

A NIGHT FOR DANCING

A Christmas Cantata
For Children's Voices

With directions for optional
Chancel Dramatization

Words and Music
by
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Characters: Matthew, The Shepherd Boy
Joseph
Mary

Chorus of Animals: Lamb
(One or more Donkey
of each) Cow
Lion
Hawk
Dove

SUGGESTIONS FOR DRAMATIZATION: The cantata may be presented effectively in a variety of ways ranging from a simple presentation by robed choir to a more elaborate presentation. When presented as a full dramatization, it is suggested that young elementary children sing the parts of the animals, with older elementary children taking the parts of Matthew, Joseph and Mary. A chorus of older elementary children may be placed inconspicuously on one side to strengthen the parts sung by the chorus of animals. At the beginning of the introduction, Matthew (carrying a staff) and animals (in simple costume) enter dancing joyfully. Matthew is in place up front and center by the time the solo begins. The animals immediately distribute themselves the length of the center aisle and during Part I hand out paper symbols they have made themselves (paper doves inscribed with "PEACE"; paper shaped lions inscribed with "The lion and lamb rejoice together" and other appropriate phrases).

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PART ONE: THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

I Procession of Joy (Matthew and the Animals)

Joyfully and spirited (♩ = c. 104)

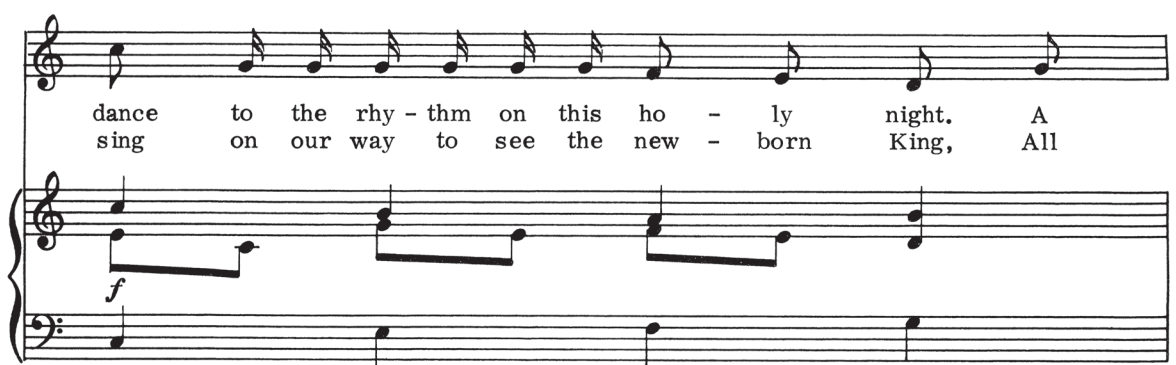


MATTHEW Solo *f*

1. Come
2. We



dance to the rhy - thm on this ho - ly night. A
sing on our way to see the new - born King, All



big, new star is shin-ing, oh, so bright. *f*
 na - ture join and let your car - ols ring. Dance, dance, come

pipe and play, come sing and dance, pipe and play, dance and pipe and play.

Faster, with a bounce (♩ = c. 132) **CHORUS** *f*
 The

night of nights_ is here. All earth join hands_ and

V Go Now in Peace

(Joseph and Mary)

Piano introduction in G major, 4/4 time. The right hand features a series of eighth-note chords, while the left hand plays a simple bass line with dotted half notes and quarter notes. A piano (*p*) dynamic marking is present in the first measure.

PART I (MARY)

Vocal line for Mary in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is simple and lyrical, starting on a half note and moving in quarter notes. A piano (*p*) dynamic marking is at the beginning. The lyrics are: "Go now in peace. Good will to

PART II (JOSEPH)

Vocal line for Joseph in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is simple and lyrical, starting on a half note and moving in quarter notes. A piano (*p*) dynamic marking is at the beginning. The lyrics are: "Go now in peace.

Piano accompaniment for the first vocal part in G major, 4/4 time. The right hand plays a series of eighth-note chords, and the left hand plays a simple bass line with dotted half notes and quarter notes.

Vocal line for Mary in G major, 4/4 time. The melody continues with quarter notes. The lyrics are: "you and to all men.

Vocal line for Joseph in G major, 4/4 time. The melody continues with quarter notes. The lyrics are: "Good will to you and to all men.

Piano accompaniment for the second vocal part in G major, 4/4 time. The right hand plays a series of eighth-note chords, and the left hand plays a simple bass line with dotted half notes and quarter notes.

p
Go now in peace. Good

p
Go now in

will to you and to all men.
peace. Good will to you and to all

men. Go in peace.
Go in joy.