

Arranged by Jack Schrader

REFERENCE FOR REPRESENTATION OF THE PROPERTY O

HOPE Publishing Company Carol Stream IL 60188

www.hopepublishing.com

Foreword

The Christmas story is really the essence of the gospel, the good news, the best news imaginable. It is the story of the Son of God becoming the Son of Man, the second person of the triune God humbling himself to become like us, one of us, so he could be our eternal Savior. Therefore, the focus of this cantata is rightfully Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

Hearing the beautiful Christmas story year after year is reassuring and rewarding. As I was preparing and writing this work, I was constantly trying to put myself into the place of the musical director, the choir members, the narrators, and, most importantly, the congregation. I believe we have achieved a good mixture of the new and the old, the traditional infused with the freshness of the contemporary.

As with most large, seasonal musical works, the final product is as large or small as the vision and resources of the group that is presenting it. Even though full orchestrations are available, this cantata may be performed with only Choir, Piano, and Narration, and it would have a good musical impact and message. Or, it may be expanded to include costumed actors who make their appearances as cued by the narration, forming tableaux depicting the appropriate scenes.

In any gathering of worshipers and potential worshipers, it is important to provide opportunity for congregational participation. You will note that "Silent Night," "O Come, Let Us Adore Him," "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing," and "For He Alone Is Worthy," all invite the congregation to sing. A separate page of texts of these songs has been provided to facilitate inclusion in the printed program, or, ideally, on the video screens of the worship center. Regarding the narration, we suggest you choose narrators who are able to dramatically express the thoughts and words of the scripts with energy and passion, not just for the richness of their voices. Their parts should be equally as captivating as the musical portions, which will take much practice.

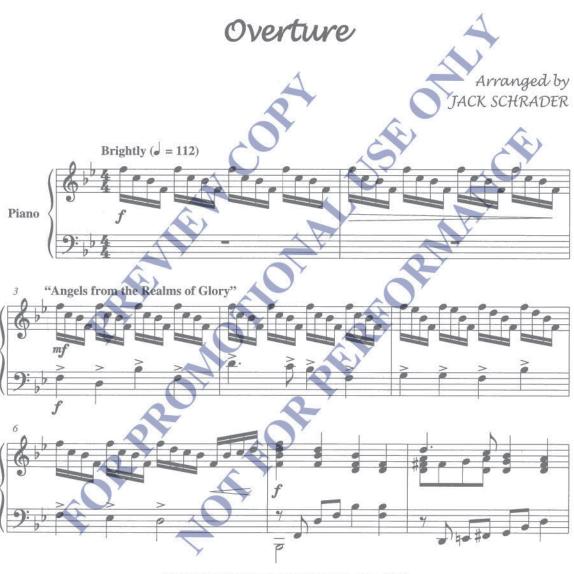
After hearing the Christmas story, after hearing the good news, this "best news imaginable," it is only natural to expect a response. May the hope of the Remnant be your hope. May the joy of the shepherds be your joy. May the wonder of Mary and Joseph be real to you this Christmas. And, may you overflow with anticipation at the prospect of telling others about the Savior. *Go Tell It!*

HOPE Publishing Company Since 1892

Contents

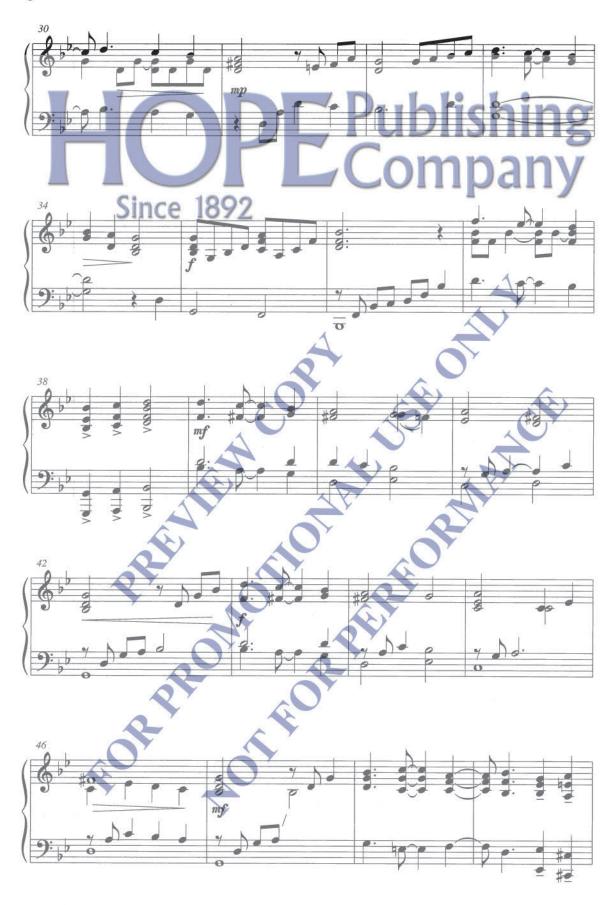
	Overture
I.	Angels from the Realms of Glory9
II.	Come, Messiah, Come
III.	How Great Our Joy
IV.	Still, Still, Still
V.	Mary, Did You Know?
VI.	Silent Night
VII.	Christmas Medley
VIII.	Go Tell It!
	ROP PROPERTY

Go Tell It! La Christmas Cantatalishing Company Since 1892

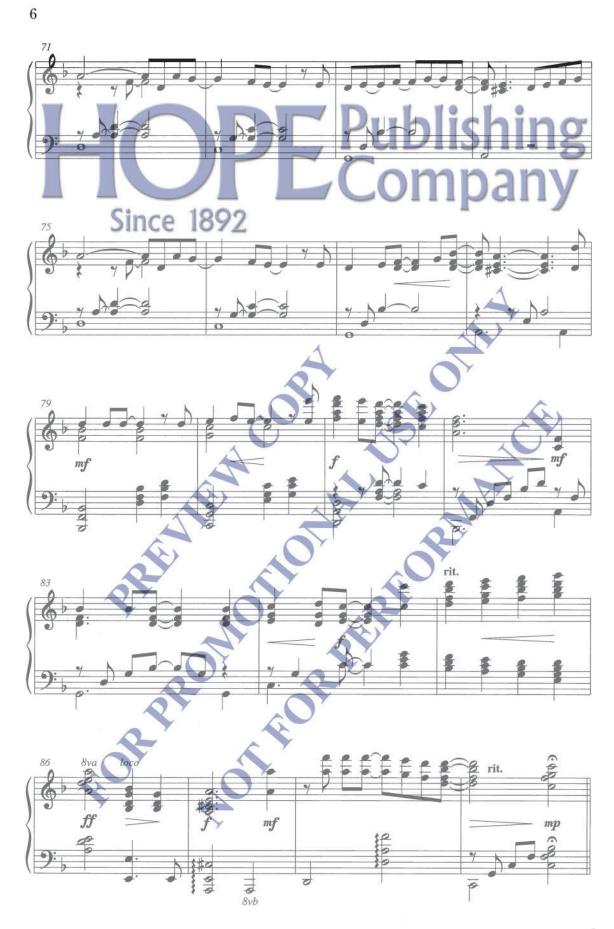


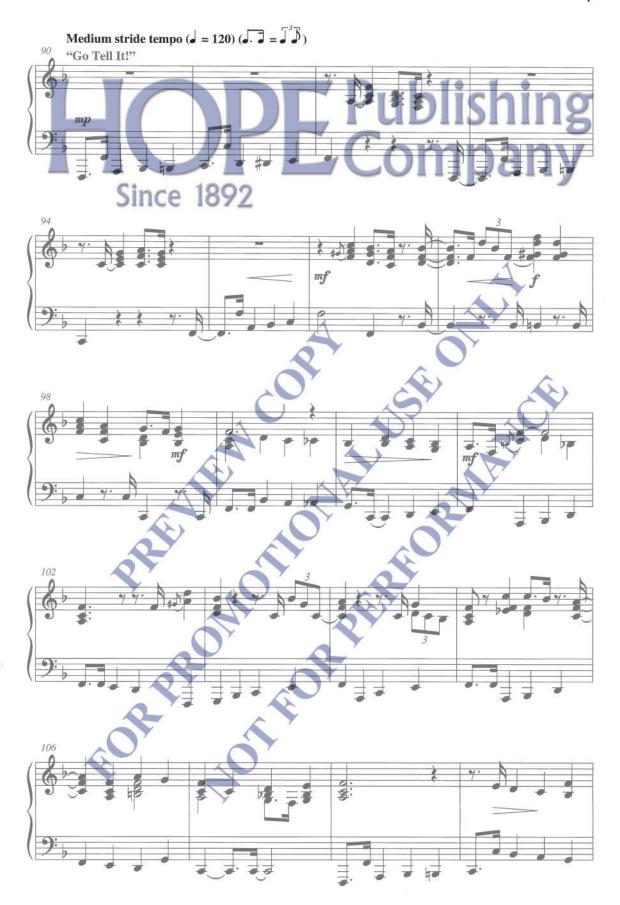
© 2008 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. www.hopepublishing.com 800-323-1049 All rights reserved.













