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Score/Accompaniment edition also includes a pull-out piano/keyboard part and a CD!

Introduction

Stars! Angels! Shepherds! Kings! is the Christmas story told through song from the viewpoint of the stars, the angels, the shepherds and the kings, incorporating tunes which may already be familiar:

- Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star
- Away in a Manger
- Angels We Have Heard on High
- The First Noel
- Rocking
- We Three Kings
- Go Tell It on the Mountain

Children's choirs of all ages and sizes can perform the musical; it works well for either one choir of varied ages or for multiple choirs in a graded choir program. A Sunday school could also produce the musical. One of the unique qualities of this work is that there is no dialogue; Christmas carols and songs carry the story. There are a number of opportunities for solos.

If several choirs or ages are used, the following is suggested:

- *Stars! Angels! Shepherds! Kings!* (Opening Song) the older children (8-12 years old) could open the show with this song. Alternatively, all participants could sing it.
- *Twinkle, Twinkle* (Song of the Stars) could be sung by the youngest children.
- *Gloria!* (Song of the Angels) would work well for lower-elementary age children.
- *Wake Up! Wake Up!* (Song of the Shepherds) and *Wondrous Star* (Song of the Kings) bring back the upper-elementary children.
- *Stars! Angels! Shepherds! Kings!* (finale incorporating "Go Tell It on the Mountain") is sung by all.

Solos include:

- a shepherd in *Wake Up! Wake Up!*
- Mary in *Mary's Lullaby*
- a king in *Wondrous Star*
- a soloist in *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

Accompaniment for the musical can be as simple as a piano, a keyboard, or a CD player; the enclosed CD includes both a complete performance and separate accompaniment tracks for each piece. Please feel free to duplicate this recording for your singers as an aid in learning the music. Also included in this book are optional instrument parts for C or B \flat instrument, handbells or hand-chimes and finger cymbals

Set design could be as simple as a cradle/manger scene in the middle of the stage area. If resources are available, the town of Bethlehem could be constructed in the background. In churches with projection resources, an image of Bethlehem could be onscreen, slightly above and behind the action.

Costumes can be as simple or elaborate as you choose:

- **Stars:** Options could include star-shaped masks or white gloves with glitter painted on the palm side (fingers, too!). When the words “twinkle, twinkle” are sung, the children could do a simple hand movement to provide a twinkling constellation!
- **Angels:** Consider dressing the children in simple white robes, possibly constructed out of a square of white fabric with an opening for the head. A simple halo would complete the costume.
- **Shepherds:** Traditional shepherd wear would be appropriate, or choir robes with simple shawls around the shoulders.
- **Mary and Joseph:** Simple robes or tunics, adding details as desired.
- **Kings:** Again, traditional king costumes would work, or choir robes with simple crowns. The kings might be carrying ornately decorated boxes as their gifts; perhaps a Sunday school class could create them!

Performance Suggestions

Stars! Angels! Shepherds! Kings! (Opening Song)

Older singers (perhaps in choir robes) enter during the instrumental introduction to the song—repeated as needed—and stand as a choir to sing. If the number of singers permits, have them stand in a semicircle around the cradle. Singers exit during the coda, which is repeated as necessary. If costume changes are needed, they should happen at this point.

Performance options:

1. Piano/keyboard as written
2. Handbells/handchimes (2 octaves) with piano/keyboard used as needed for additional support (notated in cue-size notes in the score and piano accompaniment).
3. Handbells/handchimes (3 octaves) with piano/keyboard playing measures 26-33 only.
4. CD accompaniment track

Entrance of the Stars/Twinkle! Twinkle! (Song of the Stars)

As the keyboard softly plays the intro (repeating as needed), the Stars enter and stand in front of (or around) the cradle. They could enter down an aisle or from the side. If they are wearing gloves that sparkle, they would raise them on the words “twinkle, twinkle” in measures 24 and 26. They might do a simple movement of their hands from right to left, then left to right. Alternatively, if star masks are being used, have the children raise them to their faces in measure 9. After singing their song, the Stars exit as the keyboard plays the coda.

Performance options:

1. Piano/keyboard as written
2. C instrument with piano/keyboard
3. Handbells/handchimes, C instrument and piano/keyboard
4. CD accompaniment track

Entrance of the Angels/Gloria

The angels enter with some excitement. Again, they could stand in front of or around the cradle. Measures 27-31 could be used as exit music, repeating as needed.

