

The Huron Carol

arranged by

Dan Forrest

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Program Note:

People of all nations have adapted Christian traditions to their own cultural contexts; and there is a stirring beauty as the story of Christ's birth is understood by cultures of widely varying times and places. The Huron Carol is a beautiful re-telling of the Christmas story by Jean de Brébeuf, one of the earliest French missionaries in Canada. Brébeuf's carol was written for the Huron Native Americans that he lived among, and therefore uses natural and cultural ideas that would have resonated with them. Originally written in the Wendat (Huron) language around 1643, and set to a French Canadian melody, this version was translated into English by Jesse Edgar Middleton, a 20th century Canadian news reporter who researched Brébeuf's story.

This arrangement paints the soundscape into which this carol was born, through both music and a bit of the original language. The recurring phrase "Jesous ahatonhia," from Brébeuf's original version, is Wendat/Huron for "Jesus is born." The term "Gitchi Manitou" is the Algonquin translation for "God" throughout the Cree New Testament, and is therefore an appropriate reference to God the Father. (The phrase may be replaced with "God the great Creator" if clarity in the vernacular is desired.)

Commissioned in memory of beloved choral director Mel Larimer by those whose lives he touched,
with gratitude for his musical leadership in northern Michigan, and in support of the
Mel Larimer Concert Series which continues his inspirational legacy. Soli Deo Gloria.

The Huron Carol

For SATB Choir and Piano, with optional String Quartet and Percussion* or Full Orchestra**

Jean de Brébeuf, c. 1643
trans. Jessie Edgar Middleton, 1926

JESOUS AHATONHIA
French Canadian melody
Arranged by DAN FORREST
(ASCAP)

SOLO - ethereal folk/ Celtic feel

Misterioso ♩ = ca. 60-63

pp distant

Solo (May be sung by semi-chorus) Je - sous A - ha-ton-hia, †
pp SA straight tone † Wyandot/Huron for "Jesus is born"; pronounced "beh-soos ah-ha-tuhn-yah"

Soprano (Oo)

Alto (Oo)

Tenors *pp* (Oo)

Bass (Oo)

Piano *p*

Je - sous A - ha-ton-hia.

Glo - ri - a,

TB Glo - ri - a,

mf

4 5 6 7

* Optional Full Score and Parts for String Quartet and Percussion (BP2164A) is available for purchase.

** Optional Full Score and Parts for Orchestral accompaniment (BP2164B) is available for purchase.

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mp very freely (rhythms and grace note are merely suggestions)

(May be sung by semi-chorus)

SA *pp*

(Oo)

'Twas in the moon of win-ter-time, when

mp

And. simile

*New Testament translation for "God" in Algonquian languages;
pronounced "giht-chih mah-nih-too"

all the birds had fled, that might-y Git - chi Man-i - tou* sent
(God the Great Cre - a - tor)

11 12 13

an-gel choirs in - stead; _____ Be - fore their light the stars grew dim, _____

14 15 16 *red.* *red.*

_____ and wan-d'ring hun-ters heard the hymn: _____ "Je-sus your King is born, _____

(Oo) _____ "Je-sus your King is born, _____

T *p* _____ TB *p* _____ "Je - sous
(Men may sing on Oo if preferred)

emphasize the inner-voice motion between the two thumbs

17 18 *red.* *red.* 19 20 *red. ad lib.*

Je - sus is born, in ex-cel-sis glo - ri - a.”

Je - sus is born, in ex-cel-sis glo - ri - a.”

unis.
a - ha - ton - hia.”

21 22 23

mf *simile*

24 25 26

(roll LH chords if necessary; emphasize top note melody)

TB unis. mf

With - in a lodge of bro - ken bark the

27 28

The image shows a musical score for a piece titled "Je - sus is born, in ex-cel-sis glo - ri - a." The score is arranged for voice and piano. It consists of several systems of staves. The first system has three staves: two vocal staves (treble clef) and one piano staff (bass clef). The second system has two staves: a vocal staff (treble clef) and a piano staff (bass clef). The third system has two staves: a vocal staff (treble clef) and a piano staff (bass clef). The fourth system has two staves: a vocal staff (treble clef) and a piano staff (bass clef). The fifth system has two staves: a vocal staff (treble clef) and a piano staff (bass clef). The sixth system has two staves: a vocal staff (treble clef) and a piano staff (bass clef). The seventh system has two staves: a vocal staff (treble clef) and a piano staff (bass clef). The eighth system has two staves: a vocal staff (treble clef) and a piano staff (bass clef). The ninth system has two staves: a vocal staff (treble clef) and a piano staff (bass clef). The tenth system has two staves: a vocal staff (treble clef) and a piano staff (bass clef). The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, dynamics (mf, unis., simile), and performance instructions. A large diagonal watermark "Preview Copy - Not for Performance" is overlaid on the score.

ten - der babe was found, _____ A

29 30

rag - ged robe of rab - bit skin en - wrapp'd His beau - ty round; _____

31 32

SA unis. mf
But as the hun - ter braves drew nigh, the

mf

33 34

an - gel song rang loud and high,

This system contains the first two staves of music. 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 lyrics "an - gel song rang loud and high," are written below the notes. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef, also in F# and 4/4. The music features a melodic line in the vocal part and a supporting bass line in the piano part.