Prayer of Invocation:

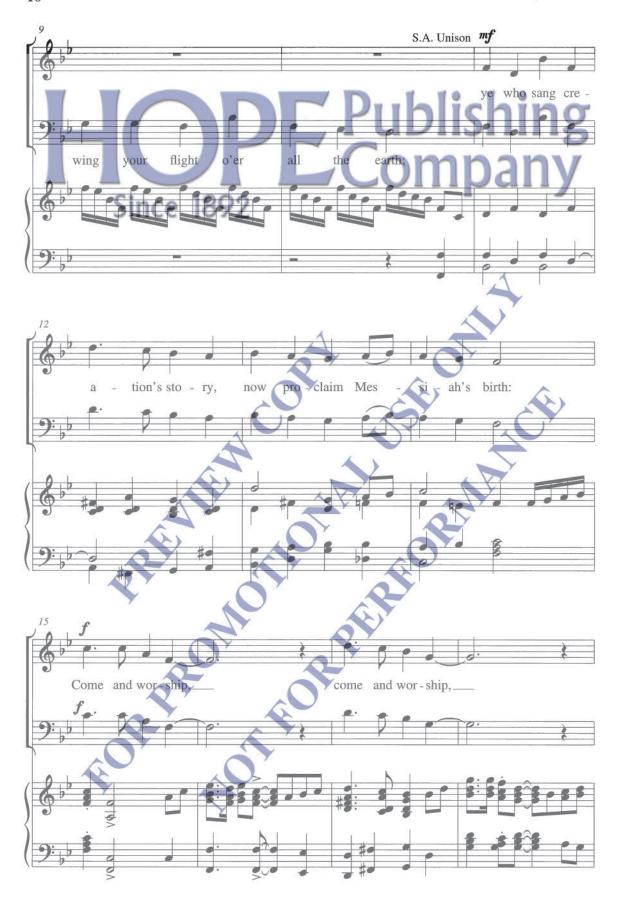
(The local ministry staff should feel free to use their own prayer with more local references and application, dedicating this performance to the glory of God and the propagation of the gospel.)

"Holy Father in heaven, our hearts are warmed by the season of Christmas. We love the sights and sounds, the joy and the lights, the gifts and the gatherings, the family times, the traditions and tearful nostalgia. Some of us, however, enter into this season with fearful anticipation of the stresses it can bring. Our memories of Christmases past may not be pleasant. For those of our number, and for all of us gathering, we pray that this retelling of the Christmas story, the story of your infinite love for all humankind, will so captivate our hearts that we will be bursting to "go tell it." May Jesus, the Spotless Lamb who came to be our Savior, be our focus, as the plan for our redemption unfolds in song and story. May the Holy Spirit give us a fresh perspective of your sovereign purpose, we pray in our Savior's name, Amen."

I. Angels from the Realms of Glory



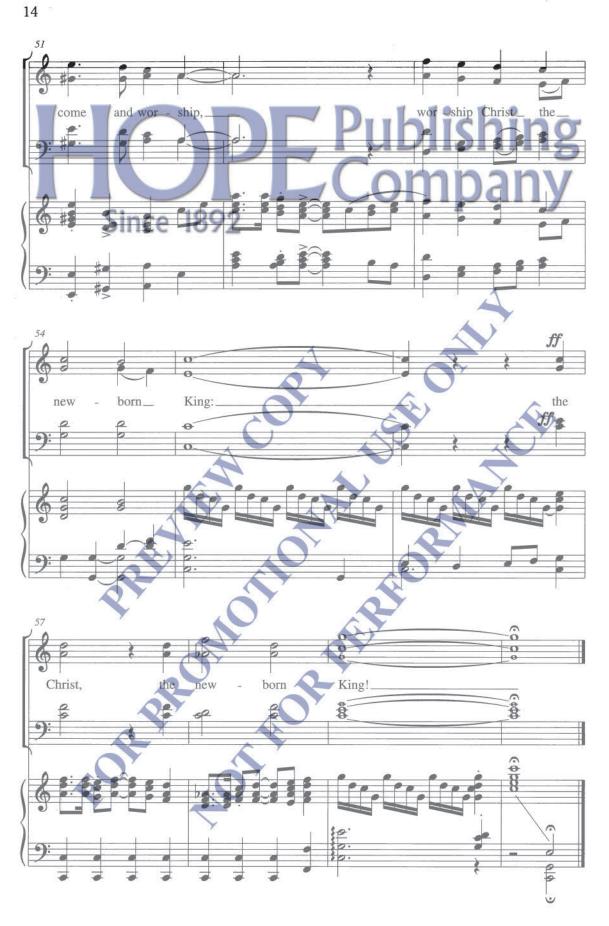
© 2008 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. www.hopepublishing.com 800-323-1049 All rights reserved.











Narrator 1 (Male):

The call goes out to worship Christ the King, the Messiah. Just as the heavenly host have worshiped the triune God since ancient times, may *we* worship him together.

Narrator 2 (Female):

Just as the shepherds were astonished at the angels' news, may we be awed by the presence of the incarnate Son of God.

Narrator 1:

Just as the Magi left their contemplations to seek the Messiah, may we seek to worship him.

Narrator 2:

And just as Simeon and Anna recognized his sudden appearance on earth, may we experience the consummation of *our* hope and expectation in the person of Christ as *we* worship together.

Narrator 1

The voice of God was silent. No prophet of God had spoken for four . . . hundred . . . years. The ancient prophecies remained, but the spiritual darkness seemed to be steadily encroaching on the people of God. Many could not endure the interminable waiting for the promised Messiah, and simply gave up.

Narrator 2:

But, God always has a Remnant, a faithful few who never stop believing, never stop expecting... people of hope such as Zechariah and Elizabeth, Simeon, Anna, and . . . Joseph and Mary.

Narrator 1:

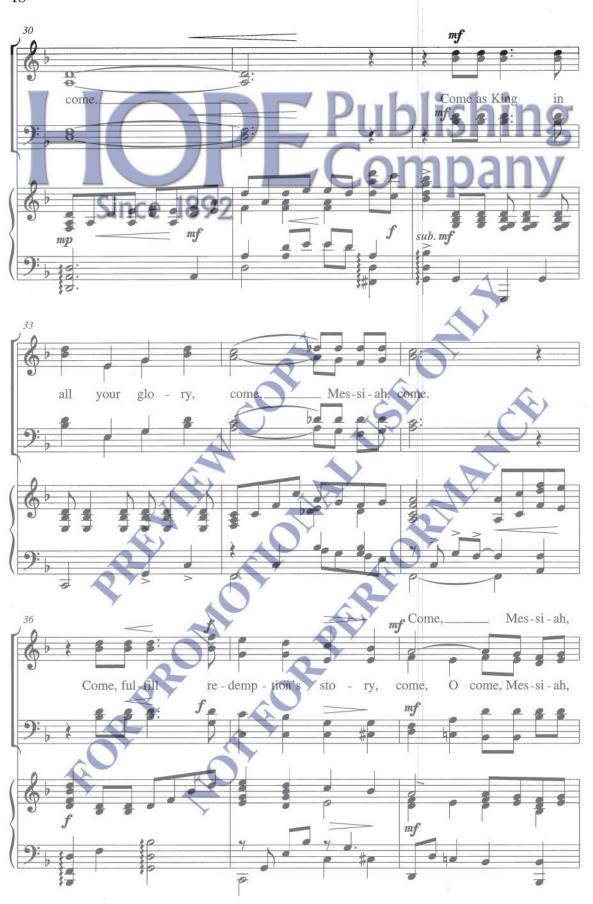
(Music begins) Through the silence, through the darkness, the heartcry of the people of God was . . . come, Messiah . . . come.















