

# Light of Peace

*Celtic Carols for Christmas*

Karen Marrolli

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### 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 Marroli

$\text{♩} = 58$  *unis. mf*

Soprano  
Alto

No - el, no - el! The an-gels tell the sto-ry of this night,

Tenor  
Bass

*unis. mf*

when Em-

$\text{♩} = 58$

Piano

*f mp mf*

4

He

man - u - el came with us to dwell: the Christ, the Child of Light. He

\*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 Marroli, newly authored, and copyright © 2024 Birnamwood Publications.

Tune: *KINGSFOLD*, English folk melody (PD); "Drowsy Maggie," traditional Irish reel (PD).

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

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6

was not born in gil - ded halls be - fit - ting of his reign, but

was not born in gil - ded halls be - fit - ting of his reign, but

8  
Dr.

rath - er in a low - ly stall to feel our hu - man pain. All

rath - er in a low - ly stall to feel our hu - man pain. All

10

glo - ry be\_\_\_ to God on high! We\_\_\_ heed the\_\_\_ an - gels' call, and\_\_\_

glo - ry be to God on high! We\_\_\_ heed the an - gels' call! and

*mf*

12

Vln. *mf*

Dr.

S  
A *mp*

T  
B *mp*

joy - ful - ly re - turn their cry: Sing\_\_\_ peace to one\_\_\_ and all!

joy - ful - ly re - turn their cry: Sing\_\_\_ peace to one\_\_\_ and all!

*mf*

$\text{♩} = 72$

15

Vln.

Dr.

S

T

Soprano *mp*

Tenor *mp*

No -

17

Dr.

S

A

T

B

*p*

el, no - el! Their prai - ses swell o'er hill and o - ver sea. O -

No - el, no - el! No - el, no - el!

*p*

el, no - el! Their prai - ses swell o'er hill and o - ver sea. O -

No - el, no - el! No - el, no - el!

19

hear the bells, o'er hill and dell, that sing of ju - bi - lee! The *ff*

No - el, no - el! No - el, no - el! The *ff*

hear the bells, o'er hill and dell, that sing of ju - bi - lee! The *ff*

No - el, no - el! No - el, no - el! The

21

Dr. *p*

S *unis. p*

A Lord has come to show us how in - i - qui - ty might cease. O

T *unis. p*

B Lord has come to show us how in - i - qui - ty might cease. O

*ff* *p*

23

let us be your ser - vants now, and walk the paths of peace. All

let us be your ser - vants now, and walk the paths of peace. All

25

glo - ry be to God on high! We heed the an - gels' call, and joy - ful - ly re - turn their cry: Sing

glo - ry be to God on high! We heed the an - gels' call, and joy - ful - ly re - turn their cry: Sing



## 2. Creation Sings

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

Words and Music by  
Karen Marroli

$\text{♩} = 112$

Flute

*mf*

Violin

Drum

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

$\text{♩} = 112$

Piano

*mf*

6

Fl.

*unis. mp*

S

A

O — sleep, o sleep, — Thou Ho - ly Child, — the —

*mp*

The musical score is arranged in systems. The first system includes parts for Flute, Violin, Drum, Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass, followed by the Piano. The Flute part begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 112. The Flute part has a dynamic marking of *mf*. The Piano part is in a grand staff with a key signature of one flat and a 3/4 time signature, also marked *mf*. The second system starts at measure 6 and includes parts for Flute, Soprano, Alto, and Piano. The vocal parts (Soprano and Alto) are marked *unis. mp* and have lyrics: "O — sleep, o sleep, — Thou Ho - ly Child, — the —". The Piano part continues with a dynamic marking of *mp*.

\*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 Marroli, newly authored, and copyright © 2024 Birnamwood Publications.

Tune: *CANDLER*, traditional Scottish melody (PD); "The Butterfly," traditional Irish slip jig (PD).

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11

S  
A

Son of God, so meek, so mild. The don - key

16

car - ried your Moth - er blessed, the cow gives hay to

21

Fl.

Dr.

S  
A

T  
B

has - ten your rest, and

*mp*

*mp*

*unis. mp*

*unis. mp*

26

all Cre - a - tion sings the birth of Christ, the Sa - vior

all Cre - a - tion sings the birth of Christ, the Sa - vior

32

*mp*  
of the earth! And all Cre - a - tion sings the birth of

of the earth!

*mp*

38

Fl. *mf*

Dr. *mf*

S  
A  
Christ, the Sa - vior of the earth!

(♩ = ♩.)

*mf*

43

Fl. *p*

Dr. *p*

*p*

48

Fl. *mf*

Vln. *mf*

Dr. *mf*

*mf*

53

*p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

58

Fl.

Vln.

Dr.

*mp* *mp*

S  
A

T  
B

*mp* *mp*

O sleep, o sleep, Thou

O sleep, o sleep, Thou

(♩ = ♩)

Ho - ly Child, the Son of God, so meek, so

Ho - ly Child, the Son of God, so meek, so

*mp*

mild. The stars will hum a slum - ber tune as

mild. The stars will hum a slum - ber tune as

# 3. Peace on Earth

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

Words and Music by  
Karen Marroli

“Airidh nam Badan”  
♩. = 69

Violin *mp* *rit.*

Piano *mp* *rit.*

5 *a tempo*

Vln. *mp* *p*

S  
A *a tempo*  
*mp* *mp* *mf* *pp*

Peace on earth, peace on earth, we shall know peace, — peace on earth,

T  
B *a tempo*

Peace on earth, we shall know peace, —

*a tempo* *pp*

\*Hand drum (such as a bodhrán) is preferred.