Performance options:

1. Piano/keyboard as written
2. C instrument with piano/keyboard
3. Handbells/handchimes, C instrument and piano/keyboard
4. CD accompaniment track

Entrance of the Shepherds/Wake Up! Wake Up! (Song of the Shepherds)

As the angels exit, the shepherds come onstage quietly and assume their places as if they are sleeping in various positions. One shepherd stands awake, “on watch” and suddenly appears to see something wonderful in the sky. That shepherd begins to sing “Wake Up! Wake Up!” as a solo. During the interlude, the other shepherds awaken, come to life and sing “Wake Up! Wake Up!” starting at the repeat and continuing to the end of the song. The scene ends with the shepherds exiting down the aisle(s), toward the back of the room, as they sing the refrain of “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful.” They then remain quietly in the back until their return during “Wondrous Star.”

Performance options:

1. Piano/keyboard as written
2. C instrument with piano/keyboard
3. Handbells/handchimes, flute and keyboard
4. CD accompaniment track

Mary’s Lullaby

Mary and Joseph come onstage with the baby and place him in the manger. Mary kneels beside the manger, with Joseph standing behind her, and sings her song, perhaps assisted by a choir or other characters who have remained in the scene.

Wondrous Star (Song of the Kings)

The shepherds come back down the aisle to the manger, singing the refrain of “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful” as they enter (preferably without accompaniment). They gather around the manger for the remainder of the musical. Once the shepherds are in place, the song “Wondrous Star” begins and they all sing as the kings come down the aisle with their gifts. Another option would have a king sing verse one as a solo, with the other kings joining on verse two.

Performance options:

1. Piano/keyboard as written with optional addition of finger cymbals
2. C instrument and finger cymbals with piano/keyboard
3. CD accompaniment track

Stars! Angels! Shepherds! Kings! (Finale)

As the finale begins, the stars and angels return to the stage and take their places. A soloist (or several soloists) might be used for the verses of “Go Tell It on the Mountain.”

1. Piano/keyboard as written, with optional C instrument.
2. Handbells/handchimes (2 octaves), with piano/keyboard used as needed for support (notated in cue-size notes in the score and piano accompaniment).
3. Handbells/handchimes (3 octaves) with optional C instrument.
4. CD accompaniment track

Stars! Angels! Shepherds! Kings!

A Christmas Musical for Children

2 or 3 octaves
Handbells used: 15 (18)

Handbells

1. Stars! Angels! Shepherds! Kings!

P.M.

Patrick Messick

Moderato (♩ = 80) (in 2)

Handbells/
Handchimes

C Instrument

Choir

Piano

Hb./Hc.

Performance options for *Stars! Angels! Shepherds! Kings!*:

1. Piano/keyboard as written.
2. Two octave handbells/handchimes, with piano used as needed for support.
3. Three octave handbells/handchimes, with piano playing measures 26–33 only.

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5 6 7 8 9

Hb./Hc.

Choir

Pno.

f

Stars! An - gels! Shep-herds! Kings!

10 11 12 13 14

Hb./Hc.

Choir

Pno.

Come to - geth - er this ho - ly night. Stars! An - gels! Shep-herds! Kings! All join in the

15 16 17 18 19

Hb./Hc.

Choir

Pno.

won - drous sight. Now Christ is born. Now Christ is

1 20 21 2 22 23

Hb./Hc.

Choir

born. born.

Pno.

24 25

Hb./Hc.

Choir

mf

Stars were shin - ing in the sky. An - gels sang their

Pno.

(piano plays) *mf*

And. * *And.* * *sim.*

29

Choir

songs on high. Shep - herds watched their sheep be - low. Three kings fol - lowed a star's bright

Pno.

2. Entrance of the Stars*

Softly, like the twinkling of stars

The score for 'Entrance of the Stars' is written for Piano (Pno.) in 4/4 time. It begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and the instruction 'pedal freely'. The first system consists of four measures of arpeggiated chords in the right hand, while the left hand remains silent. The second system, starting at measure 5, features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The piece concludes with a repeat sign and the instruction 'repeat as needed'.

* If using the CD as accompaniment, be aware that this track is 40 seconds long; repeat as needed to support the movement of the performers.

3. Twinkle! Twinkle!

Song of the Stars

The score for 'Twinkle! Twinkle!' is written for Handbells/Handchimes (Hb./Hc.), C Instrument (C Inst.), Choir, and Piano (Pno.) in 4/4 time. The score is divided into five measures, numbered 1 through 5. The Hb./Hc. part features chords in measures 3, 4, and 5. The C Inst. part plays a melodic line in measures 1 and 2, then rests. The Choir part enters in measure 3 with the lyrics 'Twin - kle, twin - kle, stars so bright, shin - ing on that'. The Pno. part provides accompaniment throughout, with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The lyrics are: 'Twin - kle, twin - kle, stars so bright, shin - ing on that'.

Performance options for *Twinkle! Twinkle!*:

1. Piano/keyboard as written.
2. Piano/keyboard with C instrument.
3. Handbells/handchimes, C instrument and piano.
Two octave handbells/handchimes, with piano used as needed for support.
Three octave handbells/handchimes.