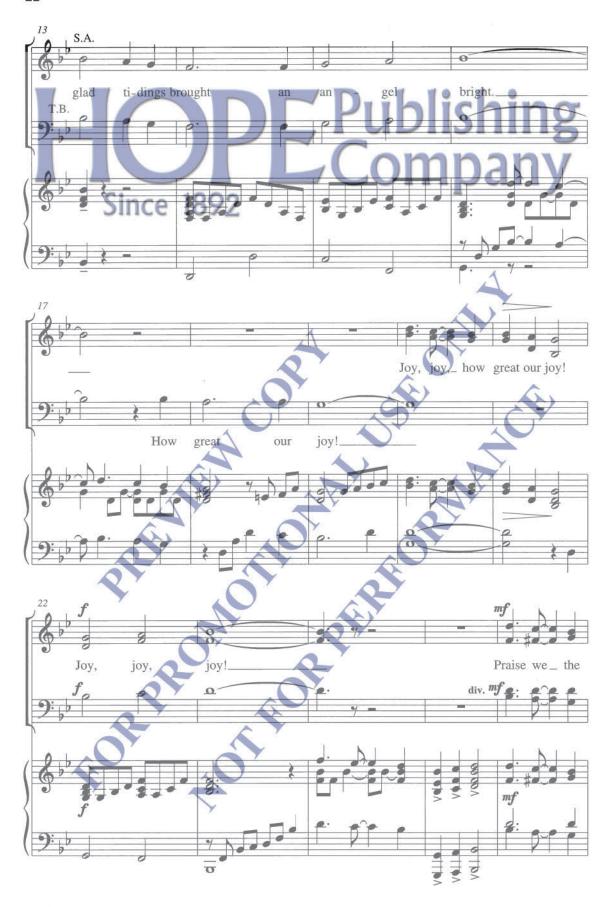
Narrator 1: There was no reason to expect that this night watching the sheep on the hillsides near Bethlehem was different from any other. But when God breaks into our lives, it can be a very spectacular display.

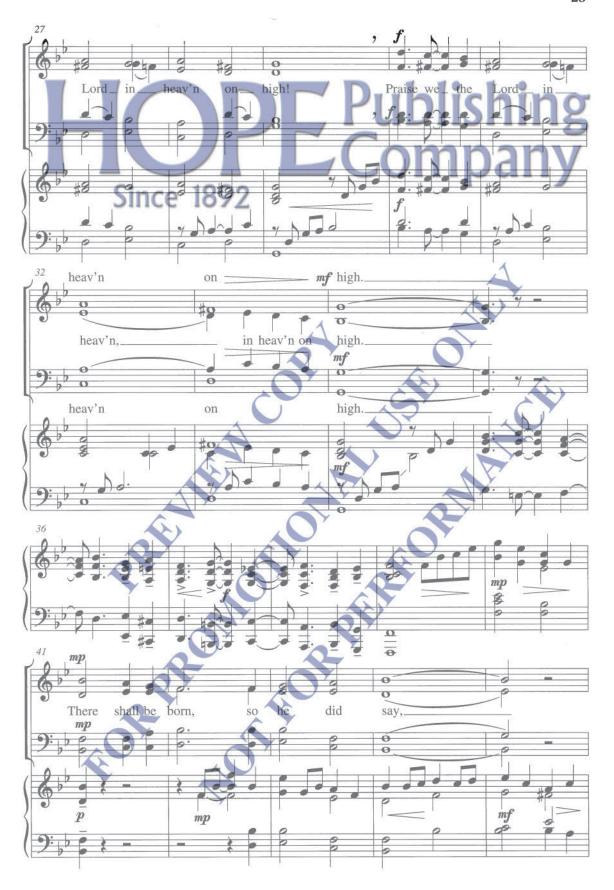
Narrator 2: The shepherds were terrified by the sudden appearance of the angel of the Lord, followed by a whole host of angels, announcing the birth of Messiah, the long awaited Savior. But they soon realized his announcement was a source of unspeakable joy... great, great joy.

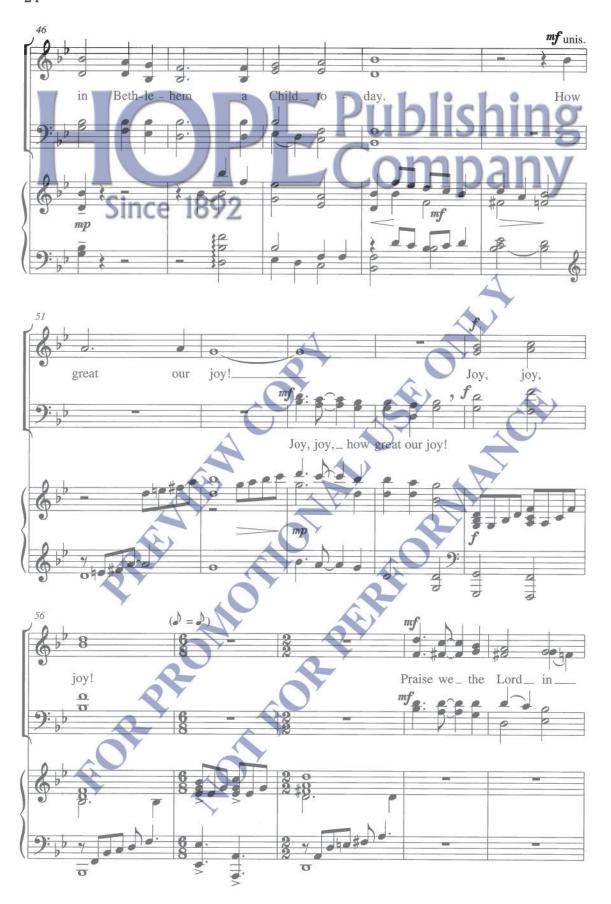
Sin He How Great Our Joy!

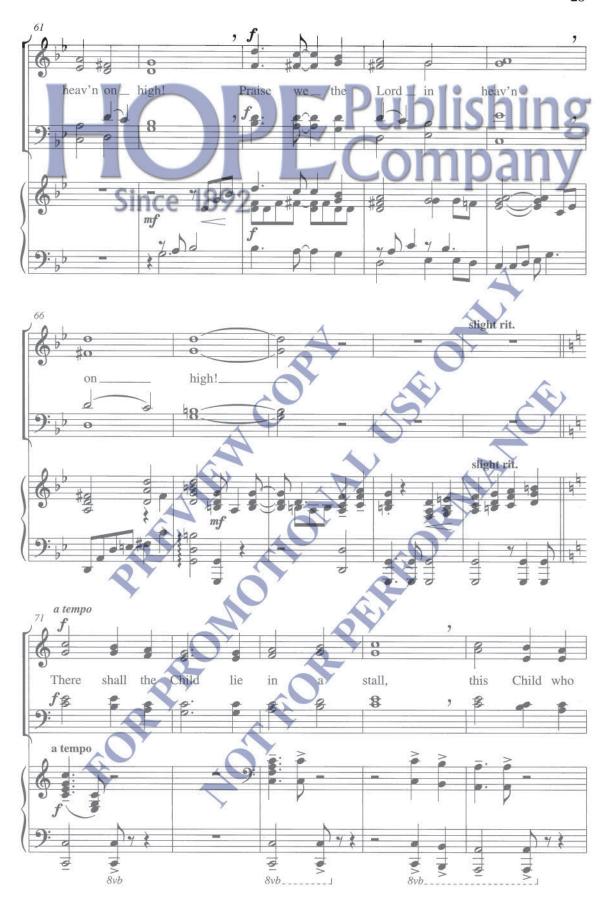


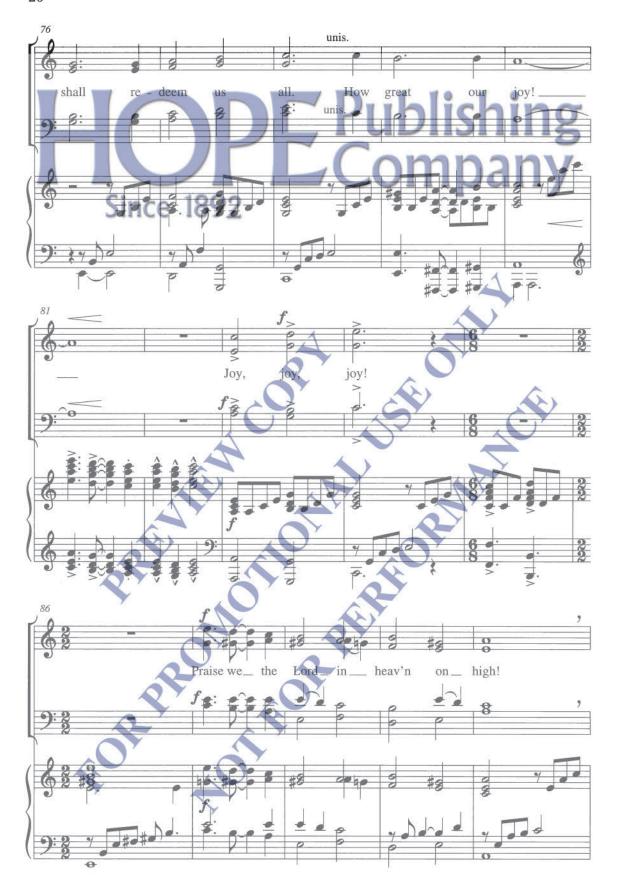
© 2003 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. www.hopepublishing.com 800-323-1049 All rights reserved.

