo (♩ = 60)

musical notation for piano introduction, measures 52-53. The music is in G major and 2/4 time. It features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *molto rit.* and *pp*.

J. *Jeannette* *p*  
 What do I hear?... Who's coming yon - der? For the

musical notation for Jeannette's first line of lyrics. The vocal line is in G major and 2/4 time. The piano accompaniment continues from the previous page.

J. steady gal-lop-ing stride Of horse-men in cadence that ride, Re-sounds

musical notation for Jeannette's second line of lyrics. The vocal line continues with the piano accompaniment.

J. a-long the ech-oing high-way! Jean! Look

musical notation for Jeannette's third line of lyrics. The vocal line continues with the piano accompaniment. Measure 53 is circled above the staff.

J. yon - - der! Nicholas  
 N. look! see! see, lit-tle Net-ta!

musical notation for the final lines of the page. It includes vocal lines for Jeannette (J.) and Nicholas (N.), and piano accompaniment. The music concludes with a final cadence.

J. O lis - ten, how proud-ly they march to the mu - -sic!

L. **Lubin**  
O lis - ten, how proud-ly they march to the mu - -sic!

Ch. **Children** *p*  
Look! How proud-ly they march to the mu - -sic!

J. **54**  
Here they

N. *mf* See, they are coming! *f* Ah! here they are!

L. *mf* They are com-ing! *f* Here they

Ch.

**54**  
*un poco rinf.* *poco a poco cresc.*

J. are!

N. here they are!

L. are!

Ch. here they are!

55

Jeannette  
*ritmato*

J. No - ble sirs, three mon - archs are ye, Pac - ing on in roy - al ar -

J. ray, With - out tu - mult tak - ing your way, — So very grave, so si - lent

*poco rit.*



*a tempo*

J.  
N.

ye! Lubin

L. See! the first, so grand and tall, Clad all in

*a tempo*

N. Nicholas

L. And the next, cov-erd with scales, O, but his scarlet and gold!

56

J. Jeannette *mf*

N. Look at the third one, ah see! His ar - mor is bright!

56

J. face, tho' it's ver - y clean, no doubt, Is black and all

The Narrator

Behold, they come with cor- Their noble steeds nor haste nor  
tege meet, Caspar, Melchi- stay As from the East they take  
or and Balthasar; their way,

shin - ing!

The heavenly Guest to greet.

Gifts they bear with jealous charge: O, Thou Innocent

and mild, On Thy face  
one smile to stir,

(57) A king doth incense bring,

and myrrh!

One a veil of colors rare, Sheer and clear as morning air,

Web where flow'rs entwined are,

And many a star! While the king of ebon brow  
(Haughty eyes are lower'd now)

Brings thee strings of pearly shell,  
Gathered 'neath the surge and swell

*un poco rinf.* *poco a poco cresc.*

At ocean's bitter marge.

Narrator

Behold they come, with cortège meet,  
Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar;

Their noble steeds nor haste  
nor stay, As from the East

(58) (♩ = 69)

Jeannette

*mf*

they take their way,  
The heavenly Guest to greet.

O, splendid pa - geant! Children,

watch it! See the camels, dromedaries al - so, And monkeys a-stride of them

(59)

all!

Children (Gr. I)

(Gr. II)

Ho! See the first with on-ly one hump! Look! look at the fourth, he has

(59)

(Gr. I) (Gr. II)

Ch. two! Hi! bears! how fierce their little eyes are! Do not let them

Jeannette (quickly) Be care-ful, child!

Nicholas *f espr.* See! See! Beneath his tin-sel trap - pings, come too near to you!

N. Pur-ple, or-ange, red, blue and yel - low, See, he comes! The el - e-phant

N. comes!

Children (all) See how kind and gen-tle he is, tho'!

Ch. How he toils a-long with his pack! I wish I might just climb on his shoulder,

Ch. Stroke him soft - ly o - ver his back!

(61)

Narrator Three kings pass by, with cortège meet,  
 (♩ = 60) Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar;

Their noble steeds nor haste  
 nor stay,  
 As from the East they take  
 their way,

The heavenly Guest to greet.

J. Jeannette *f*  
 Ho! the mu-si-cians come! The flutes, yes, tam-bou-

L. Lubin *f*  
 Ho! the mu-si-cians

(Lasciate andare il movimento)

*f* *sempre cresc.*

J. rines too! And the king, as black as a crow!

N. Nicholas  
And the king, as black as a crow! The flutes \_\_\_\_\_ and tambou-

L. come! The flutes, yes, tambou-rines too! O, how it shines, how it

62 *Animando*

J. Yes, and the drum! And the

N. rines, And the cym - - - bals!

L. sounds! \_\_\_\_\_ O

Ch. Children *f*  
Ho! the flutes and the

62 *Animando* (♩ = 84)

J. cym - bals! O see! There they

N. O, is - n't it grand! O

L. see! it is splen - - - did! O

Ch. cym - bals, Ho! the tam - bou - rines and the

J. go! No-ë! No-  
 N. look! No-ë! No-  
 L. look! No-ë! No-  
 h. ket-tle-drums! O, how it sounds! how it shines! It is glo - - rious!

