



**What Star Is This,  
with Beams  
So Bright?**

**by Howard Helvey**

Composed in celebration of Julia Howard Helvey  
on the occasion of her seventy-fifth birthday, 14 January 2018

# What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright?

## A Carol for Christmas or Epiphany

For Mixed Choir, Piano and optional Violin or C-Instrument\*

Charles Coffin, 1736  
tr. John Chandler, 1837, *alt.*

HOWARD HELVEY  
(ASCAP)

What star is this, with beams so bright,  
more lovely than the noonday light?  
'Tis sent to announce a newborn king,  
glad tidings of our God to bring.

'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed,  
"From Jacob shall a star proceed;"  
and lo! the Eastern sages stand  
to read in heaven the Lord's command.

While outward signs the star displays,  
an inward light the Lord conveys  
and urges them, with tender might,  
to seek the giver of the light.

O Jesus, fount of boundless grace,  
your star calls us to seek your face;  
prepare our hearts to fully shine  
and share your light and love divine.

Moderato con espressione ♩ = ca. 92

S. *unis. p*  
A. What \_ star \_ is \_  
T.  
B.

Violin or C-Instrument  
*Slurs indicate general phrasing, not bow markings.*  
*p*

Piano  
*p sempre legato*  
1 2 3 4 5

\* Optional Violin or C-Instrument (BP2153A) is available for purchase.

\*\* Play cue-size notes only in absence of the Violin or C-Instrument.

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Preview Copy Not for Performance

6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14 15

this, with beams so bright, more love - ly than the

noon - day light? 'Tis sent to an - nounce a new - born

king, glad tid - ings of our God

16 17 18 19 20

This block contains the first system of the musical score, covering measures 16 through 20. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are "king, glad tid - ings of our God". The piano part consists of chords and moving lines in both hands.

to bring. 'Tis unis. mp

21 22 23 24 25

This block contains the second system of the musical score, covering measures 21 through 25. The lyrics are "to bring. 'Tis unis. mp". The piano part includes dynamic markings *p* and *mp*. The lyrics are "to bring. 'Tis unis. mp".

now \_\_\_ ful - filled \_\_\_ what \_ God \_\_\_ de - creed, "From \_ Ja - cob

26 27 28 29 30

This system contains measures 26 through 30. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a bass line, and a piano accompaniment. The piano part includes a long melodic line in the right hand and a more rhythmic bass line in the left hand. A large diagonal watermark 'Preview Copy - Not for Performance' is overlaid across the page.

shall \_\_\_ a \_\_\_ star \_\_\_ pro - ceed;" and \_ lo! \_\_\_ the East - ern \_

*unis. mp*

31 32 33 34 35

This system contains measures 31 through 35. The vocal line continues with lyrics and includes the performance instruction *unis. mp* above measure 33. The piano accompaniment continues with similar textures. The diagonal watermark 'Preview Copy - Not for Performance' is also present here.

sa - ges stand to read in heav'n the

sa - ges stand

36 37 38 39 40

Lord's com mand.

Lord's com mand.

mf

mf

mf

41 42 43 44 45 5

Musical score for measures 46-50. The score consists of four staves: two for vocal parts (Soprano and Bass) and two for piano accompaniment (Right and Left Hand). Measures 46 and 47 are mostly rests for the vocal parts. The piano accompaniment begins in measure 46 with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The dynamic marking *mp* is present in measures 47 and 48. The lyrics for measures 48-50 are: "While out - ward signs the star dis - plays, an".

Musical score for measures 51-55. The score consists of four staves: two for vocal parts (Soprano and Bass) and two for piano accompaniment (Right and Left Hand). The lyrics for measures 51-52 are: "While out - ward signs the star dis - plays, an". The lyrics for measures 53-55 are: "While out - ward signs the star dis - plays, an". The dynamic marking *p* is present in measures 51 and 52. The tempo markings *poco rit.* and *a tempo* are present in measures 51 and 52. The piano accompaniment continues with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

in - ward light the Lord con - veys and ur - ges

56 57 58 59 60

them, with ten der might, to seek the

61 62 63 64 65



of the light. *mp*

giv - er of the light. *mp*

66 67 68 69 70

*rall.*

*rall.*

*mf* *rall.*

*mf* *rall.*

71 72 73 5 74 75

*unis.* **f** **Meno mosso** ♩ = ca. 84

O — Je — sus, — fount — of — bound — less grace, your —

*unis.* **f** **Meno mosso** ♩ = ca. 84

**f** **Meno mosso** ♩ = ca. 84

76 77 78 79 80

star — calls us — to — seek — your face; — pre —

81 82 83 84 85

ful - ly shine, *molto dim.*

pare our hearts to ful - ly shine, *molto dim.*

*molto dim.*

*molto dim.*

86 87 88 89

to shine *rall.* *mp* *unis.* **Più lento** ♩ = ca. 80

to shine and share your

*rall.* *mp*

to shine **Più lento** ♩ = ca. 80

*rall.* *mp*

**Più lento** ♩ = ca. 80

*rall.* *mp*

90 91 92 93 94



light and love di - vine.

*mp*

95 96 97 98 99

*rall.* *p*

*rall.* *p*

100 101 102 103 104 105