

Program notes

“The Friendly Beasts” portrays the animals who have protected Jesus and Mary during the birth. Each animal proudly takes its turn announcing its contribution. The donkey carried Mary “up hill and down.” The dove “cooed” the Child to sleep. At the end of the song, all of the animals reappear in quick succession: donkey, cow, sheep, dove. They recount the gifts they brought to Immanuel.

The Clarinet plays a featured role, enhancing the message of the lyrics. For example, the Clarinet associates with each animal, *braying* as a donkey, warmly *mooring* as a cow, embellishing as a sheep with “curly horns,” and *fluttering* upward with trills as a dove in flight.

Available editions

Score	8795
Clarinet Part	8795A

Performance option

The following works may be performed jointly to form a multi-movement work: *The Friendly Beasts and Other Christmas Carols*

1. Born in Bethlehem: 8794
2. **The Friendly Beasts: 8795**
3. Angels Singing: 8796

The Friendly Beasts

for SATB Chorus, Clarinet in A, and Piano

Traditional
G. Walker, alt.

Gwyneth Walker
(ASCAP)

Flowing tempo ♩ = 60 (conduct in one)
tenderly, as the animals protecting Baby Jesus

Piano

mf

with pedal

7

LH

Ped.

13

Ped.

18

Ped.

Ped.

simile

23

p

Ped.

simile

29 **A**

Cl.

p

S
A

Je - sus, our broth - er, kind and good, _____ was

A

(*p*)

35

Cl.

S
A

hum - bly born in a sta - ble rude. _____

40

Cl.

p

T
B

And the friend - ly beasts a - round him stood. _____

*All cut-offs for notes tied over the barline should be executed on the down beat of the following measure.

46

Cl.

S
A

T
B

Je - sus our broth - er, kind and

Je - sus our broth - er, kind and

51 **B**

Cl.

S
A

T
B

good.

good.

B

mf

57 C

Cl.

S
A

T
B *mf*
 "I," said the don - key, shag - gy and

62 *roughly, as a donkey braying*

Cl. *f*

S
A

T
B
 brown, "I car-ried his moth-er up hill and

roughly, as a donkey braying

68

Cl.

S
A

T
B

mf

“I car - ried her safe - ly to

down.”

f *mf*

73

Cl.

S
A

T
B

Beth - le - hem town.”

“I,” said the don-key,

“I,” said the don-key,

f *mf*

79 D

Cl.

S
A
shag - gy and brown.

T
B
shag - gy and brown.

D

85 E

Cl.
mf

S
A
Alto *mf* with warmth of tone
"I," said the cow all

T
B

E *warmly, gently (as if petting a calf)*

with much pedal

91 *with warmth of a cow*

Cl.

S
A

+Sop. *mf* with warmth of tone

white and red, _____ "I," gave him my man-ger

T
B

97

Cl.

S
A

for his bed." _____ *mf* with warmth of tone

T
B

"I gave him my hay to

103

Cl.

S
A

T
B

“I,” said the cow all
pil - low his head.” — “I,” said the cow all

109

Cl.

S
A

T
B

white and red.
white and red.

F

F

115

Cl.

119

T
B

"I," said the sheep with curl - y

the flourishes of the "curly horn"

G

with pedal

122

Cl.

* "Sheep with curly horn" motive

T
B

horn, "I

*Chorus may shake their heads as Clarinet plays "curly horn" motive.

125

T
B

gave him my wool for a blan - ket

128

Cl.

S
A

T
B

warm." "He

131

Cl.

S
A

wore my coat on Christ - mas

*Chorus may shake their heads as Clarinet plays "curly horn" motive.

134

Cl.

S
A

T
B

morn.

137

Cl.

S
A

T
B

"I," said the sheep with curl - - -

"I," said the sheep with curl - - -

*Chorus may shake their heads as Clarinet plays "curly horn" motive.

140

Cl.

S
A

T
B

horn."

horn."

H

143

Cl.

S
A

T
B

with pedal

147 **I**

Cl. *(mf)*

I

(mf)

with slight pedal

153

Cl.

159

Cl.

S *mf*

A *mf*

Ah, _____

Ah, _____

mf

ped.

163

Cl. *p*

S *div.* *p* (perhaps just a few voices)

A *p* (perhaps just a few voices)

Ah, "I," said the dove from the raft-ers

Ah, "I," said the dove from the raft-ers

gentle tremolo, as a bird in flight

p

(*ped.*) *with much pedal*

168

Cl. *p* *as a dove in flight* *tr.*

S high, "I cooed him to sleep that he

A high, "I cooed him to sleep that he

*Join the "Ah" and "I" as one vowel sound.

173

Cl.

S
should not cry.”

A
should not cry.” *p tenderly*

T
B
(perhaps just a few voices)
“We cooed him to

tenderly

178

Cl.

S
pp
Ah,

A
pp
Ah,

T
B
pp very tenderly
o (falsetto)
sleep, my mate and I.”

pp

Reo.

183

Cl.

S

A

T

B

p

"I," said the dove from the raft - - - ers

p

"I," said the dove from the raft - - - ers

p

"I," said the dove from the raft - - - ers

p

with pedal

187 **K**

Cl.

S

A

T

B

high.

high.

high.

K

191 *rit.* **L** Slower $\text{♩} = 60$

Cl. *mf*

S A *mf* All Thus all the beasts by

T B *mf* All Thus all the beasts by

mf *rit.* **L** Slower $\text{♩} = 60$

[cue-sized notes are for rehearsal only (to m. 205)]

196

Cl.

S A some good spell in the sta - ble dark were glad to tell

T B some good spell in the sta - ble dark were glad to tell

200

Cl.

S
A

T
B

of the gifts they gave Im - man - u - el, the

of the gifts they gave Im - man - u - el, the

204

Cl.

S
A

T
B

gifts they gave Im - man - u - el!

gifts they gave Im - man - u - el!

accel. **M** *a tempo* ♩ = 60

accel. **M** *a tempo* ♩ = 60
Play

N [Recap of the animals]

roughly, as a donkey braying

208

Cl.

S
A

T
B

N [Recap of the animals]

roughly, as a donkey braying

O

with warmth of a cow

213

Cl.

S
A

T
B

unis. p warmly

Hmm _____

unis. p warmly

Hmm _____

Hmm _____

Hmm _____

O

gently "petting a calf" style

Rec. _____

Rec. _____

P * "Sheep with curly horn" motive

218

Cl. *mf*

S
A
T
B

P with flourishes of the "curly sheep's horn"

mf

Ped.

Q 222 as a dove rising to the "rafters high" *rit.*

Cl. *p* *f*

S
A
T
B

p

Ah,

Q *rit.*

p

Ped.

*Chorus may shake their heads as Clarinet plays "curly horn" motive.

R Slower

226

f in celebration

S
A

These are the gifts they gave Im - man - u -

f in celebration

T
B

These are the gifts they gave Im - man - u -

R Slower

[cue-sized notes are for rehearsal only]

230

Cl.

(*f*)

S

el!

A

el!

T

el!

B

el!

Ped.