*cresc.*

J. N. L. ë! No-ë! No-  
 Ch. Ho! O, how it sounds! how it shines! O look!

*poco rit.* (63) Allegro  
 J. N. L. ë! No - - ë! Where a - way,  
 Ch. (marching and singing)  
 Where a - way, fond and fear-less? Where a - way,  
*poco rit.* (63) Allegro (♩ = 100)  
*molto*

J.  
N.  
L.

Ch.

foot-ing free? — To the man-ger I go, My dear broth-er Je-sus

foot-ing free? — To the man-ger I go, My dear broth-er Je-sus

J.  
N.  
L.

Ch.

*meno f*  
seek - ing! Babe so sweet, babe so dear, Why art Thou cra-dled here?

*meno f*  
seek - ing! Babe so sweet, babe so dear, Why art Thou cra-dled here?

*meno f*

J.  
N.  
L.

Ch.

64  
Who - ev - er may de - ny Thee, To Thee I take my way!

Who - ev - er may de - ny Thee, To Thee I take my way!

64

J.  
N.  
L.

Ch.

Who - ev - er may de - ny Thee, To Thee I take my way!

Who - ev - er may de - ny Thee, To Thee I take my way!



65 un poco allargando

The Star

S. *ff* No-ël! No - ël! No-ël! *con entusiasmo*

J. *ff* We brave the cold and the north-wind, *con entusiasmo*

N. *ff*

L. *ff*

Ch. We brave the cold and the north-wind,

65 un poco allargando (♩ = 76)

S. No-ël! No - ël! No-ël!

J. Let him blow— low— or high!

N. Let him blow— low— or high!

L. Let him blow— low— or high!

Ch. Let him blow— low— or high!

66

*ben declamando, senza rigore*

S. *ff* Be - hold, now the Sav - iour

J. *ff*

N. *ff*

L. *ff*

Ch. *ff*

66

*colla parte*

S. *com - eth, For you on the cross \_\_\_\_\_ to*

*Allegro risoluto*

S. *die! \_\_\_\_\_*

J. N. L. *Jeannette, Nicholas, Lubin*  
*No - ë! \_\_\_\_\_ No - ë! No - ë! No - ë! \_\_\_\_\_*

Ch. *Children*  
*No - ë! \_\_\_\_\_ No - ë! No - ë! No - ë! \_\_\_\_\_*

*Allegro risoluto (♩ = 126)*

*Largo* *lunghiss.*

Part II  
The Stable

Moderato molto tranquillo (♩ = 63)

*dolcissimo ed espr.*

The piano introduction is in 3/4 time and consists of two staves. The right hand features a series of chords with a descending melodic line, while the left hand provides a steady accompaniment of chords.

The Virgin

*dolce*

Lull to sleep, O voice of the des -

*pp* *ppp*

The vocal line begins with a rest, followed by a melodic phrase. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, with dynamic markings *pp* and *ppp*.

67

ert, This dear babe with none to de - fend! —

The vocal line continues with the lyrics. The piano accompaniment features chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

Tho'

*pp* *ppp*

The vocal line continues with the word 'Tho''. The piano accompaniment features chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, with dynamic markings *pp* and *ppp*.

v. close in my gar-ment I fold him, So faint he breathes, I hush to

The first system consists of a vocal line on a single staff and a piano accompaniment on two staves. The vocal line contains the lyrics "close in my gar-ment I fold him, So faint he breathes, I hush to". The piano accompaniment features a series of chords in the right hand and a melodic line in the left hand.

*poco rall.* (68) *a tempo*

v. hear him, Such a pit - i - ful lit - tle child!—

*poco rall.* *a tempo*

The second system continues with a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has the lyrics "hear him, Such a pit - i - ful lit - tle child!—". Above the vocal line, there is a circled number "68" and the tempo marking "a tempo". The piano accompaniment includes a "poco rall." marking and a "poco rall." marking below the piano part. The piano part features a complex texture with many chords and some melodic lines.

*rall.* *sempl.* Lento (♩ = 100)

v. The thyme soon will bloom, And

*pp* *rall.*

The third system features a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has the lyrics "The thyme soon will bloom, And". Above the vocal line, there is a tempo marking "Lento (♩ = 100)" and "sempl." (semplificato). The piano accompaniment includes a "pp" (pianissimo) marking and a "rall." (rallentando) marking. The piano part has a dense texture with many chords.

