

THEODORE BECK

SONGS FOR CHRISTMAS

A collection of Unison, Two-Part, and Three-Part Music
for Treble Voices and optional instrumental accompaniments

by THEODORE BECK



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Preface

The following Christmas songs are presented here in simple arrangements providing an option of accompanimental possibilities and a flexibility of instrumental combinations.

The instruments generally suggested are Handbells and Recorder, but where these are unavailable, substitutions might be satisfactorily employed: i. e., any melody instrument (Violin, Flute, Clarinet, Oboe) of similar range and volume might be used in place of the Recorder; where the Handbells play a single-line melody, chimes, lyre, tone bars, or melody bells could be used; where the Handbells are involved in a more harmonic accompaniment, tone bars or even the piano might be substituted. In numbers suggesting a simple chordal background, guitar, autoharp, organ, or piano could be used.

Ultimately the overall balance of the available resources ought to provide the main basis for deciding which instrumental combinations to employ.

All of the accompanying possibilities suggested for each individual number need not be used for every stanza of that work. In fact, a variety of the possible combinations might add interest.

Contents

	Page
Christmas Eve Processional	3
O Little Town of Bethlehem	6
Sing Noel, Noel	8
O Come, All Ye Faithful	10
What Child Is This?	12
He Is Born, Little Infant King	14
Joy to the World	17
A Child Is Born	18

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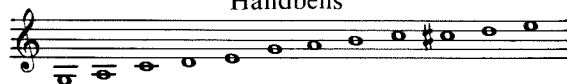
Christmas Eve Processional

T.B. 1969

(Unison)

THEODORE BECK

Handbells



Recorder *d. = about 52*

Bells *

Guitar *

Organ

*The addition of the Handbells is not necessary. The Guitar could be used alone, in place of the organ, or could be omitted.

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Voices

1 Come, you chil-dren, hear the song Shep-herds heard the an-gels sing-ing;
 2 Come, you chil-dren, come and sing, Sing to Je-sus here be-fore us;
 3 Thanks to God for His great love, Thank Him for His bless-ings end-less;

Bells

Finger cymbal
(triangle)

Come to Beth-l'em, come a-long To the man-ger, prais-es bring-ing.
 Come to Christ, our on-ly King, See the in-fant Je-sus glo-rious,
 Praise to God, who reigns a-bove, Praise Him for His grac-es bound-less;

Christ the Lord is born to save us, Sent from God, this Gift He
 Join with oth-ers at the man-ger, Wor-ship Him, He is no
 Let us for this Sav-ior la-labor, Tell the sto-ry to our

gave us.
 strang-er. Come to Beth-l'em, come and see God's great love to me.
 neigh-bor.

The first system of the organ interlude consists of two staves. The treble staff contains a melodic line of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The bass staff provides accompaniment with chords and single notes: G2-B2-E3, G3-B3-E4, A3-C4-E4, F4-A4-C5, G4-B4-E5, F5-A5-C6, G5-B5-E6, F6-A6-C7.

The second system continues the organ interlude. The treble staff has a melodic line: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The bass staff accompaniment is: G2-B2-E3, G3-B3-E4, A3-C4-E4, F4-A4-C5, G4-B4-E5, F5-A5-C6, G5-B5-E6, F6-A6-C7. A fermata is placed over the final notes of both staves. The text "To 2" is written at the bottom right of the system.

(Optional)

Interlude between 2+3 — Recorders

Fast

The recorder interlude consists of seven staves of music. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The second staff continues the melody: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The fourth staff continues the melody: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The fifth staff continues the melody: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The sixth staff continues the melody: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The seventh staff continues the melody: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

(SSA)

PHILLIPS BROOKS, 1835 – 93

Forest Green
English traditional melody
Arr. THEODORE BECK

Handbells

Bells
Finger
Cymbals

Voices

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie! A -
 2 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous Gift is giv'n! So
 3 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray; Cast

bove thy deep And dream - less sleep The si - lent stars go by; Yet
 God im - parts To hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n. No
 out our sin, And en - ter in, Be born in us to - day. We

*Bells, Tone bars, Recorder, etc.

