

Journey to Bethlehem

An Advent/Christmas musical for unison/two-part voices and piano

by
Erik Whitehill

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Instrumental Parts – CGRP50

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Foreword

Christmas blessings to you as we sing, yet again, the story of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem! This 20-minute, sermon-length musical was created to share the good news AND be flexible to accommodate ensembles of varying age, size and ability. It was also designed to be attainable within the limited rehearsal time of the holiday season. Songs feature vocal solos followed by choral refrains, a nod to classical oratorio.

The vocal parts are scored for unison choir with optional harmony parts, and recurring themes appear throughout the score. The angel encounters with Mary, Joseph, and the Shepherds incorporate the same melodic ideas. In other words, even though there are nine musical selections in this score, choirs only need to learn five melodic ideas. This will build confidence with younger singers and maximize rehearsal time.

Journey to Bethlehem has many accompaniment options. The piano part has been crafted to work equally well either as solo accompaniment or as part of a chamber ensemble. A reproducible instrumental folio is available with parts for a small chamber orchestra. With the exception of the three-octave tonebells, which are beginner-level, the instrumental parts are intended for adult players. Any combination (or all) of these instrumental parts can be played in addition to the piano accompaniment to create a warm, orchestral sound. Accompaniment tracks with the full orchestration are also available.

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| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Katie Houts | Smith Graham | Darin Shryock | Karol Kimmell |
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| Lyndy Jones | Michael Glasgow | Scott Glasser | Evelyn Whitehill |

Blessings,

Erik Whitehill
November 2016

The Cast of Characters

Costuming the cast can be as traditional or contemporary as desired. Similarly, the only set requirement is a manger. You are free to be as detailed – or not! – as you wish.

Singing and Speaking Roles

MARY, a young Jewish woman

GABRIEL, an angel who appears to Mary

Speaking-Only Roles

NARRATOR(S)

Singing-Only Roles

JOSEPH, a Jewish carpenter

DREAM ANGEL, an angel who appears to Joseph in a dream

ELIZABETH, Mary's cousin

SHEPHERD, a young shepherd tending flocks near Bethlehem

HERALD ANGEL, the angel who announces Jesus' birth

Optional Non-Speaking and Non-Singing Roles

SHEPHERDS

ANGELS

ANIMALS

Musical Selections

| | |
|--|----|
| 1. Processional.....(CHORUS)..... | 4 |
| 2. Mary and Gabriel.....(MARY, GABRIEL, CHORUS)..... | 6 |
| 3. Magnificat.....(ELIZABETH, MARY, CHORUS)..... | 13 |
| 4. Joseph and the Dream Angel...(JOSEPH, DREAM ANGEL, CHORUS)..... | 17 |
| 5. Journey.....(CHORUS)..... | 23 |
| 6. Born this Day.....(SOLO/SMALL GROUP, CHORUS)..... | 27 |
| 7. Shepherds and Angels...(SHEPHERD, HERALD ANGEL, CHORUS)..... | 33 |
| 8. Journey (Reprise).....(CHORUS)..... | 38 |
| 9. O Come, All Ye Faithful.....(CHORUS, CONGREGATION)..... | 40 |

1. Processional

attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786
tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880

ADESTE FIDELES
attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786
arr. Erik Whitehill

NARRATOR: O come, all ye faithful! As we journey to Bethlehem and recall God's messages for Mary, for Joseph, and for the shepherds, may our hearts be open, too, to welcome the Christ child. ♩ = 100

Piano *mp*

8 CHORUS *mf*

O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri -

12

um - phant! O come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le -

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16 *f*

hem! Come and be - hold him,

19 *mp*

born the king of an - gels; O come, let us a -

22

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O

25 *mf* *rit.*

come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

2. Mary and Gabriel

Erik Whitehill
Based on Luke 1:26-38

Erik Whitehill

MARY enters.

NARRATOR: Our journey begins in Nazareth of Galilee, where a young woman named Mary was having a restless night. She was about to be married. What would her life be like? She raised her

Legato (♩ = 84) eyes to the heavens and prayed.

Piano *p*

MARY *mp*

O

Lord, hear the prayer_ of your ser - vant, Mar - y. I

9

come to you, please help me un - der - stand. How do I fit

11

Part I *rit.* *mp* *mf a tempo*

+CHORUS

in with what you have planned? I want my life to re-lect your

Part II (optional) *rit.* *mp* *mf a tempo*

I want my life to re-lect your

rit. *mf a tempo*

14

glo - ry. Let my heart be your home. I am

glo - ry. Let my heart be your home. I am

17

I o-pen and list-'ning. Make of my life—what you will!— Calm my

II o-pen and list-'ning. Make of my life— what you will! Calm my

20

I soul. Peace, be still. *rit.* *a tempo*

II soul. Peace, be still. *rit.* *a tempo*

23

I *mf* I am

II *mf* I am

26

I o-pen and list-'ning. Make of my life... what you will!... Calm my

II o-pen and list-'ning. Make of my life... what you will! Calm my

mf

29

I soul. Peace, be still... Though I may not un-der-rit.

II soul. Peace, be still...

mp *rit.*

MARY

32

I stand right now, peace, be still.

II Peace, be still.

p *p* *p*

+CHORUS

GABRIEL enters.

10 NARRATOR: Suddenly, there was a bright flash of light and an angel named Gabriel appeared before her. Could this angel have an answer to her prayer?

36 With mystery (♩ = 60) *accel.*

Tempo I GABRIEL *mf* CHORUS *mp*

39 Do not be a - fraid. The Lord is with you. An

GABRIEL *mf*

42 an-gel's words— from the heart of God. You have been cho-sen by God to

CHORUS

45 *f* bear a child named Je-sus, Son of the Most High!— *f* “Noth-ing’s im-
f “Noth-ing’s im-

48 pos - si - ble__ with God!”_ the an - gel said. “In hu - man
 pos - si - ble__ with God!”_ the an - gel said. “In hu - man

50 form_____ Christ will tran - scend! Noth-ing’s im -
 form_____ Christ will tran - scend!_____ Noth-ing’s im -

52

I pos - si - ble with God! The Ho - ly Spir - it comes

II pos - si - ble with God! The Ho - ly Spir - it comes

54

I and God's king - dom will nev - er end!" rit.

II and God's king - dom will nev - er end!" rit.

rit.

GABRIEL: Behold, another miracle of God, Mary. Your cousin, Elizabeth, who was barren, will also bear a child in her old age. God can do anything!

MARY: I am a servant of the Lord. God's will be done. *GABRIEL exits.*

3. Magnificat

Erik Whitehill
Based on Luke 1:46-55

Erik Whitehill

ELIZABETH enters (opposite MARY). MARY crosses to her when the NARRATOR begins. ELIZABETH welcomes MARY with a hug.

NARRATOR: After some time, Mary went to visit her family in Judah. When she arrived, her cousin, Elizabeth, was stunned! The baby within Elizabeth leapt for joy!

Joyful and Rhythmic (♩ = 66)

Piano

mf *f*

ELIZABETH

4 *mf*

Blest are you _____ a-mong wo-men! Blest be the child God con -

mf

7

ceives! _____ Blest am I _____ by this vis - it!

mp *mf*

+CHORUS

opt. div.

11 *mf* *f*

Blest is she who be - lieves!

14

mp

17 *MARY* *mf*

My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord and my

20

spir-it re-joic-es in God. God has re-gard-ed this low - ly ser-vant.