*poco rall.*

v. mar-i - gold blow, The thyme soon will bloom, And the li - lac flow'r,—

*poco rall.*

The fourth system continues with a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has the lyrics "mar-i - gold blow, The thyme soon will bloom, And the li - lac flow'r,—". Above the vocal line, there is a tempo marking "poco rall.". The piano accompaniment also includes a "poco rall." marking. The piano part features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

*rinf.* *a tempo*

v. And heav - y my sor - row, And bit - ter this hour! \_\_\_\_\_ The

*rinf.* *a tempo*

(69) *rall.*

v. thyme soon will flow'r, The mar-i - gold blow, The bee find their bloom, And my

*pp* *rall.*

Tempo I

v. heart a tomb! Dearth of lin - en

*dolce espr.*

*poco rall.*

v. white - ly sewn, I with straw his bed am strow - ing. Here

*poco* *pp*

v. 'mid the kine's qui-et low-ing Is my poor lit-tle Je-sus born!—

*colla voce*

*poco* *pp*

Lento (♩ = 100)

v. Ass and ox, — on your guest in loving-kind-ness

*poco cresc.*

v. tend - ing, Of your grace, dear hum-ble friends, — O'er

*poco cresc.*

(70) *tranquillo*

v. my poor babe while he sleeps. Let your breath be warm-ly blending!

*tranquillo*

*espr.*

*p* *a tempo*

V. *p* The Ass Sad lips and eyes, Stran-gers to smil - ing,

A. *p* Sad lips and eyes, Stran-gers to smil - ing,

O. *p* The Ox Sad lips and eyes, Stran-gers to smil - ing, That

*a tempo*

*poco*

*cresc.*

V. That you may be brav-er and bright-er, Wan, wee face, whence the

A. *cresc.* That you may be brav - - er and bright - er, Wan, wee

O. *cresc.* you may be brav - - - er and bright-er, Wan, wee face, whence the

*cresc.*

*p*

V. rose is sped, The ox, ass, and Mother Ma-rie Watch and ward will

A. *p* face, whence the rose is sped, The ox, ass, and Mother Ma-rie Watch and ward will

O. *p* rose is sped, The ox, ass, and Mother Ma-rie Watch and ward will

*p*

(71)

V.  
keep o'er thy bed, watch and ward will keep o'er thy bed!

A.  
keep o'er thy bed, watch and ward will keep o'er thy bed!

O.  
keep o'er thy bed, watch and ward will keep o'er thy bed!

(71)

*pp* *espr.*

Tempo I (♩ = 63)      The Ass *dolce*

A.  
In low-ly stall we've en-throned Thee, For to

A.  
Thee, O Saviour dear, Heart of beasts hath o-pen'd here, Ere the heart of man hath



72

A. *ow'nd Thee! The Ox dolce*

O. *O'er Thee, a con - qu'ror mild, Tho' now Thy plight*

O. *pit - i - ful seem, The low - li - est crea - tures won - der, A - dor - ing a*

A. *The Ass (calmly) pp poco*

O. *lit - tle child! While the ass, with o - pen ears, Lis - tens long,*

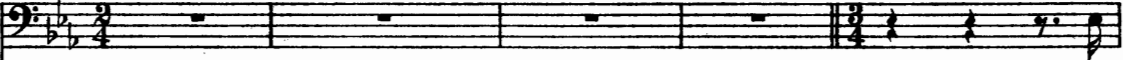
O. *While the ox, with bat - ed sigh, A - dores a*


A. *guarding Thy sleep. poco rit. 73*

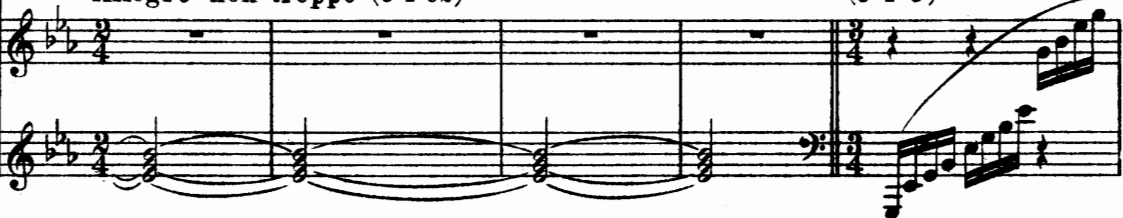
O. *lit - tle child. poco rit. 73*

## Allegro non troppo

## The Ox

o.  Who's

Ch. (off)  Children (off stage, far away)  
Where a-way, fond and fear-less? Where a-way, footing free? \_\_\_\_\_

Allegro non troppo (♩ = 92)  (♩ = ♩)

o.  coming this way?

Ch. (off)  To the sta-ble I go, My dear brother Jesus



## 74 The Virgin

v.  Do I hear, far a - cross the night, The voices of chil-dren

Ch. (off)  seek - - - - ing!

74 

V. sing-ing?

A. The Ass  
Not a doubt, but they

Ch. (off) Babe so sweet, babe so dear, Why art thou cradled here?

