



CHRISTMAS CANTATA

"What Sweeter Music"
A Cantata for Christmas

A Festival of Carols
Arranged by Mark Hayes

Opening Medley

What Sweeter Music Can We Bring

What sweeter music can we bring
Than a joyous carol for to sing.
The birth of this, our heav'nly King?
Awake the voice, awake the string!

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

I Saw Three Ships

I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day.
I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas Day in the morning.

The Virgin Mary and Christ were there, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day.
The Virgin Mary and Christ were there, on Christmas Day in the morning.

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day,
I would my true love did so chance to see the legend of my play,
To call my true love to my dance.
Sing, oh, my love, oh, my love, my love, my love.
This have I done for my true love.

Promise of Peace

Reading: *The people of Israel yearned for the coming of the Messiah, the One whom the prophets foretold. "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. For unto us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of His government and peace there will be no end."*

Watchmen Tell Us of the Night **Solos: Charlie Spillman & Adrienne Eisele**

Watchman, tell us of the night, what its sign of promise are.
Trav'ler o'er yon mountain's height, see that glory-beaming star!
Watchman, doth it beauteous ray aught of joy or hope foretell?
Trav'ler, yes, it brings the day, promised day of Israel.

Wathcman, tell us of the night, higher yet that star ascends.
Trav'ler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth?
Trav'ler, ages are its own, and it bursts o'er all the earth!

Watchman, tell us of the night, lo, the Son of God is Come!

Mary, Did You Know?

By Mary Lowry and Buddy Greene

Reading: *When the angel came to Mary, she was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High."*

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would someday walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you delivered will soon deliver you.

Mary did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy was heaven's perfect Lamb?
This sleeping child you're holding is the great, the great "I, am!"

Cradle Medley

Reading: *Joseph travelled the long road from Nazareth to Bethlehem to be registered in the census with Mary, who was his betrothed. Mary was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her first born, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room in the inn. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks by night. An angel of the lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*

What Sweeter Music Can We Bring?

What sweeter music can we bring than a carol for to sing,
The birth of this, our heav'nly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string!
We see him come and know Him ours
Who, with His sunshine and His show'rs,
Turn all the patient ground to flow'rs.

The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is we find a room to welcome Him.
The nobler part of all the house here is the heart.

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for Thee

Solo: Wes Petersen

Congregation is invited to sing where text is bolded.

Silent Night

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright.
'Round yon virgin mother and Child! Holy Infant so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

Song of the Angels

Reading: *Suddenly a great company of angels appeared to shepherds in a nearby field praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom God's favor rests."*

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

The First Nowell

**The first Nowell, the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

**Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.**

O Holy Night

Solos: Carol Bisbee / David Hulslander

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born!
O night divine! O night, O night divine!

Closing Medley

Reading: *These words call to us today. "What sweeter music can we bring than a carol for to sing the birth of this our heavenly King?" We answer that call and make room in our hearts to celebrate the birth of the Christ child.*

What Sweeter Music Can We Bring?

What sweeter music can we bring than a carol for to sing
The birth of this, our heav'nly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string!

Good Christian All Rejoice!

Good Christian all, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today.
Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!

Joy to the World

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of this righteousness,
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonder of His love.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest.
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Chancel Choir Personnel

Sopranos: Carol Bisbee, Sharon Petersen*, Ann Story*, Sue Sumner*, Peg Hoover, Brandi Patrick, Melanie Reed*

Altos: Marjean Bender*, Beth DeHaven, Mardell Otto, Becky Shelley, Patti Sortino*

Tenors: Mark Butler*, Adrienne Eisele

Basses: Ed Bender, David Hulslander, Wes Petersen, Charlie Spillman, Dennis Sumner*,

*Denotes Reader

Sheri McKelfresh, Director

Crystal Kerr, Piano

Karen Courtney, Keyboard

Peter Carlson, Percussion