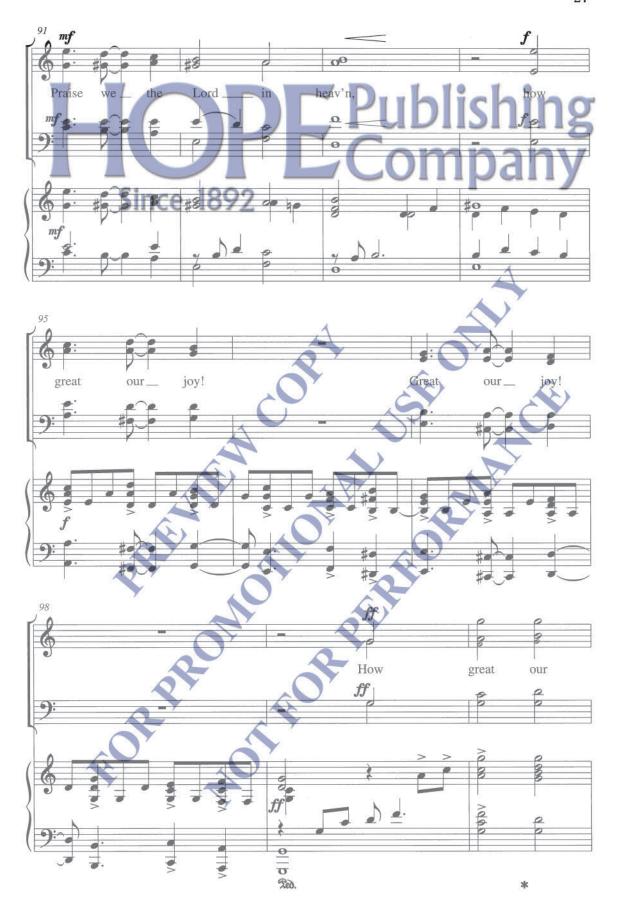


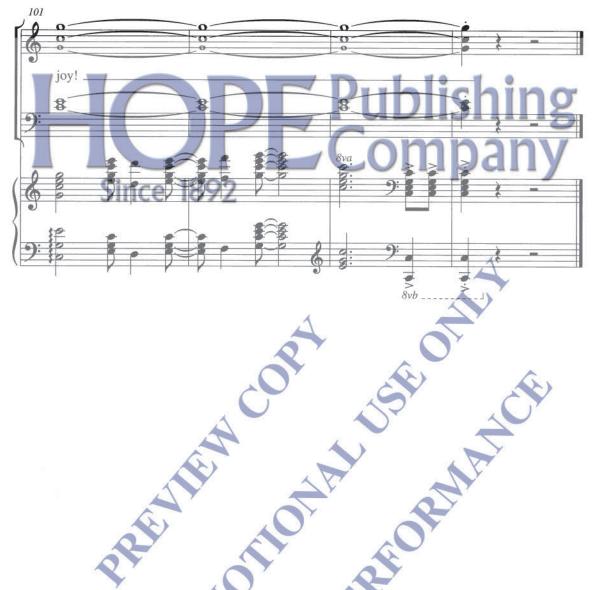












Narrator 1: The shepherds had not wasted any time in traveling to Bethlehem, and there weren't very many stables to search in this small hamlet, so they came upon the new little family rather quickly, all things considered. For Mary and Joseph, the night had been filled with uncertainty and apprehension, the pain of childbirth, and the tension of their squalid surroundings. But, when the Son of God was born, Mary wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him on the soft hay of the manger.

Narrator 2: As the shepherds entered the stable, Mary picked up her newborn child and held him in her arms. The silence of the ages returned. But now it was a silence born of awe and wonder, the silence of unspeakable joy, and of the reality that all were in the presence of Christ the King, the Messiah, the Savior foretold by prophets and angels. (Music begins) Mary quietly pondered the powerful essence of this reality . . . the Son of God had come to earth to do his Father's will.

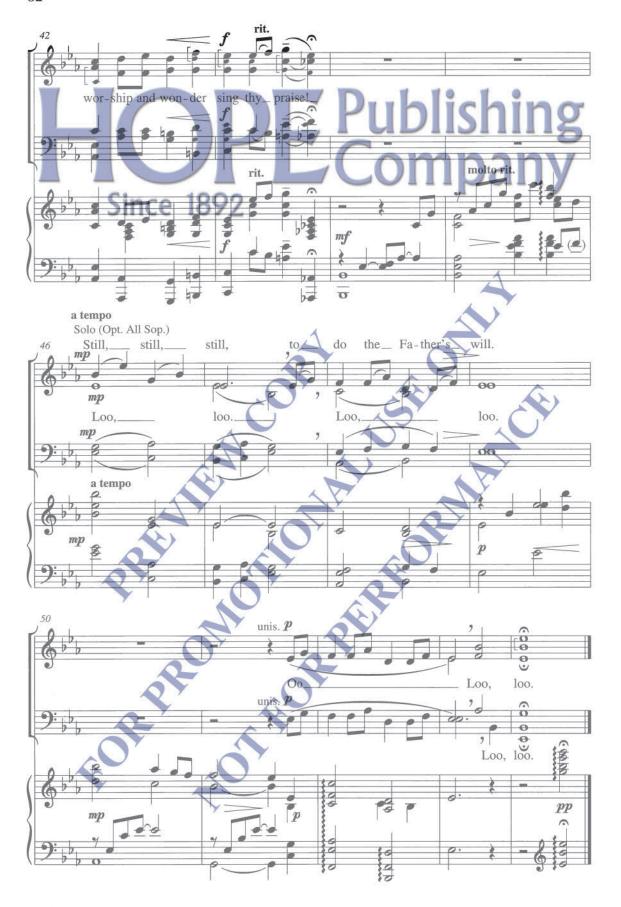
IV. Still, Still, Still



© 2002 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. www.hopepublishing.com 800-323-1049 All rights reserved.







Narrator 2: Mary was a very young person when it was revealed to her that she was the one chosen to bear the Messiah. The angel Gabriel who appeared to her with this revelation announced that she was "highly favored." If anything, this was an understatement in Mary's mind, because every Jewish girl and woman was confronted with the possibility that they could be the mother of the coming Messiah. After the astonishment wore off, and Mary's initial questions were answered, her response to the angel was one of abject humility and complete submission to the will of God. She said, "I am the Lord's servant. Be it unto me according to your word."

Narrator 1: Mary was also known to be a thoughtful, reflective person, one given to pondering the implications of events happening around her. At one point she burst forth with a joyous song of praise, magnifying and glorifying the Lord for his grace to her and to all humankind. She was obviously a woman of the scriptures, quoting freely from the psalms, and acknowledging her faith in the Word of God and the ancient prophecies.

Narrator 2: We sometimes wonder what she may have expected from her unique child. As she was watching him grow through childhood and into maturity, did she have any inkling what his life would be like, since he was the very Son of God?

Narrator 1: We know she considered him to be her Saytor.

Narrator 2: She delivered him into this world, and he would one day deliver her from this world.

Narrator 1: Did she anticipate the miracles of healing?

Narrator 2: Or raising the dead to life?

Narrator 1: Did she ever think he would walk on water?

Narrator 2: Or calm a storm with the sweep of his hand?

Narrator 1: Did her ponderings ever include the wonderful awareness of his personhood and his eternal titles? For every true believer down through the centuries knows implicitly that Mary's little son is God incarnate. (Music begins)

Narrator 2: He was and is the Lord of all creation and the ruler of the nations.

