

FOR CHRIST IS BORN!

What Child Is This
William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.

Alan Bullard

Gently, but always moving $\text{♩} = 46$

S, A or Solo p legato

What child is this, who,

p cantabile simile

Man.

Detailed description: This system contains the first two measures of the piece. The vocal line (Soprano, Alto, or Solo) begins with a whole rest, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The piano accompaniment starts with a piano introduction in the right hand, marked *p cantabile*, featuring a flowing eighth-note pattern. The left hand provides a steady bass line with quarter notes. The tempo is marked $\text{♩} = 46$.

S, A or Duet mp

4 laid— to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing, whom

mp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 3 and 4. The vocal line continues with a half note C5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, a half note F5, and a quarter note G5. The piano accompaniment continues with the eighth-note pattern in the right hand and the bass line in the left hand. The dynamic marking is *mp*.

7 an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while

simile

Detailed description: This system contains measures 5 and 6. The vocal line features a half note G5, a quarter note A5, a quarter note B5, a half note C6, and a quarter note B5. The piano accompaniment continues with the eighth-note pattern in the right hand and the bass line in the left hand. The dynamic marking is *simile*.

Notes

This setting of a traditional Christmas text moves from the calm and gentleness of the manger scene to the joy of Christ's birth. Keeping this in mind, do not "over sing" the first two verses, which have mostly moderate dynamic markings; save the fullest sound for the last verse—though this verse has its quieter moments too! Avoid any feeling of haste in the eighth-note passages in each verse; clear diction will help achieve this.

—Alan Bullard

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9

shep - herds watch are keep - ing?

11 *S mf*

S mf
This, this— is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard— while
Ah, ah,
A mp
Ah, ah,
T, B mp
Ah, ah,

11

mf
Ped.

14 *p*

an - gels sing.— This, this— is Christ the
ah. ah.

14 *p*

p
Ped.