A. (75) make hur-ly - bur - ly and noise!

Ch. (off) (nearer)  
Who - ev - er may de - ny thee, To thee I

Ch. (off) *cresc.*  
take my way, Who - ev - er may de - ny thee, To thee I take my way!-

*cresc.*

Ch. (off)

*poco rall.*

*dim.*

(The movement is, however, a little more animated here than in the corresponding passage in Part I)

Meno allegro (♩ = 72)

76 **The Ox (to the Ass)**

o. See! — Three lords ap-proach, my broth - er,

*p ritmato*

o. With shoes of sil - ver, robes of gold! \_\_\_\_\_

Ch. (on) **Children (on stage)** (a few, from back)

Where a - way, fond and fear-less?

(♩ = 80)

A. **The Ass (to the Ox)** *poco cresc.*

Look! what curious beasts, as

Ch. (on) Where a - way, foot-ing free? \_\_\_\_\_

*poco cresc.*

A. well! They've lost their way, I am think - - ing.

Ch. (on) To the sta - ble I

*mf*

Lasciate andare il movimento

*mf*

J. N. L. *sost. e molto espr.* Babe so sweet, babe so

Ch. (on) go, My dear broth - er Je - sus seek - - - ing. Babe so

*sost. e espr.*

*cresc.*

J. N. L. dear, Why art thou cra-died here? So sweet and so

Ch. (on) sweet, babe so dear, Why art thou cra-died here?

J.  
N.  
L.

Ch.  
on)

dear! \_\_\_\_\_ No - ël! \_\_\_\_\_ No -

Who - ev-er may de - ny Thee, who - ev-er may de - ny Thee!

J.  
N.  
L.

Ch.

78 \_\_\_\_\_ ël! \_\_\_\_\_ Where a - way, fond and fear-less?\_

(All)  
Where a - way, fond and fear-less? Where a - way, foot-ing free? — To the

78 (♩ = 100)

J.  
N.  
L.

Ch.

To the man-ger I go, My dear broth-er Je-sus seek-ing. Babe so

man - ger I go, My dear broth-er Je-sus seek-ing. Babe so

*p espr.*


*p*

J. *cresc.*  
sweet, babe so dear, Why art thou cra-dled here?\_\_\_\_\_

N. *cresc.*  
sweet, babe so dear, Why art thou cra-dled here?\_\_\_\_\_

L. *cresc.*  
sweet, babe so dear, Why art thou cra-dled here?\_\_\_\_\_

Ch. *cresc.*  
sweet, babe so dear, Why art thou cra-dled here?\_\_\_\_\_



J. *f cresc.*  
No - ël!\_\_\_\_\_ No - ël!\_\_\_\_\_

N. *f cresc.*  
No - ël!\_\_\_\_\_ No - ël!\_\_\_\_\_

L. *f cresc.*  
No - ël!\_\_\_\_\_ No - ël!\_\_\_\_\_

Ch. *f cresc.*  
Who - ev - er may de - ny Thee, who - ev - er may de - ny Thee,



79 Jeannette, Nicholas, Lubin

J.  
N.  
L.

*ff*

To Thee I take my way, to Thee I take my way!

Ch.

*ff*

To Thee I take my way, to Thee I take my way!

79

J.  
N.  
L.

No - ël! No - ël!

Ch.

No-ë! No - ël! No-ë! No - ël!

J.  
N.  
L.

No - ël!

Ch.

No - ël!

*string.*



80 Jeannette (joyfully, with excitement)

*f* No - ë! The star o-ver our heads is

stand - ing! Then, chil - dren, He is close at hand!

*con fuoco*

*f*

81 *mf* O ye Ma-gi! It is here! This

bleak roof shel - ters the Christ - Child! No ref - uge but

*p sempre agitato*

*cresc.*

this can He find! Be - hold here the dwell - ing - place low - -

J. *dim.* ly Of him who makes a sta - ble ho - ly. (82)

Ch. (off) Children (off, but nearer) *f* Un -

Ch. (off) bar the door! No - ë! No -

*poco cresc.*

The Ox (to the new-comers)

o. *mf* I warn you all, do not dare to force this

Ch. (off) ë!

*p*

O. guard-ed door - - - way!

Ch. (a few on the stage at rear) Un - bar the door! No - ël!

Un - bar the door! No - ël!

*meno P* *cresc.*

83 The Ass (to the Children)

A. Ba-by Je - sus lies a - sleep-ing,

Ch. (off) No - ël!

Ch. (on) No - ël!

83 *mf*

A. And you might crush him to death!

Ch. (almost all) A shel - ter! A shel - ter! In the

A shel - ter! A shel - ter! In the

*ff* *cresc.*

The Virgin

V. If you

(on) name of our great Mas - - - - - ter!

Ch. name of our great Mas - - - - - ter!