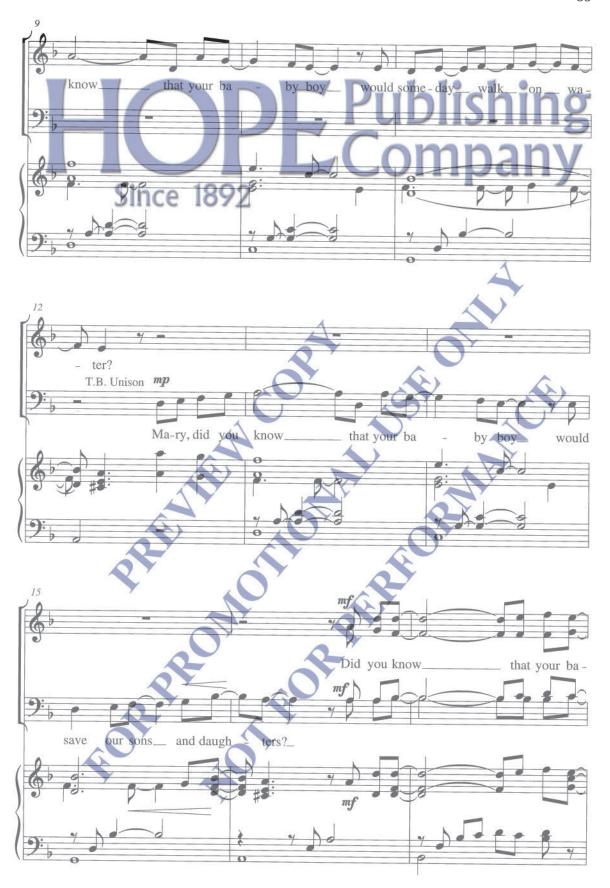
Narrator 1: Mary's sleeping child was heaven's perfect Lamb.

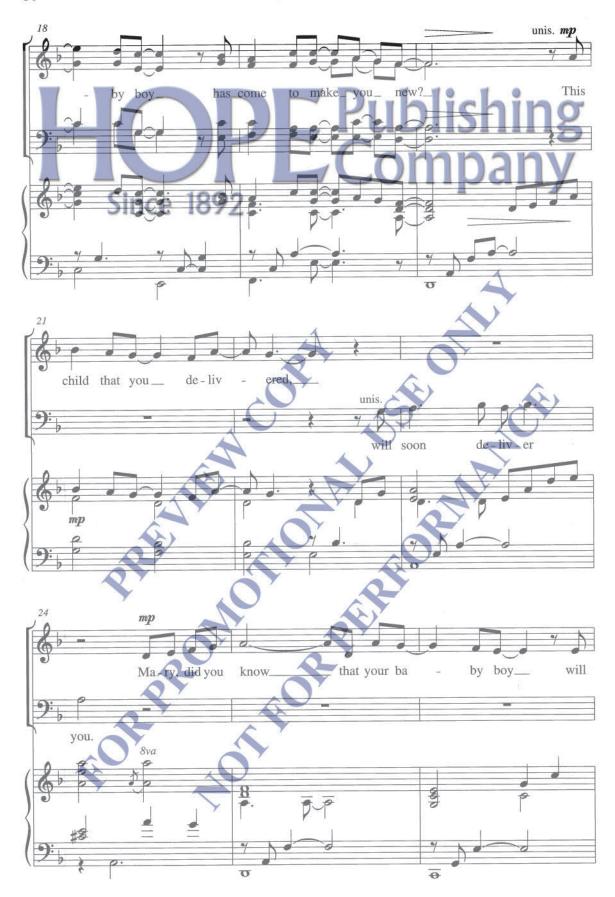
Both: and the Great . . . I AM.

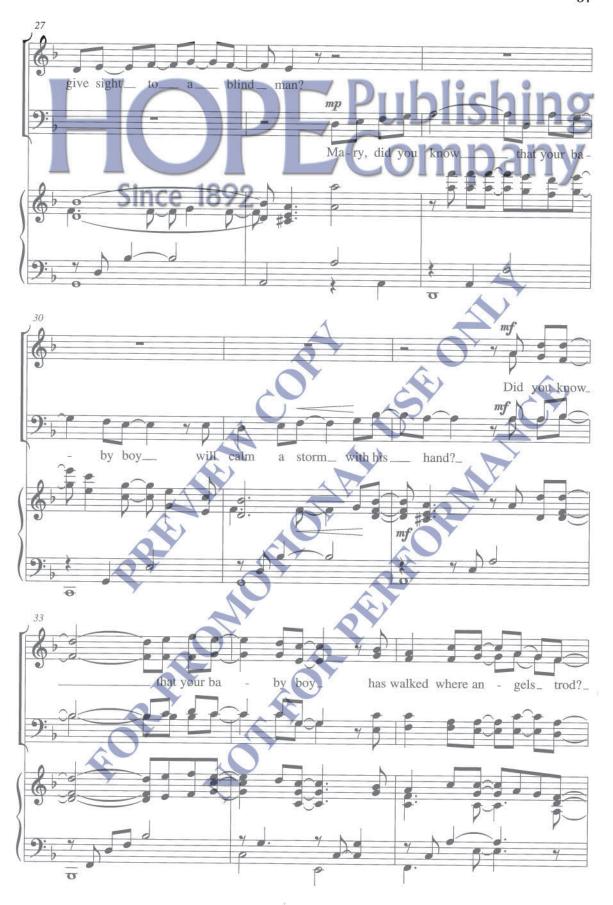
V. Mary, Díd You Know?

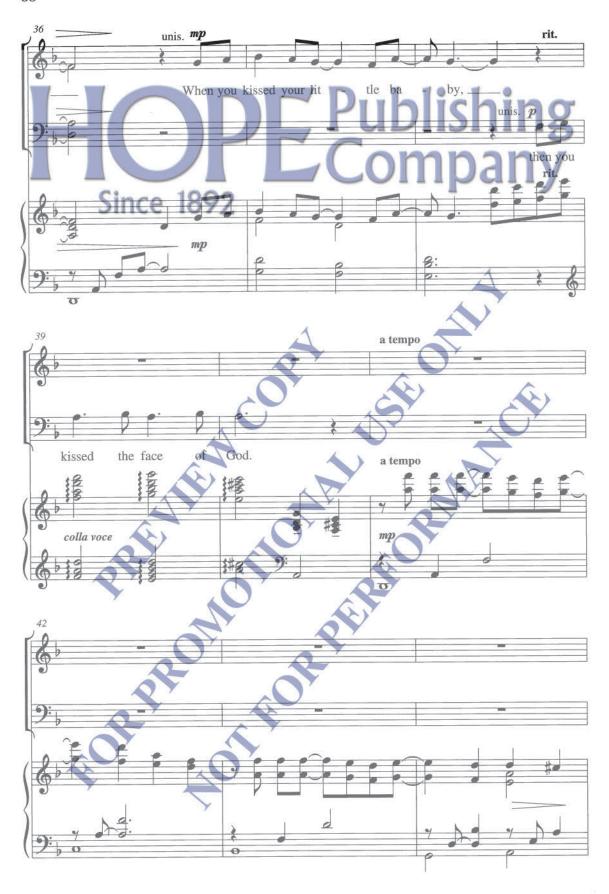


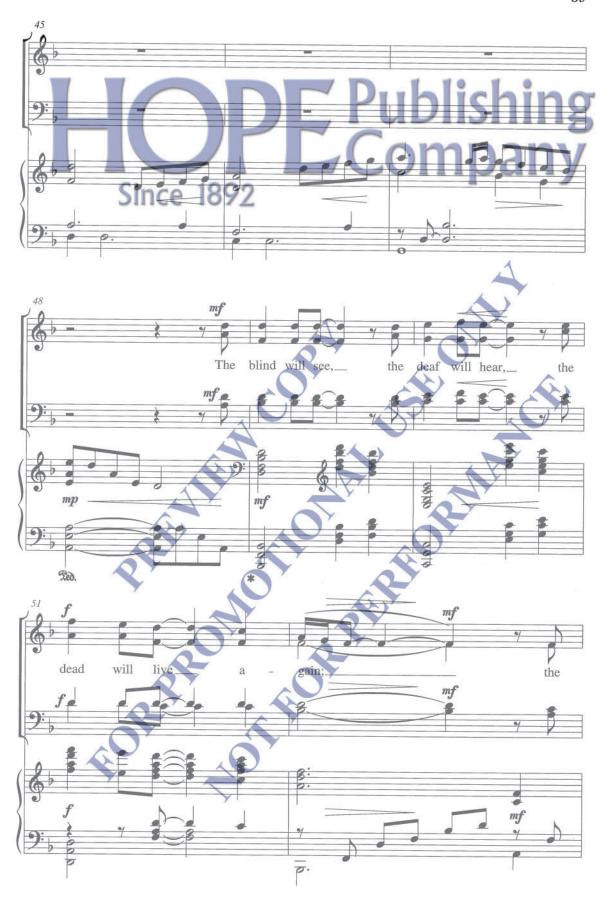
© 1991 and this Arr. © 1998 by Word Music (a div. of WORD MUSIC) and Rufus Music (admin. by Gaither Copyright Management) ASCAP. All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission.

