

**As I Lay Upon a Night**  
*(Alma redemptoris Mater)*

As I lay upon a night,  
My thought was on a bird\* so bright (*Alleluia!*)  
That men call Mary full of might,  
*Redemptoris Mater.*

To her came Gabriel with light,  
And said, "Hail be thou, blissful wight (*Alleluia!*)  
To be called now art thou dight\*\*  
*Redemptoris Mater.*"

At that word that lady bright  
Anon conceived God full of might (*Alleluia!*)  
Then men wist well that she hight  
*Redemptoris Mater.*

Jesu, that sittest in heaven light,  
Grant us to come before Thy sight (*Alleluia!*)  
With that bird that is so bright,  
*Redemptoris Mater.*

\* lady \*\* ready

Anon. (fifteenth century)

Commissioned by the Canada Council and B. C. Arts Council for the Phoenix Chamber Choir, Vancouver,  
Dr. Ramona Luengen, director

# Carols of the Nativity

## 1. As I Lay Upon a Night (Alma redemptoris Mater)

for SSAATBB Chorus and opt. Piano, Organ, or Harp, or Brass Quintet, or Full Orchestra

Anon. (fifteenth century)

Stephen Chatman

Verse I

Moderately, flowing  $\text{♩} = 46-50$

*p*

Soprano

As I lay up - on a night, My thought was on a

Alto

As I lay up - on a night, My thought was on a

Tenor

As I lay up - on a night, My thought was on a

Bass

*pp*

Ah.

Moderately, flowing  $\text{♩} = 46-50$

*pp*

Piano or Organ (optional)

*pp sempre*

*Ped.* *sim.*

\* Organ

5

bird \* so bright (Al - le - lu - ia!) That

bird \* so bright (Al - le - lu - ia!) That

bird \* so bright (Al - le - lu - ia!) That

(8va)

9

men call Ma - ry full of might, Re - demp -

men call Ma - ry full of might, Re - demp -

men call Ma - ry full of might, Re - demp -

(8va)

\* lady

\* Verse II

13 *mp* *p* *mp* *div.*  
*mp* *p* *mp* *stagger breathing*  
*mp* *p* *mp*  
*mp* *p* *mp*

to - ris - Ma - ter. To her came Ga - bri -  
to - ris - Ma - ter. To her... with  
to - ris - Ma - ter. To her came Ga - bri -  
To her came Ga - bri -

(8<sup>va</sup>)

*poco p legato*

17  
el with light, And said, "Hail be thou, bliss-ful wight (Al - le -  
light, And "bliss - ful, bliss - ful wight (Al - le -  
el with light, And said, - "Hail be thou, bliss-ful wight (Al - le -  
el with light And said, - "Hail be thou, bliss-ful wight (Al - le -

*p sempre*

(8<sup>vb</sup>)

(Organ sustain)

\* In Verse II, some Altos may sing the Soprano II part.

21

lu - ia!) To be called now - art - thou dight \*

lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!) ...now art - thou dight \*

lu - ia!) To be - called now - art - thou dight \*

lu - ia!) To be - called now - art - thou dight \*

(8vb)

26

Re - demp to - ris - Ma - ter." *mf* *rit.* *mp*

Re - demp - to - ris - Ma - ter." *mf* *mp*

Re - demp to - ris - Ma - ter." *mf* *mp*

Re - demp to - ris - Ma - ter." *mf* *mp*

Re - demp to - ris - Ma - ter." *div.* *mp*

Re - demp to - ris - Ma - ter." *pp*

(8vb)

\* ready

Slightly faster  $\text{♩} = 48-52$ (30) *mf* Descant\*\*

1  
S  
2  
A  
T  
B

3. At that word... bright A God of might (Al  
4. Je - su... in heav'n light, Grant us... Thy sight (Al

3. At that word that la - dy bright A - non con - ceived God full of might  
4. Je - su, sit - est in heav en light, Grant us to come be - fore Thy sight

3. At that word that la - dy bright, A - non con - ceived God full of might  
4. Je - su, sit - est in heav en light, Grant us to come be - fore Thy sight

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3. At that word that la - dy bright A - non con - ceived God full of might  
4. Je - su, sit - est in heav en light, Grant us to come be - fore Thy sight

Slightly faster  $\text{♩} = 48-52$

*mf*

\* Verse IV is optional. In addition, either or both Verses III and IV may be sung a cappella.

\*\* Sing descant on final verse only.

35

*rit. poco a poco*

le - lu - ia!) Then men wist that she  
le - lu - ia!) With that, that is so

(Al - le - lu - ia!) Then men wist well that she  
(Al - le - lu - ia!) With that bird that is so

(Al - le - lu - ia!) Then men wist well that she  
(Al - le - lu - ia!) With that bird that is so

(Al - le - lu - ia!) Then men wist well that she  
(Al - le - lu - ia!) With that bird that is so

*rit. poco a poco*

Copyright Review

40 *pp* *(rit.)* *a tempo* *p* *mf* *rit.* *pp*

she hight Re - demp - to - ris Ma - ter.  
so bright, Re - demp - to - ris Ma - ter.

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

hight Re - demp - to - ris Ma - ter.  
bright, Re - demp - to - ris Ma - ter.

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

hight Re - demp - to - ris Ma - ter.  
bright, Re - demp - to - ris Ma - ter.

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

hight Re - demp - to - ris Ma - ter.  
bright, Re - demp - to - ris Ma - ter.

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

hight Re - demp - to - ris Ma - ter.  
bright, Re - demp - to - ris Ma - ter.

*a tempo*

*(rit.) pp* *p* *mf* *rit.* *pp*

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2'50"