

“Balulalow” is a carol published by the brothers James, John, and Robert Wedderburn in their 1567 publication *Ane Compendious Buik of Godly and Spirituall Sangis*, where this hymn is titled “Ane Sang of the Birth of Christ.” It is their translation of Martin Luther’s Christmas Eve carol, “Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her,” first published in Joseph Klug’s *Geistliche Lieder* (Wittenburg, 1535).

Though comprising fully fifteen stanzas, only the following stanzas have been set here. Quotations of the tune VOM HIMMEL HOCH are interwoven throughout this setting, a tune also attributed to Luther and published in Valentin Schumann’s *Geistliche lieder auff’s new gebessert und gemehr* (Leipzig, 1539).

Vom Himmel hoch da komm ich her,
Ich bring euch gute neue Mär,
Der guten Mär bring ich so viel,
Davon ich sing und sagen will.

I come from heuin to tell
The best nowellis that euer be fell,
To yow thir tythinges trew I bring,
And I will of them say and sing.

Euch ist ein Kindlein heut geborn
Von einer Jungfrau auserkorn,
Ein Kindelein so zart und fein,
Das soll eur Freud und Wonne sein.

This day to yow is borne ane childe,
Of Marie meike and Virgine mylde;
That blissit barne, bining and kynde,
Sall yow rejoyce baith heart and mynd.

Merk auf, mein Herz, und sieh dort hin:
Was liegt doch in dem Krippelein,
Wes ist das schöne Kindelein?
Es ist das liebe Jesulein.

My saull and lyfe, stand vp and see
Quha lyes in ane cribe of tree;
Quhat babe is that so gude and faire
It is Christ, Gods Sonne and Aire.

Ach mein herzliebes Jesulein,
Mach dir ein rein sanft Bettelein,
Zu ruhen in meins Herzens Schrein,
Daß ich nimmer vergesse dein.

O my deir hert, zoung Jesus sweit,
Prepare thy creddill in my spreit,
And I sall rocke thee in my hert,
And neuer mair from thee depart.

Davon ich allzeit fröhlich sei,
Zu springen, singen immer frei
Das rechte Susannine schon,
Mit Herzenslust den süßen Ton.

But I sall praise thee euermoir,
With sangs sweit vnto thy gloir;
The knees of my hert sall I bow,
And sing that richt Balulalow.

for Philip Brunelle and the choir of Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Balulalow

for SATB voices and organ

Martin Luther, 1483–1546
tr. James, John, and Robert Wedderburn, 1567
adapt. PWL

Paul W. Lohman
Incorporating VOM HIMMEL HOCH
attr. Martin Luther; V. Schumann, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1539

The musical score is for the hymn "Balulalow" and is written for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Organ. It is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 3/4 time. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 80. The score begins with a *pp* (pianissimo) dynamic. The organ part features a simple accompaniment with a bass line that includes a "Ped." (pedal) marking. The vocal parts enter with a melodic line, and the lyrics "loo loo loo loo loo loo" are written under the notes. The score includes dynamic markings such as *p* (piano) and *rit.* (ritardando). A large, diagonal watermark reading "SAMPLE" is overlaid on the score.

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Tenor **Slightly faster** (♩ = 92)
10 *unis. mp*

Bass I come from heav - en high to

Slightly faster (♩ = 92)
mp

Detailed description: This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a tenor vocal line in bass clef, starting at measure 10. It features a melodic line with a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth note, and a half note. The lyrics are "I come from heav - en high to". The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef, with a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand. The tempo is marked "Slightly faster" with a quarter note equal to 92 beats per minute. The dynamic is "mp" (mezzo-piano).

14

tell the best now - ells that e'er be -

Detailed description: This system contains the second two staves of music, starting at measure 14. The tenor vocal line continues with a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth note, and a half note. The lyrics are "tell the best now - ells that e'er be -". The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern. A large, semi-transparent watermark "SAMPLE" is overlaid across the page.

18

fell. To you their tid - ings true I

Detailed description: This system contains the third two staves of music, starting at measure 18. The tenor vocal line continues with a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth note, and a half note. The lyrics are "fell. To you their tid - ings true I". The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern. A large, semi-transparent watermark "SAMPLE" is overlaid across the page.

22

bring, and of them I will say and

26

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass sing.

mf

mf

mf

To you this day is born a

30

child of Mary meek and Virgin

and Virgin

34

mild. That bless - ed child so sweet and

38

kind shall you re - joice both heart and heart and

Relaxed (♩ = 88)

42

mind. My soul and life, stand up and see what

Relaxed (♩ = 88)

46 *mf*

lies now in a crib of tree. What Babe is

mf

50

that, so good and fair? It is our Christ, God's Son and

54 *p*

Heir.

p

Man.

Slightly faster (♩ = 92)

58 Soprano *mp* *cresc.*
 O my dear heart, young Je - su
 Alto *mp* *cresc.*
 young Je - su

Slightly faster (♩ = 92)

mp *cresc.*

Ped.

62
 sweet, pre - pare thy cra - dle in my
 in my

66
 spreit! And I shall rock thee in my

mf *mf*