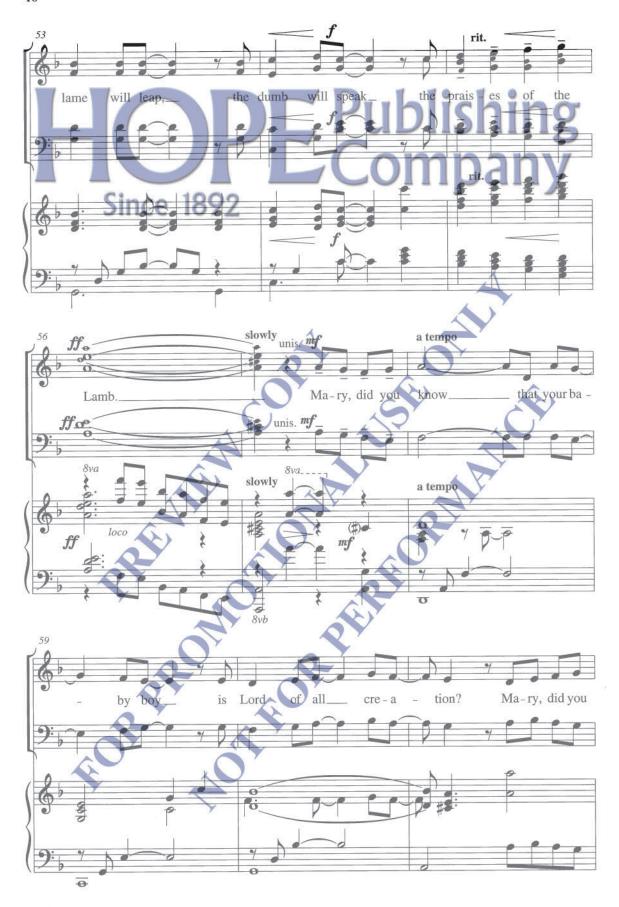
















Narrator 2: It was a perfect moment for pondering, really . . . a holy moment.

(Music begins) In a stable, in the town prophesied hundreds of years earlier by the prophet Micah, the silence of the ages descended once again on this holy night. It was the profound silence that comes from

VI. Silent Night pany

Arranged by Since 1892

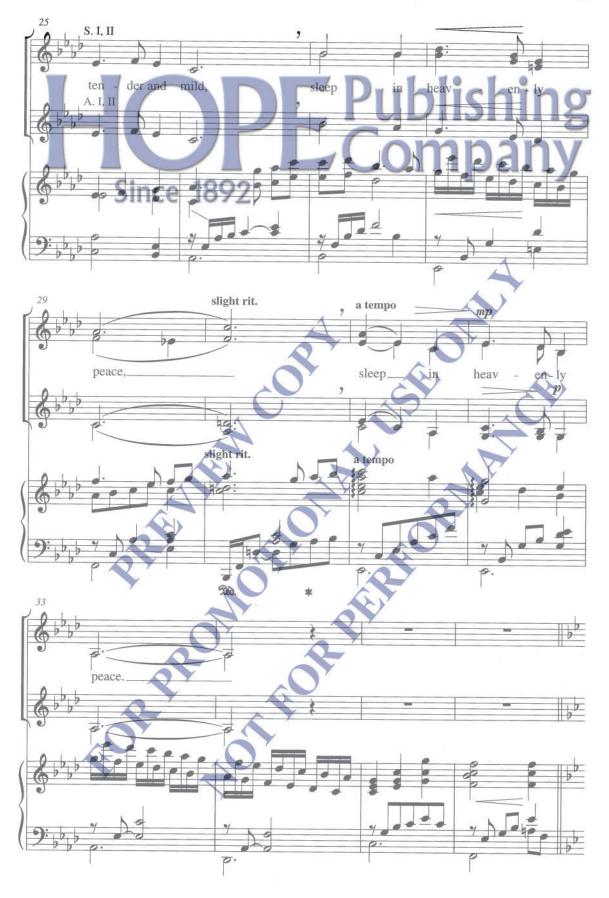
JACK SCHRADER

Words by JOSEPH MOHR Music by FRANZ GRUBER



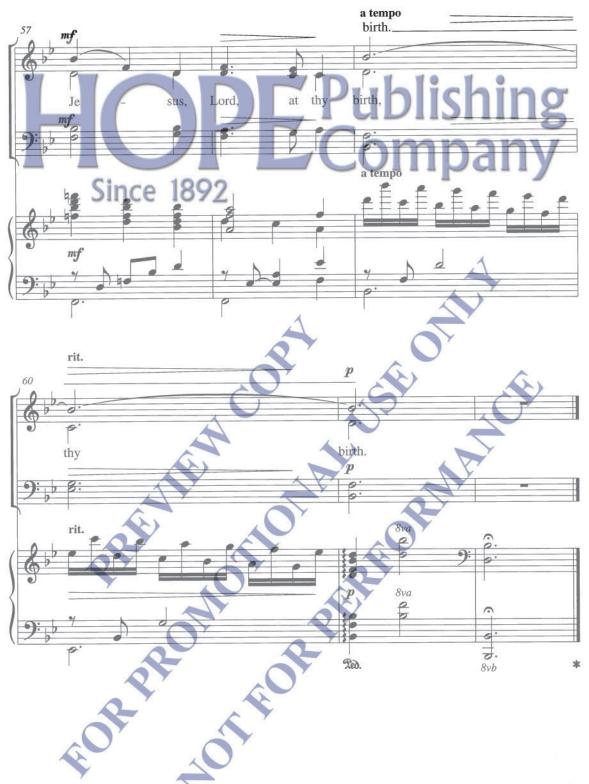
© 2008 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. www.hopepublishing.com 800-323-1049 All rights reserved.





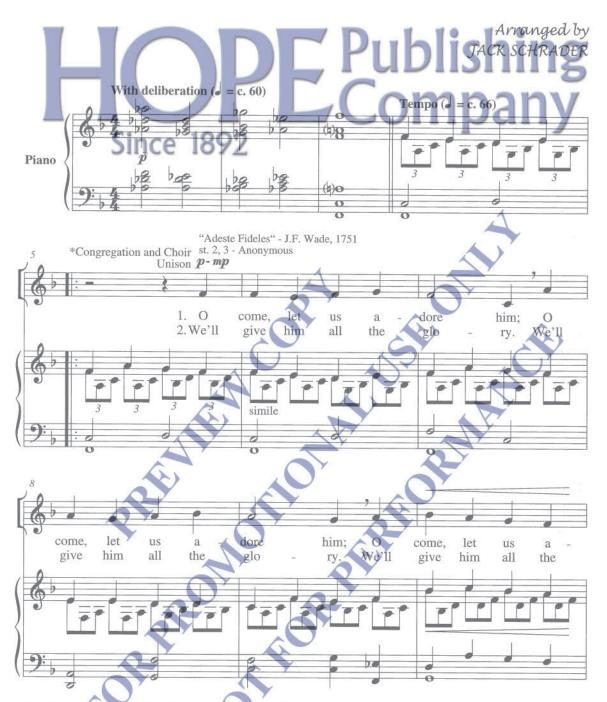






Narrator 1: (Music begins) "Jesus, Lord, at thy birth." Please continue to sing with the choir as we honor Jesus as Lord. "O Come, Let Us Adore Him."