(off) name of our great Mas - - - - - ter!

quasi l'istesso, un poco meno (84) *Allegretto moderato*

V. *rit.* please, make yourselves bet-ter known, sirs! *Nicholas dolce espr.*

N. *quasi l'istesso, un poco meno (84) (Allegretto moderato) (♩ = 69) Shepherds are*

N. we, who hith-er come Just to greet the son of sweet Ma - ry,

*poco cresc.*

N. With sobbing breath and cour-age spent; O let us

in, O let us in! For— we are but chil - dren,

(85)

N. too!

(off) *mf* O let us in, O let us

Ch. (A few children on stage at rear, ad lib.)

(on) O let us in, O let us

(85)

(off) *dim.* *poco rit.* *a tempo*

Ch. in! For— we are but chil - dren, too! *dim.* *poco rit.* *a tempo*

(on) in! For— we are but chil - dren, too!

*dim.* *poco rit.* *a tempo*

**The Virgin**

v. What! de - spite the cold and the night wind,

v. De-spite the dan - ger and the dark! Come in, poor lambs!

v. O - pen the door — wide! But fie! the

*rall.* *breve*

v. child who trem - bles a sleep - ing babe to mark!

Lento (♩ = 50)

(The Children enter, and stand hesitating on the threshold)

*espr.*

Ch (all) 87 Children *p* Where is the

## The Virgin

V. He is a - sleep now!

Ch. ba - by? But where, Jean-nette?

## Jeannette

J. There! be-twixt the Ox and this old long - ears!

N. Nicholas  
How for -

Ch.

88

N. lorn and wretch - ed a house!

*pp*

## Lubin

L. There, shin - - ing 'mid the dark, Some-thing fair-er than

*espr.*

*senza rigore*

L. ros - es Peace - ful re - pos - es, Breathing light; Can it be - is it

The Virgin  
breve

*pp*

89

V. 'Tis he!

L. Je - sus?

Ch. Children (mezza voce, *ppp* ecstatically)  
Je - -

Ch. sus! He does not dream

*espr. un poco*

Ch. - that we are watch - ing! He sleeps as in a down - y



## The Virgin

V. Come near-er, all! But

L. Lubin (very low)  
If I on-ly dared to go near-er!

Ch. bed!

V. soft-ly, so, lest he too soon a - wake!

J. Jeannette (to Lubin)  
*pp* Be care-ful!

90

(All the Children surround Jesus and kneel about the manger)

Children  
*ppp molto legato*

By! by! ba - by dear, Dream of moon - light

*a tempo* (circa ♩ = 48)

*poco rit.*

Jeannette

J. *He folds his ti - ny fingers fast,*  
*pure and ten - der, By! by! ba - by dear!*

J. *Just like all the oth - er wee ba - bies!*

Ch. *By! by!*

*senza rigore* 91 *a tempo*

Ch. *lit - tle lamb, Safe - ly fold - ed for the night, dear!*

L. *Is - n't he pret - ty? Is - n't he good,*

Ch. *By! by! lit - tle lamb!*

*Lubin* *Is - n't he pret - ty? Is - n't he good,*

L. *to look so much like all the oth - ers!*

Ch. *By! by!*

92

(The Child Jesus opens his eyes)

h. *well - be - lov'd! An - gels tend thy trou - bled pil - low;*

Nicholas

N. *He looks at us with - out*

Ch. *By! by! well - be - lov'd!*

*espr.*

N. *cry - ing, Like our Jan - ey when she first wak - ens!*

Ch. *By! by!*

*breve*

*breve*

Ch. *ppp*  
 well - be - lov'd! By! by! well - be -

Musical score for the Chorus (Ch.) part. It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with the lyrics "well - be - lov'd!" and continues with "By! by! well - be -". The piano accompaniment features a flowing melody in the right hand and a supporting bass line in the left hand. The key signature has two flats, and the time signature is 3/4.

93 Lubin  
 Let us lean  
 Ch. lov'd!

93 *espr.*

Musical score for Lubin and the Chorus. Lubin's part (L.) is a vocal line with the lyrics "Let us lean". The Chorus (Ch.) part continues with "lov'd!". The piano accompaniment includes a circled measure number "93" and the instruction "espr." (espressivo). The piano part features triplets in both hands.

L. on the man - ger! Come all! Jean - nette, be the first one to

Musical score for Lubin (L.). The vocal line contains the lyrics "on the man - ger! Come all! Jean - nette, be the first one to". The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both hands.

Jeannette  
 J. O see! A cir - cle of pure ra - diance comes to  
 L. lean there!

Musical score for Jeannette (J.) and Lubin (L.). Jeannette's part (J.) has the lyrics "O see! A cir - cle of pure ra - diance comes to". Lubin's part (L.) has the lyrics "lean there!". The piano accompaniment includes the instruction "tr" (trill) and features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

94

(♩ = ♪; beat the eighth-notes)

J.  
crown His dear ba - by head! (They present their humble gifts)

*triumm*  
*poch. rit.*  
*a tempo*  
*sosten.*

Ch.  
Children *dolce* ★  
Dear Sav - iour Je - sus, re - ceive us,

(*accomp. ad lib.*) ★

Ch.  
Chil - dren who tend flocks and herds; We've brought thee

(*ad lib.*)

Ch.  
milk and some ap - ples, New white bread and cream - y curds.