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in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing Light; The
 ear may hear His com - ing, But in this world of sin, Where
 hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad ti - dings tell; Oh,

hopes and fears Of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
 meek souls will Re - ceive Him still, The dear Christ en - ters in.
 come to us, A - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

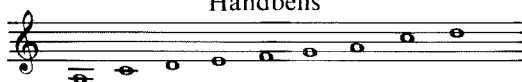
Sing Noel, Noel

(SA)

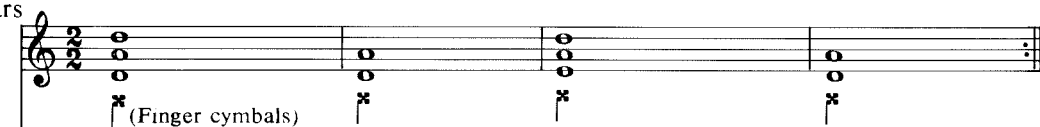
Tr. FRED A MORRILL ABRAMS

French carol
Arr. THEODORE BECK

Handbells

Bells or
Tone bars

Sts. 1,3



Sts. 2,3



St. 4



Voices



- 1 Sing No-el, No-el; No-el sing joy-ful-ly,
Car-ol-ing the ti-dings, sing-ing thank-ful-ly;
- 2 There in Beth-le-hem were Jo-seph and Ma-rie;
Mid the ox and ass the Ba-by I did see,
- 3 There I saw the star which bright-ened all the night;
From the O-ri-ent it came, a burst of light,
- 4 King-ly gifts of myrrh and gold and in-cense rare
Changed that sim-ple sta-ble per-fum-ing the air;

The first system of music consists of four staves. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics. The second staff is a vocal line with lyrics. The third staff is a vocal line with lyrics. The fourth staff is an instrumental line with lyrics. The lyrics are: Sing we No - el, the King is born to - day. His cra - dle bed a man - ger in the hay. To Beth - le - hem to show the kings the way. Sweet Par - a - dise it seemed, a gar - den gay.

Sing we No - el, the King is born to - day.
 His cra - dle bed a man - ger in the hay.
 To Beth - le - hem to show the kings the way.
 Sweet Par - a - dise it seemed, a gar - den gay.

The second system of music consists of four staves. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics. The second staff is a vocal line with lyrics. The third staff is a vocal line with lyrics. The fourth staff is an instrumental line with lyrics. The lyrics are: Sing No - el, No - el; No - el sing joy - ful - ly. Sing No - el, No - el; No - el sing joy - ful - ly. Sing No - el, No - el; No - el sing joy - ful - ly. Sing No - el, No - el; No - el sing joy - ful - ly.

Sing No - el, No - el; No - el sing joy - ful - ly.
 Sing No - el, No - el; No - el sing joy - ful - ly.
 Sing No - el, No - el; No - el sing joy - ful - ly.
 Sing No - el, No - el; No - el sing joy - ful - ly.

Interlude between 3 and 4

The interlude consists of a single staff with a piano accompaniment. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4.

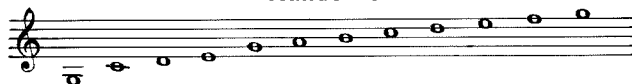
O Come, All Ye Faithful

(SSA)

Tr. FREDERICK OAKELEY (1802—80)

Adeste fidelis
Arr. THEODORE BECK

Handbells



Bells

Voices

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 Yea, Lord we greet Thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;—

Musical notation for Bells and Voices. The Bells part is a single melodic line. The Voices part consists of two staves, with the first staff containing the lyrics for two parts.

Musical notation for the second system, including Bells and Voices parts.

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem; Come, Come and be - hold Him,
Je - sus, to Thee— be— glo - ry giv'n; Word, Word of the Fa - ther,

The first system of music consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The middle staff is a piano accompaniment in treble clef, and the bottom staff is a guitar accompaniment in treble clef. The lyrics are positioned below the guitar staff.

Born the King of an - gels;
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing! O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a -

The second system of music continues the previous system with three staves: vocal, piano, and guitar. The lyrics are positioned below the guitar staff.

dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him, — Christ, — the Lord.

Optional Interlude

The optional interlude is a single staff of guitar accompaniment in treble clef, continuing the key signature and time signature of the main piece.

What Child Is This?

(SA)

WILLIAM CHATTERTON DIX (1837-98)

Greensleeves
16th-cent. English tune
Arr. THEODORE BECK

Recorder

Guitar
Voices

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, Come, peas - ant, king, to

*
*

Am — Dm C — Bb A

sleep - ing, Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While shep - herds watch are
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The si - lent Word is
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let lov - ing hearts en -

* Bells, Xylophone, Tone Bars, or Piano

keep - ing? This, this is Christ the King, Whom shep - herds guard and
 plead - ing. Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne, for
 throne Him. Raise, raise the song on high, The vir - gin sings her

an - gels sing. Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mar - y!
 me, for you. Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The Babe, the Son of Mar - y!
 lul - la - by. Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The Babe, the Son of Mar - y!