VII. Christmas Medley

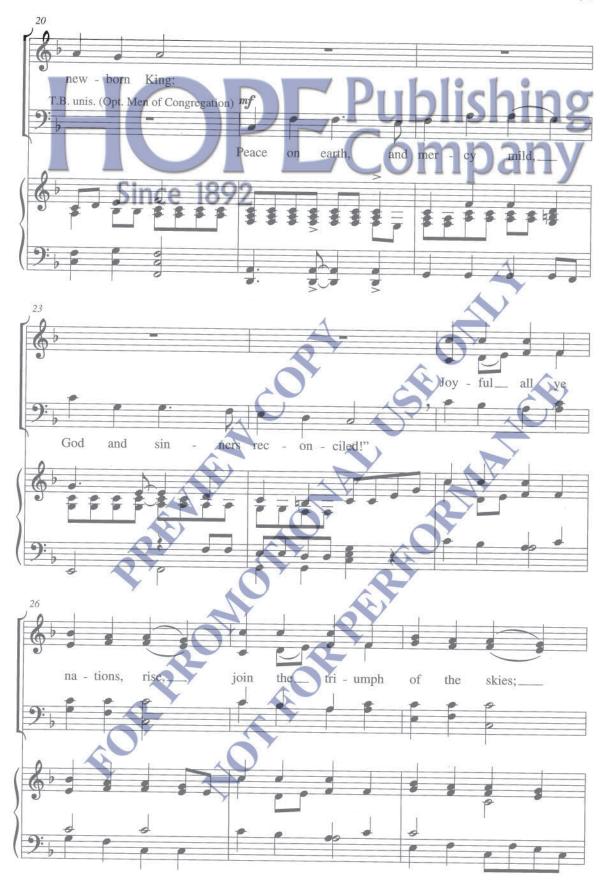


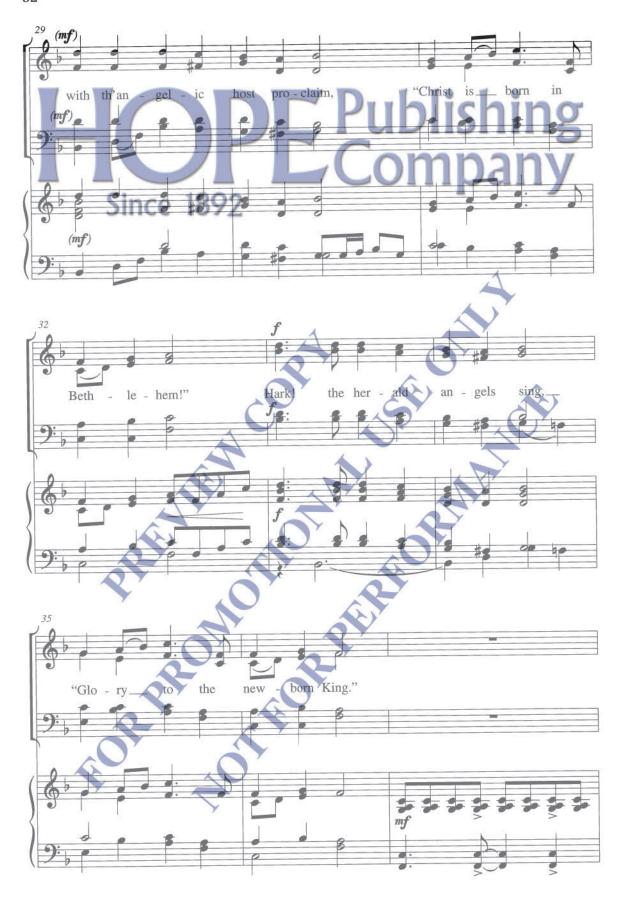
*The Congregation, if invited to participate, should be instructed to sing the melody at all times, except the second stanza of "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" which is choir only.

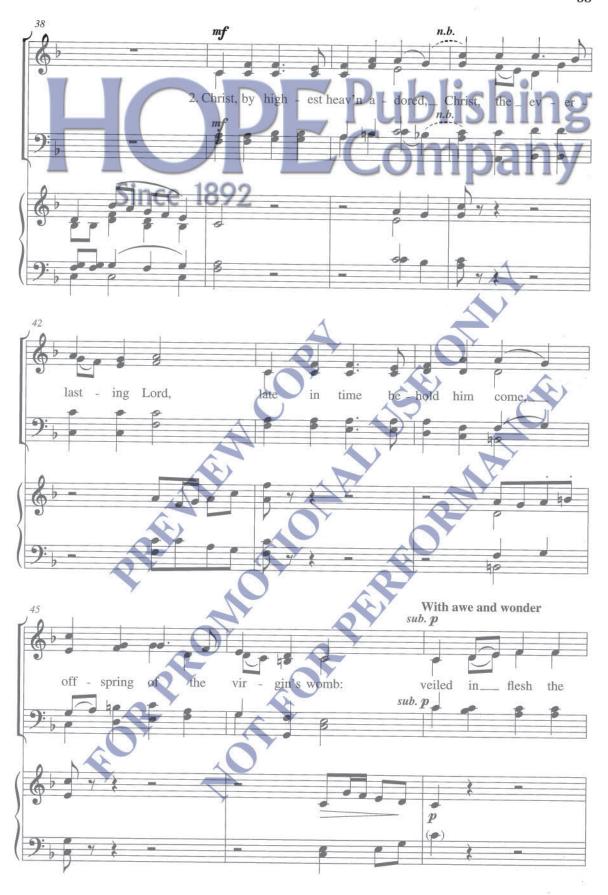
© 2008 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. www.hopepublishing.com 800-323-1049 All rights reserved.

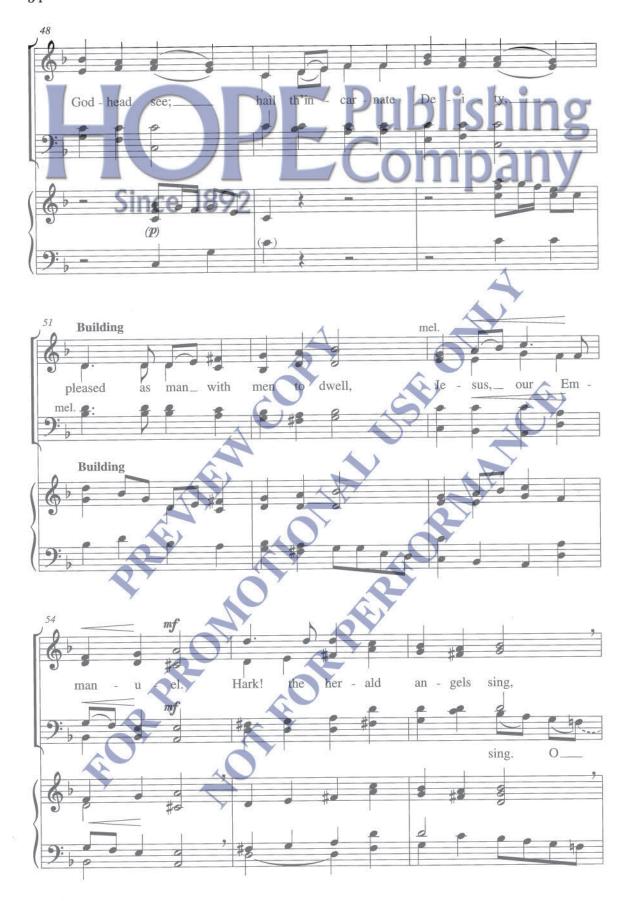
The copylng of this music is prohibited by law and is not covered by CCLI, LicenSing, or OneLicense.net.





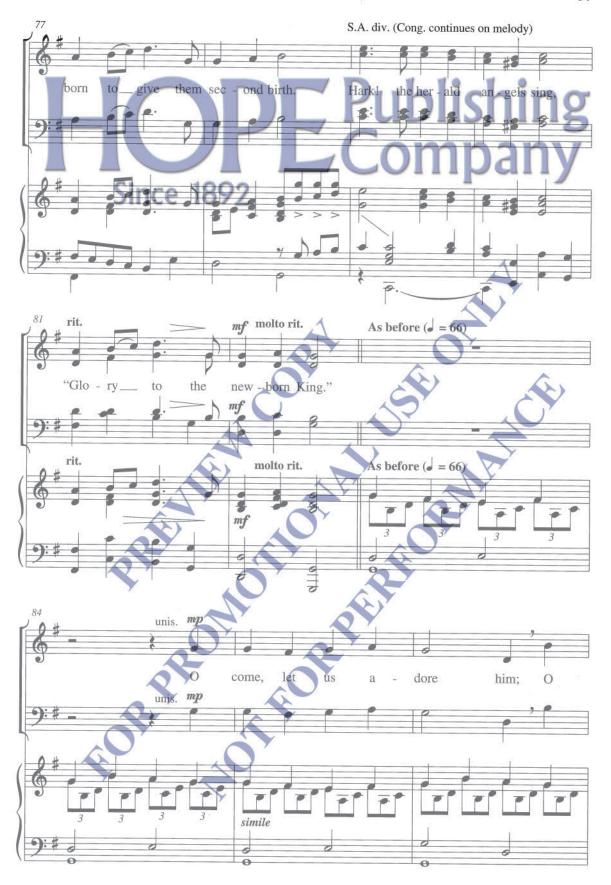














(The congregation may be seated. The Pastor may choose to step in and use the following narrations, or use response and/or wrap-up comments of his own choosing, or allow the narrators to continue. If the Pastor speaks at this moment, omit the following four narrations and skip to the prayer of invitation, or Narrator 2.)