6. Gloria*

Song of the Angels

Moderato

1 2 3 4 5

Hb./Hc. *f*

C Inst. *f*

Choir *f*

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a! An - gels sing glo - ri - a; glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a,

Hb./Hc. *f*

Pno. *f*

1 2 8 9 10 11

Hb./Hc.

C Inst.

Choir

for Christ is born. on Christ-mas morn. Glo - ri - a

Pno. *(piano plays)*

*Two-octave sets play treble clef only, omitting notes in parentheses.

Performance options for *Gloria!*

1. Piano/keyboard as written.
2. Piano/keyboard with C instrument.
3. Handbells/handchimes, C instrument and piano.
Two octave handbells/handchimes, with piano used as needed for support.
Three octave handbells/handchimes.

7. Entrance of the Shepherds

Quietly

C Inst.

Pno.

7

C Inst.

Pno.

13

C Inst.

Pno.

19

C Inst.

Pno.

The image displays a musical score for the piece 'Entrance of the Shepherds'. It is arranged in four systems, each featuring a C Instrument (C Inst.) and a Piano (Pno.). The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The tempo/mood is marked 'Quietly' and the dynamics are 'p' (piano). The first system starts at measure 1. The second system begins at measure 7. The third system begins at measure 13. The fourth system begins at measure 19 and concludes with a double bar line. The C Instrument part consists of a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes. The Piano part provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both the right and left hands.

Performance options for *Entrance of the Shepherds*

1. Piano/keyboard as written.
2. Piano/keyboard with C instrument.

8. Wake Up! Wake Up!

Song of the Shepherds

Lively

1 2 3 4

Hb./Hc.

f

C Inst.

Choir

f *first time: solo*
second time: all

Wake up! Wake up and see a great sight: the

Hb./Hc.

Pno.

f *(piano plays)*

7

Choir

skies are full of glo- ry to-night. All a- round the an- gels are sing - ing; tid - ings of great

Pno.

12

Choir

rit. *a tempo*

joy — they're bring - ing. Wake up! Wake up and see a great sight: the skies are full of

Pno.

rit. *a tempo*

Performance options for *Wake Up! Wake Up!*

1. Piano/keyboard as written.
2. Piano/keyboard with C instrument.
3. Handbells/handchimes, C instrument and piano.
Two octave handbells/handchimes, with piano used as needed for support.
Three octave handbells/handchimes.

9. Mary's Lullaby

Slowly

Choir

Pno.

mp

5

Verse 1: opt. solo
Verse 2: all

mp

Choir

1 Rock - a - bye, my dear lit - tle boy, dear lit - tle boy, won - der of won - ders my
2 Lit - tle Je - sus, in - fant di - vine, in - fant di - vine, one with the Fa - ther, yet

Pno.

9

Choir

bles - ing and joy;
born to be mine;

Slum - ber as I
As I rock you

Pno.

10. Wondrous Star

Slowly

C Inst.

Choir

mf

1 Three kings trav - eled from a - far,
2 Pre - cious gifts they came to bring,

Pno.

mf

Red. *opt. finger cymbal* *Red.* ** Red.* *sim.*

5

Choir

guid - ed by a shin - ing star; west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing,
gifts to hon - or such a King: prayer and prais - ing, voic - es rais - ing,

Pno.

9

Choir

How far? How far, oh, won - drous star?

Pno.

Performance options for *Wondrous Star*

1. Piano/keyboard as written.
2. Piano/keyboard with C instrument.

11. Stars! Angels! Shepherds! Kings!

Slow and grand

1 2 3 4

Hb./Hc.

f

C Inst.

Choir

Hb./Hc.

Pno.

f

(with pedal, if using piano)

5 6 7 8 9

Hb./Hc.

Pno.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of two systems of staves. The first system includes staves for Hb./Hc. (Handbells/Handchimes), C Inst. (C instrument), Choir, and Pno. (Piano). The Hb./Hc. part begins with a dynamic marking of *f* and features a melodic line with a trill-like figure in measure 2. The piano accompaniment also starts with *f* and includes a trill-like figure in the right hand and a steady bass line. The C Inst. and Choir parts are marked with a whole rest, indicating they are silent during this section. The second system continues the Hb./Hc. and Pno. parts, with the Hb./Hc. part ending on a whole note in measure 9 and the piano accompaniment providing harmonic support.

Performance options for *Stars! Angels! Shepherds! Kings!*

1. Piano/keyboard as written.
2. Piano/keyboard with C instrument.
3. Handbells/handchimes, C instrument and piano.
Two octave handbells/handchimes, with piano used as needed for support.
Three octave handbells/handchimes.