*p*

★ This passage in 3 parts may be sung as a unison on the first part, in which case the accompaniment is necessary

Lubin

L. I have for thee but a lov - ing heart, Sing - ing 'mid the win - ter,

*semplice*

L. Sing - ing as a lit - tle frog may, Hid in his warm, reed - y

95

L. pool!

Ch. Children (stroking the Ox and Ass)  
*più sosten.*

Ass and ox, re - ceive our ca - res - es,

95

Ch. Ye who have watch'd o'er the Child!

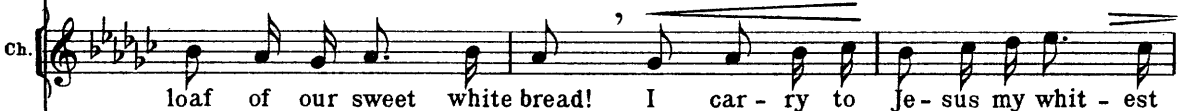
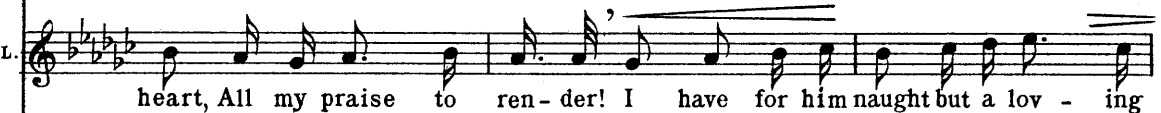
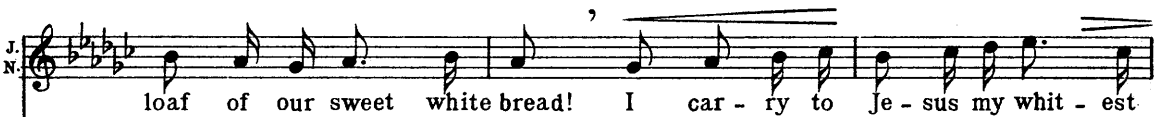
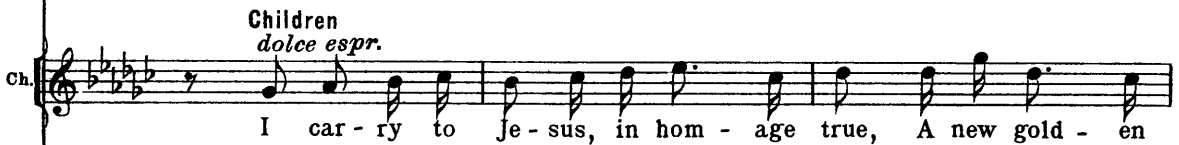
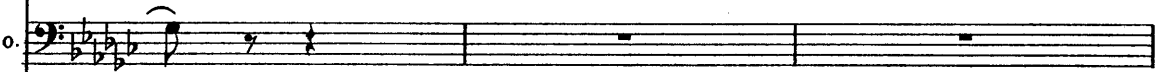
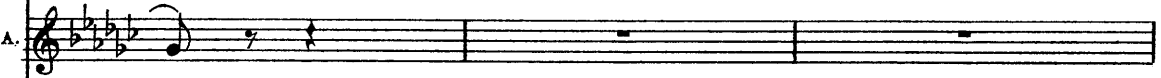
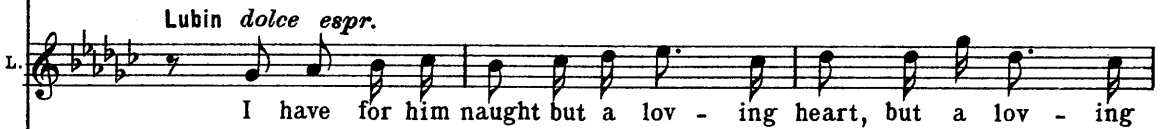
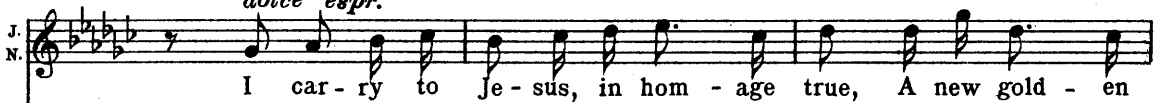
ch. Who with balm-y breath so mild Have comfort-ed his dis-tress-es!