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

Tune: “Airidh nam Badan,” traditional Scottish jig, (PD); “Cooley’s Reel,” traditional Irish reel (PD).

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mp mf

*pp* *p* *mp* *mf*

peace on earth, we shall know peace, — when Christ comes to

*pp* *p* *mp* *mf*

peace on earth, we shall know peace, — to

*p* *mp* *pp* *p* *mp*

15

*mp* *mp* *mp*

reign with - in us, when Christ is born in

*mp*

reign with - in us, when Christ is born in

*mf* *mp*



20

*p* *mp* *f*

*pp* *p* *p* *mp*

us. Peace on earth, peace on earth, we shall know peace, —  
 Peace, peace on earth, we shall know peace, —

us. Peace, — we shall know peace, —

*p* *mp* *p*

25

*mp* *rit.*

*f* *mp* *rit.*

when Christ comes to reign with-in us, when Christ is  
 to reign with-in us, when Christ is

*f* *mp* *rit.*

*mf* *f* *mp* *p* *rit.*

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and 4/4 time signature. The staff contains a melodic line with dynamics *p* and *mp*.

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of two sharps, and 4/4 time signature. The staff contains a harmonic accompaniment with dynamics *pp*, *p*, and *mp*.

born in us. Peace on earth, peace on earth, we shall know

Musical staff with bass clef, key signature of two sharps, and 4/4 time signature. The staff contains a melodic line with dynamics *pp*, *p*, and *mp*.

born in us. Peace, peace on earth, we shall know

Piano accompaniment with grand staff (treble and bass clefs), key signature of two sharps, and 4/4 time signature. Dynamics include *mp*, *p*, and *mp*.

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of two sharps, and 4/4 time signature. The staff contains a melodic line with dynamics *p* and *mf*, and a *rit.* marking.

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of two sharps, and 4/4 time signature. The staff contains a harmonic accompaniment with dynamics *pp* and *rit.*

peace, peace on earth, peace on earth, we shall know peace,

Musical staff with bass clef, key signature of two sharps, and 4/4 time signature. The staff contains a melodic line with dynamics *pp* and *rit.*

peace, peace, we shall know peace,

Piano accompaniment with grand staff (treble and bass clefs), key signature of two sharps, and 4/4 time signature. Dynamics include *p*, *pp*, and *rit.*

“Cooley’s Reel”

41  $\text{♩} = 96$   
Vln.

45  
Vln.

Dr.

50  
Vln.

Dr.

53  
Vln.

Dr.

S  
A

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri -

T  
B

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri -

# 4. The Call

SATB, Flute, Violin, and Piano

Words and Music by  
Karen Marroli

**Piano**

$\text{♩} = 86$

*p*

**Fl.**

*mp*

*mf*

**Vln.**

*mp*

*mf*

**Fl.**

**Vln.**

**T**

**B**

*unis. mf*

We greet the joy of Christ - mas and the cho - rus the an - gels

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

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12

Fl. *mf*

Vln.

S  
A *unis. mf*  
T  
B

Ring out a song of welcome to Christ, the new-born

sing!

16

*mf*

King! For present in that welcome of the light through bliss-ful

For present in that welcome of the light through bliss-ful

20

*p* *pp* *mp* *p* *mf*

*mp* *mf*

birth is a wel - come\_ to all\_ peo - ple, and the prom - ise of peace on

*mp* *mf*

birth is a wel - come\_ to all\_ peo - ple and the prom - ise of peace on

*mp* *mf*

24

*mf*

earth.

earth.

mp mf mp

We  
mp  
We

mp

p

feel the call of Christ - mas in the mes - sage the shep - herds heard. Though -  
feel the call of Christ - mas in the mes - sage the shep - herds heard.

36

mf

they were but com - mon — peo - ple they were cho - sen to greet the word.

They were cho - sen to greet the word.

They were cho - sen to greet the word. "Oh

f

40

f

"Oh glo - ry! Oh glo - ry to God! Peace on earth!" But —

glo - ry to God in the high - est, — and peace — to all — of good - will!" But —

p

f



# 5. Alleluia!

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

Words and Music by  
Karen Marroli

$\text{♩} = 120$

Drum  $\frac{12}{8}$  *mp*

Bass Solo  $\frac{12}{8}$  *Solo mf*

Al - le -

4

lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Peace\_

7

on the earth! Good ti - dings to all! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

\*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 Marroli, newly authored, and copyright © 2024 Birnamwood Publications.

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

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10

Dr. *mf*

S  
A *mf*  
Al - le - lu - ia!

T  
B (Solo) +Tenor *mf*  
Tutti Bass  
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

13

*mf*  
Al - le - lu - ia! Peace on the earth! Good

Al - le - lu - ia! Peace on the earth! Good

16

Fl.

Dr.

S  
A

T  
B

ti - dings — to all! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

ti - dings — to all! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*mf*

*mp*

19

Fl.

Dr.

Sop.  
Solo

Solo

The an - gel song rings from — on high! The —

22

star is shi - ning in the sky! And all the heav - ens

25

seem to cry: "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le! Al - le - lu - ia!"

28

Fl. *mp*

Dr.

Tutti Soprano *mp*

S  
A  
+Alto

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

T  
B *mp*

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

*mp*

31

*mf*

*mf*

lu - ia! Peace on the earth! Good ti - dings to all! Al - le -

*mf*

lu - ia! Peace on the earth! Good ti - dings to all! Al - le -

*mf*

34

Fl.

Vln.

Dr.

S  
A

T  
B

lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*mf*

37

Vln.

Dr.

40