He Is Born, Little Infant King

(SA)

Tr. FRED A MORRILL ABRAMS

French carol
Arr. THEODORE BECK

Handbells

Recorders $\text{♩} = \text{about } 72$

Bells

Bells Drum (optional) (small drum) etc.

Finger Cymbals (finger cymbal or Triangle)

Bells

Guitar

Voices

He is born, lit - tle in - fant King. Play o - boe,

play, let the pipes be sound - ing; He is born, lit - tle

Recorder or Tonette, Violin, Oboe, Clarinet. Handbells or Tone Bars, Chimes, Piano. Guitar or Autoharp.

Fine

in - fant King, Of His com - ing with joy we sing.

1 More than four thou-sand years, they say, He was
 2 Oh, how charm - ing! We sing for joy. How His
 3 On the straw He did lay His head, In a
 4 O Je - su, O al - might - y King, Though You

The first system of the musical score consists of five staves. The top staff is the vocal line, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features a melodic line with a fermata over the final note. The second and third staves are empty. The fourth and fifth staves are the piano accompaniment, with the fifth staff showing chord symbols 'D' and 'G' above the notes.

prom - ised to us by proph - ets: More than four thou-sand
 grac - es are all per - fec - tion! Oh, how charm - ing! We
 sta - ble was His rude lodg - ing; On the straw He did
 are but a lit - tle in - fant, O Je - su, O al -

The second system of the musical score consists of five staves. The top staff is the vocal line, continuing the melody from the first system and ending with a double bar line and the instruction 'D.C.'. The second, third, and fourth staves are the piano accompaniment, also ending with 'D.C.'. The fifth staff shows chord symbols 'C', 'G', and 'D' above the notes.

years, they say, We a - wait - ed this hap - py day.
 sing for joy. Oh, how sweet is the gen - tle Boy!
 lay His head, For our Lord what a hum - ble bed!
 might - y King, Reign o'er all, o - ver ev - 'ry - thing.

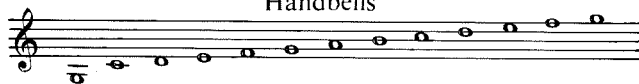
Joy to the World

(SSA)

ISAAC WATTS, 1719

Antioch
Arr. THEODORE BECK

Handbells



Bells



Voices



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King. — Let ev - 'ry heart — pre - pare Him — room, — And heav'n and na - ture
prove — The glo - ries — of — His righ - teous - ness — And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing.
love, And won - ders of His love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

A Child Is Born

(SA and SSA)

THEODORE BECK

WALTER ROSIN, 1971

Handbells

Musical notation for Handbells, consisting of a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The melody is written in a simple, rhythmic style.

Bells

$\text{♩} = \text{about } 100$

Musical notation for Bells, consisting of a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The tempo is marked as quarter note equals about 100. The notation includes rests and notes.

Voices

A child is born, the Son of God, a
A child is born, the Son of God,

Musical notation for the voices, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of two flats. The lyrics are written below the notes.

mes - senger from heav'n pro-claimed. He is the Christ; God's
from heav'n pro-claimed. He is Christ; God's

Musical notation for the voices, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of two flats. The lyrics are written below the notes.

love is seen, is seen in this e-ter-nal Gift which He has
love is seen, in this e-ter-nal Gift He's

Musical notation for the voices, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of two flats. The lyrics are written below the notes.

giv-en. Let us say thanks.
giv'n. Let us say thanks.

Musical notation for the voices, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of two flats. The lyrics are written below the notes.

The world is

His, He is _____ the Lord, the Ar- chi- tect who made it all.

He is the Word; yet He _____ has_ bound, has_ bound Him -

self to us and come to_ be our Broth-er. Let us bow_ down.

All men need hope. We share _____ the news so
All men need hope. We share _____ the news so

they can smile and hope once more. He is the Joy This
they can hope once more. He is Joy. This_

news _____ that God, that God for- gives man's sins frees us to serve all
news_ that God_ for_ gives man's sins frees us to

peo-ple. Let us shout Bells. joy.
serve. Let_ us_ shout joy.

Bells
 S.S.
 A.

Shout joy, bow down, say thanks to God the
 Shout joy, bow down, say thanks to God the
 Shout joy, bow down, say thanks to God the

Fa - ther, who in love for us has sent His Son, who died, a -
 Fa - ther, who in love has sent His Son, who died a - rose,
 Fa - ther, in love has sent His Son, who died,

rose, a - rose, as - cend - ed so that we might have His Spir - it.
 a - rose, as - cend - ed so that we might have His Spir - it.
 a - rose, as - cend - ed so that we might have His Spir - it.

Let us sing praise.
 Let us sing praise.
 Let us sing praise.

