

The First Noël

The first Noël, the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, On a
cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël,
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star,
Shining in the East beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël,
Born is the King of Israel.

This star drew nigh to the northwest;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay,
O'er the place where Jesus lay.

Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël,
Born is the King of Israel.

Traditional

Publisher's Note

The seven titles in *Carols of the Nativity* are:

1. As I Lay Upon a Night (#7.0451)
2. Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella (#7.0452)
3. The Huron Carol (#7.0453)
4. A Christmas Lullaby (#7.0454)
5. The First Noël (#7.0455)
6. Wassail (#7.0456)
7. Angels We Have Heard On High (#7.0457)

Carols of the Nativity is also available with accompaniments for harp (#7.0736), brass quintet (#7.0467 [score], #7.0468 [parts]), or orchestra. Score and parts for orchestra are available on rental from the publisher.

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

Carols of the Nativity

5. The First Noël

Soprano Solo, SSATB Chorus, and opt. Piano, Organ, or Harp, or Brass Quintet, or Full Orchestra

Traditional

William Sandys' version (c. 1833)

Traditional

arr. Stephen Chatman

Moderately ♩ = 72

Piú mosso ♩ = 76

pp

Soprano

The first No -

Alto

* *pp relaxed*

The first No - ël, the first No -

Tenor

pp relaxed

The first No - ël, the first No -

Bass

pp relaxed

The first No - ël, the first No -

Moderately ♩ = 72

Piú mosso ♩ = 76

pp

Piano or Organ (optional)

* Optional: Altos first phrase mm. 1-3.

Verse I

5 **Piú mosso** ♩ = 80 *rit.* **Piú mosso** ♩ = 84 *p*

ël, the first No - ël, the first No -

ël, the first No - ël, the first No -

ël, the first No - ël, the first No -

ël, the first No - ël, the first No -

Piú mosso ♩ = 80 *rit.* **Piú mosso** ♩ = 84 *p*

9 *p*

ël, Was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in

ël, the an - gel did say, Was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in

ël the an - gel did say, Was to cer - tain poor - shep - herds in

ël, the an - gel did say, Was to cer - tain poor - shep - herds in

* *p*

* Optional: Piano R.H. (only) may play some phrases one octave higher *ad libitum*.

14

fields as they lay; In fields where they lay keep - ing their

fields as they lay; In fields where they lay keep - ing their

fields as they lay; In fields where they lay keep - ing their

fields where they lay; In fields where they lay

19 *p* Refrain

Sop. Solo On a cold win - ter's night that was so deep. No -

S keep - ing, On a cold win - ter's night that was so deep. No -

A sheep, On a cold win - ter's night that was so deep. No -

T sheep, On a cold win - ter's night that was so deep. No -

B keep - ing, On a cold win - ter's night that was so deep. No -

24

S
 A
 T
 B

mp *p* ,
mp *p* ,
mp *p* ,
mp *p*

ä, No - ä, No - ä, No - ä, Born the
 ä, No - ä, No - ä, No - ä, Born is the
 ä, No - ä, No - ä, No - ä, Born is the
 ä, No - ä, No - ä, No - ä,

Verse II
a tempo

29

, *p* *rit.*
 , *p* *mp*
 , *p* *mp*
p *mp*
rit. *mp*

King of Is - ra - el. They look - ed up,
 King of Is - ra - el. They look - ed up, They
 King of Is - ra - el. They look - ed up,
 of Is - ra - el. They
a tempo

34 *poco mp unis.*

S They look'd up, _____ Shin - ing

2 *mp*
They look - ed up and saw a star, Shin - ing in the

A look - ed up and saw a star, Shin - ing in the

T *mp*
They look - ed up and saw a star, Shin - ing in the

B look - ed up and saw a star, Shin - ing in the

39

in the East from far, And the light, _____

East be - yond them far, And to the earth it _____

East be - yond them far, And to the earth it _____

East be - yond them far, And to, _____ to the earth it _____

East be - yond them far, And to the Earth it _____

44

And — so it con -
 gave — great light And — so it con - tin - ued both
 gave great light And so it — con - tin - ued both
 gave — great — light — And — so — it con - tin - ued both
 gave — great — light — And — so — it con - tin - ued both

48

Refrain

tin - ued at night. No - ël, No -
 day — and night. No - ël, No - ël, No -
 day — and night. No - ël, No - ël, No -
 day — and night. No - ël, No - ël, No -
 day — and night. No - ël, No - ël, No -

52

cresc.

mf

ël, No - ël, Born is the King of
 ël, No - ël, Born is the King of
 ël, No - ël, Born is the King of
 ël, No - ël, Born is the King of
 ël, No - ël, Born is the King of
cresc. *mf*

56

rit.

Verse III *a tempo*

mp

f

Is - ra - el. This star drew nigh to
 Is - ra - el. This star drew nigh to
 Is - ra - el. This star drew nigh to
 Is - ra - el. This star drew nigh to
 Is - ra - el. This star drew nigh to
mp *f* *a tempo*

Ped.

60

the north - west; O'er Beth - le - hem it took its
 the north - west; O'er Beth - le - hem it took its
 the north - west; O'er Beth - le - hem it took its
 the north - west; O'er Beth - le - hem it took its
 the north - west; O'er Beth - le - hem it took its

65

rest, And there it did stop,
 rest, And there it did both stop and
 rest, And there it did both stop and
 rest, And there it did both stop and
 rest, And there it did both stop and

ossia Soprano I

69

stop, Je - sus
 did stop, Je - sus
 stay, right O'er the place where Je - sus
 stay, right O'er the place where Je - sus
 stay, right O'er the place where Je - sus
 stay, right O'er the place where Je - sus
 stay, right O'er the place where Je - sus

73

, molto allargando poco a poco al fine cresc.

lay. No - ël, No - ël, No - ël, No -
 lay. No - ël, No - ël, No - ël, No -
 lay. No - ël, No - ël, No - ël, No -
 lay. No - ël, No - ël, No - ël, No -
 lay. No - ël, No - ël, No - ël, No -
 lay. No - ël, No - ël, No - ël, No -
 lay. No - ël, No - ël, No - ël, No -
 lay. No - ël, No - ël, No - ël, No -

molto allargando poco a poco al fine

77 *ff* (optional)

el, _____ Born the King of Is - ra - el.

ff (optional)

el, _____ Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

ff (optional)

el, _____ Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

* *ff* (optional)

el, _____ Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

ff (optional)

el, _____ Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

ff (optional)

* The upper part may be omitted.

June 18, 2002
Vancouver, B.C.
3'00"