96 The Ass  
 A. Ye young things, your kind so-li-ci-  
 The Ox  
 O. Young things, your kind so-li-ci-

A. ta-tions To ten-der-ness move a rude heart!  
 O. ta-tions. To ten-der-ness move a rude heart!

A. For lov-ing word and ca-ress Fall rare-ly e-nough to our part.  
 O. For lov-ing word and ca-ress Fall rare-ly e-nough to our part.

97 Jeannette, Nicholas  
*dolce espr.*





J.  
N.  
L.  
Ch.

*p* *dim.*

lamb, My ap-ples and milk, my homage to ren -

*p* *dim.*

heart, (A - las!portion slender!)(A - las!portion slen -

*p* *dim.*

lamb, My ap-ples and milk, my homage to ren -

98

J.  
N.  
L.  
Ch.

der!

der!)

der!

98

*un poco sost.* *p*

*dim.* *rull.*

Narrator. In silence dream-  
ing lies the land: 99

The loving children kneel; In tear-gemmed eyes soft  
*tranquilliss.* gleaming. The sacred

*pp*

flame they feel.

The Ox breathes  
breath like clover new,

And lest the Child awake, The moth-  
er sways full slowly  
The cradle rude and low-  
ly,

Her fingers folded fair  
Along its edge in prayer...

And near at hand  
The ass is to his vigil true.

The royal Magi, wonder-filled, In holy revery are stilled:

'Neath silent  
skies

that drift and dream Of one pure star's  
celestial gleam Still sleeping lies the land.

*(All the children  
rise)*

100 The Star (clearly)

The ox and ass shall keep thee warm, Dear child new-born, dear Sav-iour

S. Child, Jeannette, Nicholas, Lubin      Thou Je-sus, who in pit- y ho- ly

J. N. L. *pp* 3 3  
Pray for us all! Pray for us all!

Ch. *pp* 3 3  
Pray for us all! Pray for us all!

S. Comfort hast and care for the low- - - ly.

J. N. L. 3 3  
The Ass Pray for us all! Pray for us all!

A. 3 3  
The Ox Pray for us all! Pray for us all!

O. Pray for us all! Pray for us all!

Ch. Pray for us all! Pray for us all!

*poco cresc.*

S. Thou Je-sus, meek and lov- ing Master,      Who shalt lead the way to life e -

S. ter - - nal. (101)  
 Jeannette, Nicholas, Lubin Thou the betray'd! Thou the cruci-fied!

J. N. L. *pp* 3  
 Pray for us all! Pray for us all!

Ch. *pp* 3  
 Pray for us all! Pray for us all!

S. Smil-ing on us een tho' thou weep. —

J. N. L. 3 3  
 Pray for us all! Pray for us all!

Ch. 3 3  
 Pray for us all! Pray for us all!

S. *f*  
 Thou Je - sus, en-crown'd King of kings, 'neath thorns and blood-stains

*mf* *f*

The Virgin (to the Children)

*p espr.*

v. By in - grat - i - tude nev - er

s. of the cross!

J. Jeannette, Nicholas, Lubin

N. Pray for us all! Pray for us all!

L. Pray for us all! Pray for us all!

Ch. Children Pray for us all! Pray for us all!

*p*

v. blind - ed, To the vi - sion your souls be true! And may His com - ing find you

v. faith - - ful!

J. Jeannette, Nicholas, Lubin

N. Pray for us all! Pray for us all!

L. Pray for us all! Pray for us all!

C.V. Celestial Voice (outside) *(plaintively)* *senza rigore*  
O God! O God! My

Ch. Pray for us all! Pray for us all!

c.v. *pp colla voce*  
 God, why hast thou for - sak - en me?

103

The Virgin (to the Children)

v. *a tempo (calmo)*  
 Children, haste your return, where home and mother wait you!

v. *3*  
 May all in-no-cent joys, To my Je-sus unknown, With gladness fill your pure hearts!

v. *3*  
 God bless you, Chil-dren all!

Jeannette, Nicholas, Lubin (going)

J. *pp*  
 Little Christ-Child, a - dieu!

Children (going)

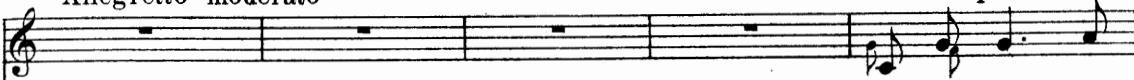
Ch. *pp*  
 Little Christ-Child, a - dieu!

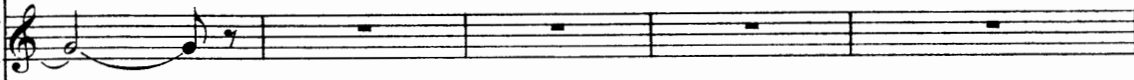
*espr.*  
*p*

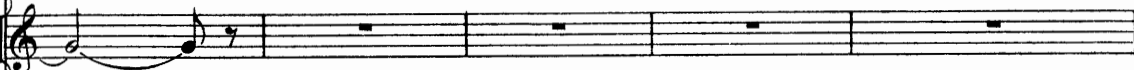
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Allegretto moderato

The Virgin (standing near her son while the children depart)

V.  Shepherd youths, with

J. N. L. 

Ch. 