35 36

This system contains the piano accompaniment for measures 35 and 36. It consists of two staves: a right-hand part in treble clef and a left-hand part in bass clef. The music continues the accompaniment from the previous system, with measure numbers 35 and 36 indicated at the beginning of the staves.

"He is born,
"Je - sus your King is born, Je - sus is born, in ex - cel - sis

37 38

This system contains the third and fourth staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics "He is born," and "Je - sus your King is born, Je - sus is born, in ex - cel - sis" are written below. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef, also in 4/4. The music features a melodic line in the vocal part and a supporting bass line in the piano part.

glo - ri - a."
glo - ri - a."

39 40 41

This system contains the fifth and sixth staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics "glo - ri - a." and "glo - ri - a." are written below. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef, also in 4/4. The music features a melodic line in the vocal part and a supporting bass line in the piano part. A dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano) is present in the piano part.

S *poco rit.* *mp* **Molto rubato e espressivo** *poco rit.* *a tempo*

The ear-liest moon of win-ter-time is not so round and fair as

A *poco rit.* *p* *poco rit.* *a tempo*

(Oo)

T *poco rit.* *p* *poco rit.* *a tempo*

(Oo)

B *poco rit.* *p* *poco rit.* *a tempo*

(Oo)

Molto rubato e espressivo

poco rit. *mp* *a tempo*

42 43 44

poco rit. *a tempo*

was the ring of glo - ry on the help - less in - fant there. The

poco rit. *a tempo*

poco rit. *a tempo*

poco rit. *a tempo*

Molto rubato e espressivo

poco rit. *mp* *a tempo*

45 46

chiefs from far be - fore Him knelt, with gifts of fur and bea - ver pelt, _____

47 48

mp

mp

Je - sus your King is born, Je - sus is born, in ex-cel - sis

mp

Je - sus your King is born, Je - sus is born, in ex-cel - sis

mp

(Oo), your King is born, He is born, in ex-cel - sis

(Oo), your King is born, He is born, in ex-cel - sis

49 50 51

SA unis.

Moving forward

glo - ri - a.

Moving forward

mf

52 53 54

f Poco piu mosso ♩ = ca. 76

chil - dren of the

f Poco piu mosso ♩ = ca. 76

f *pesante*

55 56 57

for - est free O sons of Ma - ni - tou, the

58 59 60

Ho - ly Child is born for

Ho - ly Child of earth and heav'n is born to - day for
 Ho - ly Child is born to - day for

Ho - ly Child of earth and heav'n is born to - day for

61 62 63

you.

you. Come kneel be - fore the
 you.

64 65 66

unis.
ra - diant boy who brings you beau - ty, peace and joy.

unis.
 peace and joy.

67 68 69

A few sopranos

"Je - sus your King is
 "Je - sus your King is born,
 peace and joy. —

born, — in ex - cel - sis glo - ri -
unis. Je - sus is born, in ex - cel - sis glo - ri -
ff poco a poco rit.

ff poco a poco rit.

ff poco a poco rit.

ff poco a poco rit.

70 71 72 73 74 75

The musical score is arranged in four systems. The first system contains the vocal entries for sopranos and the beginning of the piano accompaniment. The second system continues the vocal lines and piano accompaniment. The third system features a vocal line with lyrics and piano accompaniment, including performance markings. The fourth system concludes the page with further vocal and piano parts.

Slower ♩ = ca. 66

a!"

a!"

Slower ♩ = ca. 66

mf

76 77 78

p Je - sous A - ha-ton-hia, *pp* Je - sous a - ha-ton-hia._____

mp

79 80 81

This musical score page contains measures 82 through 88. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats), and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal line begins in measure 82 with a whole note rest, then enters in measure 83 with the lyrics "Glo - ri - a,". The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands. Measure 85 includes the instruction "rit." (ritardando) above the staff. Measure 86 includes "rit." above the staff and "p" (piano) below the staff. Measure 87 includes "rit." above the staff and "p" below the staff. Measure 88 includes "p" below the staff. The score concludes with a double bar line in measure 88. A large diagonal watermark "Preview Copy - Not for Performance" is overlaid across the page.

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