

The First Noel

Molly Ijames

CONGREGATIONAL
A N T H E M

S E R I E S

The First Noel

For SATB Choir and Piano, with optional congregation
and optional orchestra*

Traditional English Carol
W. Sandy's *Christmas Carols, 1833*
Arranged by MOLLY JAMES

Delicately, *molto legato* ♩ = c. 80

SA *p*
No - el, no el,
TB unis. *p*
No el,

Delicately, *molto legato* ♩ = c. 80

p
1 2 3 4

poco rit.

a tempo

mp
Christ is born, no - el.
mp *p*

Christ is born, no - el.

poco rit.

a tempo

mp *p*
5 6 7 8

*Available separately: Score and parts for Orchestra (BP2415A)

Accompaniment track and part-dominant rehearsal tracks for BP2415 available only at beckenhorstpress.com.

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+ Congregation *p*

The first no -

This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics "The first no -". The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment line. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The piano part begins with a whole note chord in the left hand and a half note in the right hand.

This system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 9 through 12. The left hand plays a steady bass line, while the right hand plays a melodic line with eighth notes. Measure numbers 9, 10, 11, and 12 are indicated below the staff.

el the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor

This system contains the next two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics "el the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor". The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment line. The piano part continues with a similar rhythmic pattern.

This system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 13 through 16. The right hand features a more active melodic line with eighth notes. Measure numbers 13, 14, 15, and 16 are indicated below the staff.

shep - herds in fields where they lay; in fields where

This system contains the next two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics "shep - herds in fields where they lay; in fields where". The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment line. The piano part continues with a similar rhythmic pattern.

This system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 17 through 20. The right hand features a more active melodic line with eighth notes. Measure numbers 17, 18, 19, and 20 are indicated below the staff.

mp

they lay — keep - ing their sheep on a cold win - ter's

mp

21 22 23 24

mf

night — that was — so deep, No - el, — no -

mf

25 26 27 28

el, no - el, — no - el, — born is the

29 30 31 32

King of Is - ra - el. *mp*

King of Is - ra - el, no - el. *mp*

33 34 35 36

This system contains the first two vocal lines and the piano accompaniment. The vocal lines are in a B-flat major key with a common time signature. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand. Measure numbers 33, 34, 35, and 36 are indicated at the bottom of the piano part.

+ Congregation Women *p*

They look - ed up and

p gently

37 38 39 40

This system introduces a congregational vocal line for women, marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The piano accompaniment continues with a similar texture. Measure numbers 37, 38, 39, and 40 are indicated at the bottom of the piano part.

saw star shin-ing in the east be -

41 42 43 44

This system continues the vocal lines and piano accompaniment. The piano part includes measure numbers 41, 42, 43, and 44 at the bottom.

unis.
 yond — them far.
 + Congregation Men *mp*
 And — to — the — earth it —

and — so it con - tin - ued both
 gave — great light,

mf + All Congregation
 day — and night. No - el, — no - el, no -
mf

el, no - el. Born is the King of

57 58 59 60

Is - ra - el. Christ is

Congregation

Is - ra - el, no - el.

61 62 63 64

born, no - el! Then let us

rit. + Congregation *f* **Broadly**

rit. **Broadly**

65 66 67 68

all with one ac - cord sing prais - es

Musical notation for measures 69-72. The vocal line (treble clef) has lyrics: "all with one ac - cord sing prais - es". The piano accompaniment (grand staff) features chords and moving lines in both hands.

69 70 71 72

Piano accompaniment for measures 69-72. The grand staff shows chords and melodic lines in both hands.

to our heav'n - ly Lord. That hath made

Musical notation for measures 73-76. The vocal line (treble clef) has lyrics: "to our heav'n - ly Lord. That hath made". The piano accompaniment (grand staff) continues with chords and moving lines.

73 74 75 76

Piano accompaniment for measures 73-76. The grand staff shows chords and melodic lines in both hands.

earth and heav'n of naught and with His

Musical notation for measures 77-80. The vocal line (treble clef) has lyrics: "earth and heav'n of naught and with His". The piano accompaniment (grand staff) continues with chords and moving lines.

77 78 79 80

Piano accompaniment for measures 77-80. The grand staff shows chords and melodic lines in both hands.

blood man - kind hath bought. No - el, no -

81 82 83 84

el, no - el, no - el. Born is the

85 86 87 88

(Congregation continues on repeated chorus)

King of Is - ra - el. No - el, no -

89 90 91 92

ff

el, no - el, no - el. Born is the

93 94 95 96

- Congregation

King of Is - ra - el.

97 98 99 100

dim. poco a poco

rit. *mf* Slower

No - el,

unis. mf

No - el,

rit. Slower

101 102 103 104

The musical score consists of three systems. The first system has a vocal line in treble clef and a piano line in bass clef. The vocal line starts with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and a quarter rest, then a half note C5, and a dotted half note G4. The piano line has a half note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, and a quarter rest, then a half note C3, and a dotted half note G2. The second system continues the vocal line with a dotted half note G4 and a whole note G4. The piano line continues with a dotted half note G2 and a whole note G2. The third system shows the piano accompaniment with a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble clef part has a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and a quarter rest, then a half note C5, and a dotted half note G4. The bass clef part has a half note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, and a quarter rest, then a half note C3, and a dotted half note G2. The piano part includes a *mp* dynamic marking and a *rit.* marking. Measure numbers 105, 106, 107, 108, and 109 are indicated at the bottom of the piano part.

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