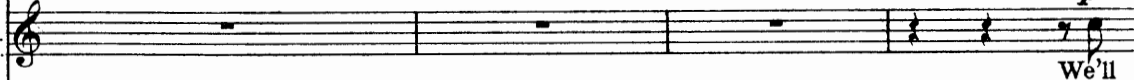
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Allegretto moderato (♩=100)

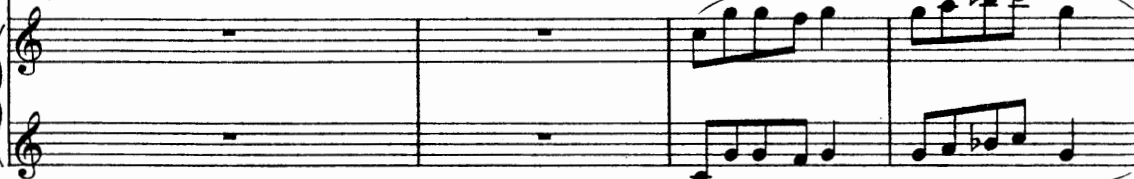
*dolce*



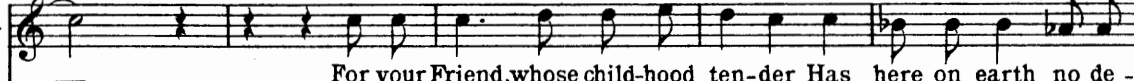
V.  fair hair glancing, Hap - py hearts and feet a - danc - ing, O pray for Him! *p*

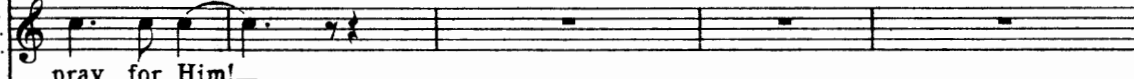
J. N. L.  We'll *p*

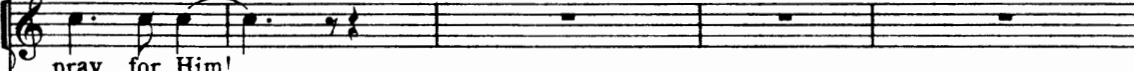
Ch.  We'll




105

V.  For your Friend, whose child - hood ten - der Has here on earth no de -

J. N. L.  pray for Him!\_

Ch.  pray for Him!\_

105



V. fend - er! Then pray for Him in heav-en's

J. N. L. We'll pray for Him!

Ch. We'll pray for Him!

The first system of the musical score features a vocal line (V.) with lyrics "fend - er! Then pray for Him in heav-en's". Below it are two vocal lines (J. N. L. and Ch.) with lyrics "We'll pray for Him!". The piano accompaniment is shown in two staves at the bottom, with a large slur covering the first two measures.

V. name, And in the name of His moth - er!

J. N. L. We'll pray for Him!

Ch. We'll pray for Him!

The second system continues the vocal lines. The vocal line (V.) has lyrics "name, And in the name of His moth - er!". The vocal lines (J. N. L. and Ch.) have lyrics "We'll pray for Him!". The piano accompaniment is shown in two staves at the bottom, with a large slur covering the first two measures. The lyrics "We'll pray for Him!" are repeated under the piano accompaniment.

J. N. L. (on) Ch. (off) *p* (off stage) We'll pray for Him!

The third system shows the vocal lines (J. N. L., (on) Ch., (off)) with lyrics "We'll pray for Him!". The piano accompaniment is shown in two staves at the bottom, with a large slur covering the first two measures. The lyrics "We'll pray for Him!" are repeated under the piano accompaniment.



(The Virgin is again alone beside the manger, over which the Ox and the Ass have continued to breathe)

Tranquillo (♩ = 63)

106

*dolcissimo ed espr.*

The Virgin

Lento (♩ = 100)

The thyme soon will bloom, And mar-i-gold blow, The

*poco rall.*

thyme soon will bloom, And the li-lac flow'r! And heav-y my Children (on the stage; a few) We'll

*poco rall.*

107

*a tempo*

sor-row, And bit-ter this hour! The thyme soon will flow'r, And pray for Him! We'll pray for Him!

107

*a tempo*

v. *rall.*  
 mar-i-gold blow, The bee find their bloom, And my heart a tomb!—

(on) *a tempo* *poco rall.* *rall. fino al fine*  
 Children We'll pray for Him!

(off) (Outside, far away) *pp*  
 We'll pray for Him!

*a tempo* *poco rall.* *rall. fino al fine*

The Virgin  
 Sleep! Sleep, well-be-lov'd!...

Children (far away in the fields) *ppp*  
 No-ël!—

*ppp* *lunga*