Narrator 2: "Christ, the Lord." In the quietness of this holy moment, it is true that Jesus Christ is Lord, Lord of all creation. The question he poses to each one of us right now is: "Will I be Lord of your life?"

God, the triune God, has reached out to you. He is the one who initiated the ancient plan of redemption for sinful humankind. God broke the long silence and shined into our dark world by sending his Unique Son, the Second Person of the Trinity, to be our Savior.

Narrator 2: We don't have the option of ignoring him. Our darkened hearts have alienated us from a relationship with God. But the Lord who shatters the darkness wants to enter your life and be your Savior right now.

Narrator 1: Jesus himself said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except through me." There is no better time than this moment to acknowledge your sin to him, to invite him into your life as Savior and Lord.

(A prayer of invitation may be offered at this time.)

(Narrators resume.)

Narrator 2: Hearing the beautiful Christmas story every year is rewarding and reassuring, but we need to *do something* with it. We need to do what the angels did, and what the shepherds did . . .

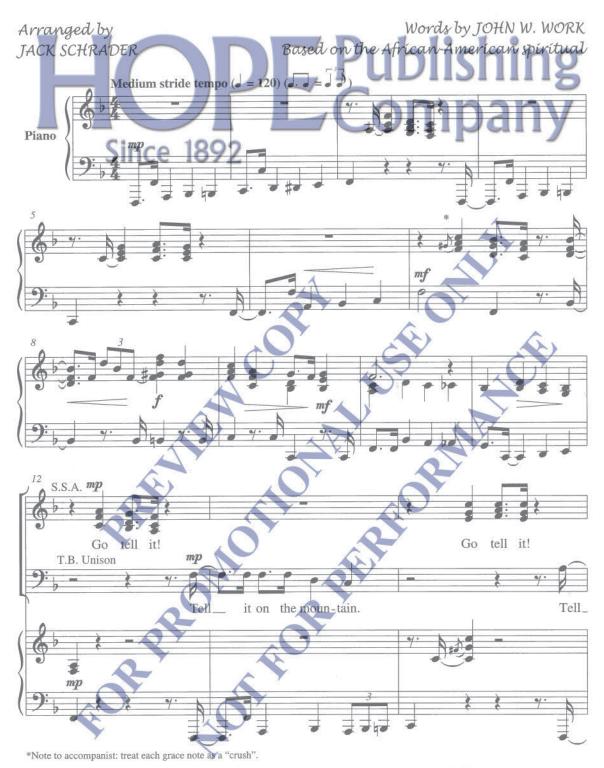
Narrator 1: and what Jesus commanded his people of all ages to do, and that is . . .

Both: ... Go Tell It! (Music begins

(Optional narration:)

Narrator 1: Turn right now to three people and say, "Christ is born!"

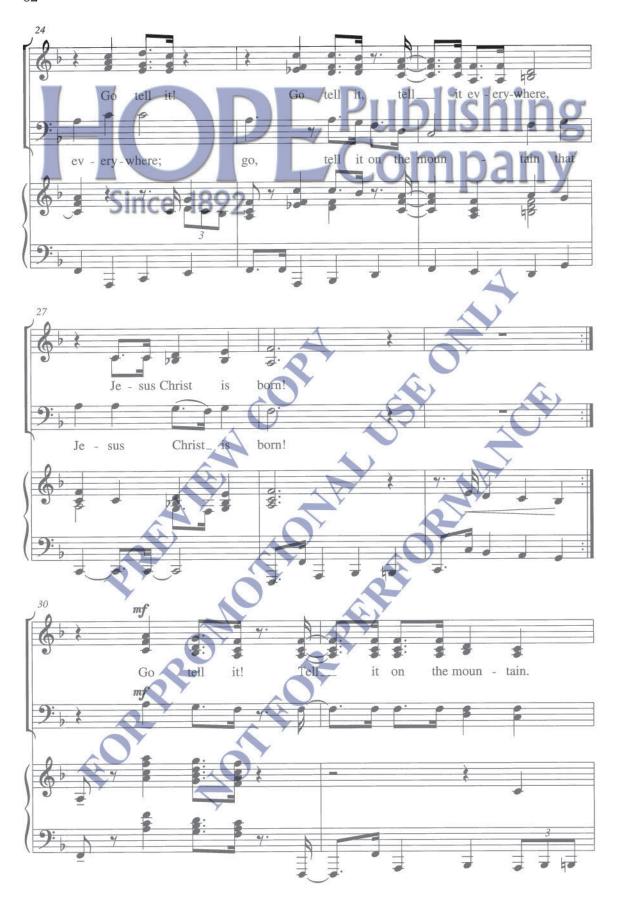
VIII. Go Tell It!



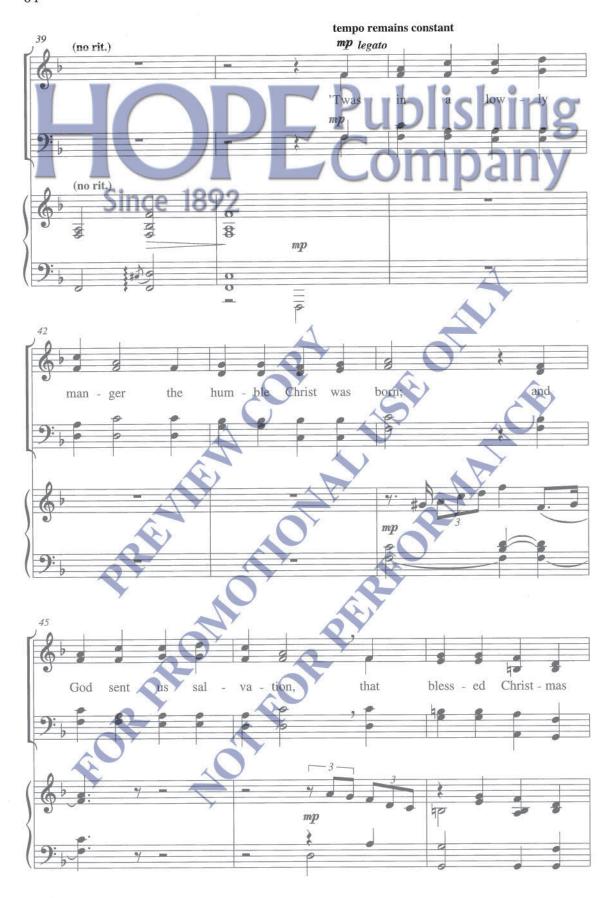
© 2001 and this Arr. © 2008 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. www.hopepublishing.com 800-323-1049
All rights reserved.

The copying of this music is prohibited by law and is not covered by CCLI, LicenSing, or OneLicense.net.

















For the Congregation

Silent Night (second verse)

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Joseph Mohr - Franz Gruber

O Come, Let Us Adore Him

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

We'll give him all the glory, we'll give him all the glory, we'll give him all the glory, Christ the Lord.

ADESTE FIDELES, J. F. Wade, 1751, St. 2, 3-Anonymous

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing!

(Women)

(1) Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:

(Men)

Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

(All)

Joyful all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

(Second verse, Choir only)

(All, stand)

(3) Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die, born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Charles Wesley - Felix Mendelssohn

O Come, Let Us Adore Him (Reprise)

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

For he alone is worthy, for he alone is worthy, for he alone is worthy, Christ, the Lord.

(Please be seated)

PE Publishing Company

JM,

PREVIEW CORY USE OF THE ORDER OF THE OR





PREVIEW OF BUILDS

EOF T





www.hopepublishing.com 800-323-1049

