# Light of Peace

Celtic Carols for Christmas

# Karen Marrolli

I. Noel!	
2. Creation Sings	15
3. Peace on Earth	27
4. The Call	37
5. Alleluia!	46



#### Composer's Note

These anthems come from what originally was a full Celtic service of Lessons and Carols, entitled *Light of Peace*. The idea was to weave together familiar hymn and carol tunes from the Irish and Scottish traditions with popular Celtic folk tunes, reels, and airs. I also wanted to create new texts that suggested that our proper response to the Christmas story might be to live out a life of love in action. For example, in response to the humble birthplace of Christ, and the shepherds—not the loftiest of characters—being the first to hear the song of the angels, the choir sings this prayer to the tune of *Salley Gardens*: "Forgive us, Lord, forgive us when we look to the rich and strong instead of the lowly stable for the power to right Earth's wrongs. O use us, the poor and lowly, inspired by the song from above, to seek the lost and broken, to heal the world with love."

While each of these carols can be done separately, a director could choose to flesh them out into a Lessons and Carols service of their own. The original service used the traditional King's College prayers and readings as its liturgy, and also used traditional carols for congregational participation, in the following order: O Come All Ye Faithful (processional hymn); It Came Upon the Midnight Clear; Lo, How a Rose; What Child is This; Away in a Manger; Angels We Have Heard On High; Silent Night; Joy to the World; and Hark the Herald Angels Sing (recessional hymn). Alternatively, one might choose a selection of Celtic Christmas prayers or poems as the readings. If the director takes this route, they might create their own order of these anthems with carols of their choosing (either from the suggested list above or from other sources) as they best respond to the readings that precede them.

In this collection, "Peace on Earth" and "Gloria" have been knitted together to create a full choir anthem that can be done separately; however, they were initially separate responses. If one were to choose to do these as part of a full service of Lessons and Carols, it would be possible to do them separately, with "Peace on Earth" being followed by "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" (in the original version this pairing followed the reading of portions of Isaiah 11:1-9) and "Gloria" following "Angels We Have Heard on High" and the story of the angels greeting the shepherds.

-Karen Marrolli

### 1. Noel!

SATB, Flute, Violin, Drum\*, and Piano

Words and Music by Karen Marrolli



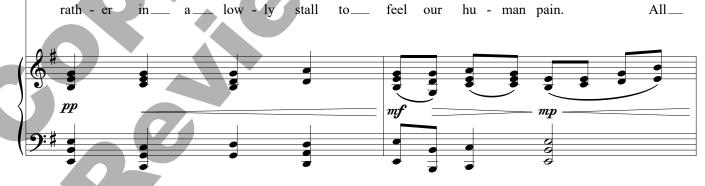


<sup>\*</sup>Hand drum (such as a bodhrán) is preferred.

Reproducible parts for Flute, Violin and Drum, are available separately Order No. MSM-70-500A

Text: Karen Marrolli, newly authored, and copyright © 2024 Birnamwood Publications. Tune: *KINGSFOLD*, English folk melody (PD); "Drowsy Maggie," traditional Irish reel (PD). Music: Karen Marrolli (ASCAP), newly composed, and copyright © 2024 Birnamwood Publications.













# 2. Creation Sings

SATB, Flute, Violin, Drum\*, and Piano



<sup>\*</sup>Hand drum (such as a bodhrán) is preferred.

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Text: Karen Marrolli, newly authored, and copyright © 2024 Birnamwood Publications. Tune: *CANDLER*, traditional Scottish melody (PD); "The Butterfly," traditional Irish slip jig (PD). Music: Karen Marrolli (ASCAP), newly composed, and copyright © 2024 Birnamwood Publications.











# 3. Peace on Earth

SATB, Flute, Violin, Drum\*, and Piano

Words and Music by Karen Marrolli



<sup>\*</sup>Hand drum (such as a bodhrán) is preferred.

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Text: Karen Marrolli, newly authored, and copyright © 2024 Birnamwood Publications.

Tune: "Airidh nam Badan," traditional Scottish jig, (PD); "Cooley's Reel," traditional Irish reel (PD).

Music: Karen Marrolli (ASCAP), newly composed, and copyright © 2024 Birnamwood Publications.









# 4. The Call

SATB, Flute, Violin, and Piano

Words and Music by Karen Marrolli



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Text: Karen Marrolli, newly authored, and copyright © 2024 Birnamwood Publications.

Tune: *SALLEY GARDENS*, Irish folk melody (PD); "Forneth House," by Robert Petrie, first published in 1790 (PD).

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# 5. Alleluia!

Soprano and Bass Soli, SATB, Flute, Violin, Drum\*, and Piano

Words and Music by Karen Marrolli



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Text: Karen Marrolli, newly authored, and copyright © 2024 Birnamwood Publications.

Tune: "Mo Ghile Mear," traditional Irish song (PD); "The Blarney Pilgrim," traditional Irish jig (PD).

Music: Karen Marrolli (ASCAP), newly composed, and copyright © 2024 Birnamwood Publications.

<sup>\*</sup>Hand drum (such as a bodhrán) is preferred.









