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Notes: "When I Kneel at the Manger"

The text to, "When I Kneel at the Manger," with its message for all ages, is based on one of my all-time favorite poems, the last stanza of Christina Rossetti's lovely carol, "In the Bleak Mid-winter" . . .

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man I would do my part—
Yet what can I give Him? Give my heart.

This anthem reminds each of us that no gift is too small to offer to the Child but that the best gift of all is the gift of ourselves, of our hearts, our lives, our talents, our devotion. That gift is what Christmas is all about.

Mary Kay Beall

When I Kneel at the Manger Tonight

3

FOR TWO PARTS, ANY COMBINATION*, AND KEYBOARD ACCOMPANIMENT

Inspired by the Christina Rossetti poem, "What Can I Give Him?"

Words and Music by
MARY KAY BEALL (ASCAP)

Gently, with movement (♩ = 84)

Keyboard *mf* *ritard.*

Part I - II in unison *mf*

What can I give to Him, a heav - en - ly King?

a tempo

10

What can I give to Him? I have noth - ing to bring, but I'll of - fer my

heart when I kneel at the man - ger to - night.

*If sung by mixed voices, men should sing Part I.

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(20)

Part I

What can I give to Him, to

hon - or His birth?

What can I

Part II

give to Him? I have noth - ing of worth but I'll

The musical score is written for a piano and voice. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The score is divided into two parts: Part I and Part II. Part I begins with a piano introduction in the first system, followed by the vocal melody. The lyrics for Part I are 'What can I give to Him, to'. Part II begins in the second system with the lyrics 'hon - or His birth?'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both the right and left hands. The score is watermarked with 'HOPE Publishing Company Since 1892' and 'PREVIEW COPY NOT FOR PERFORMANCE'.

30

of fer my heart when I kneel at the man - ger to -

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night.



40

If I were a shep-herd boy, I would give Him a lamb.



cresc.

If I were a might - y king, I would give Him a

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cresc.

slowing greatly *a tempo*

gold-en ring. But what can I

slowing greatly *mf* *mel.*

bright, gold-en ring.

slowing greatly *a tempo*

(50)

give to Him, I have noth - ing at all. What can I

give to Him? Would my gift be too small if I of - fer my

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heart when I kneel at the man-ger to - night;

60

slowing greatly *p* to - night.

slowing greatly *p*

slowing greatly *p*

Original Compositions by Mary Kay Beall

C 5010	Blessed by the Bread, Graced by the Wine	Two-Part Mixed
JR 224	Come, Let Us Sing	Two Parts
PP 151	Come to the Feast	Two-Part Mixed
PP 137	Come Unto Me	Two Parts
C 5029	Could You not Watch with Me One Hour?	SATB
AD 2057	God So Loved the World	Two-Part Mixed
PP 139	He Became a Lamb	SATB
C 5028	He Comes in the Name of the Lord	SATB Opt. Unison
PP 144	He Comes to Us in Simple Things	Two-Part Mixed
PP 123	He Is There!	Two Parts
PP 121	Hosanna! Hosanna!	Two Parts
A 663	Hosanna to the King of Kings	Two-Part Mixed
GC 911	How Great the Love	Two-Part Mixed
PP 147	In the Bread Broken	Three-Part Mixed
PP 158	Like a Lamb	Two-Part Mixed
PP 134	Make a Joyful Noise	Three Parts
PP 135	A Morning Prayer	Two-Part Mixed
A 714	On That Day When He Went Into Jerusalem	Two-Part Mixed
AD 2040	On This Christmas Night	Two Parts
PP 150	Once You Have Seen the Child	Two-Part Mixed
A 673	So We Come to Find the Child	Two Parts
A 695	Star-Led and Wonder Bound	SATB
C 5046	The Time Is Near	Two-Part Mixed
AD 2054	Unless You Consider the Child	SATB
A 662	We Have Come to Worship Him	Two
AD 2026	When I Kneel at the Manger Tonight	Two
AD 2032	Who Would Send a Baby?	Two Parts
A 651	With Grateful Heart, I Thank You, Lord	Two Parts

Price Code: B



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