

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	8798
Clarinet Part	8798A

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: 8797
2. **The Friendly Beasts: 8798**
3. Angels Singing: 8799

Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947)

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The Friendly Beasts

for TTBB Chorus, Clarinet in A, and Piano

Traditional
G. Walker, alt.

Gwyneth Walker
(ASCAP)

Flowing tempo ♩ = 60 (in one)

tenderly, as the animals protecting Baby Jesus

Piano

mf

with pedal

7

LH

ped.

13

18

ped.

ped.

simile

23

p

ped.

simile

29 **A**

Cl. *p*

T2 *p*
8 Je - sus, our broth - er, kind and good, _____ *

B2 *p*
8 Je - sus, our broth - er, kind and good, _____ *

A
(p)

34

Cl.

T1 *p*
8 was hum - bly born in a sta - ble rude. _____

B1 *p*
8 was hum - bly born in a sta - ble rude. _____

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

40

Cl.

T

B

46

Cl.

T

B

51 **B**

Cl. *mf*

T
8
good.

B
good.

B *mf*

57 **C**

Cl.

T1

T2 *mf*
"I," said the don - key, shag - gy and

B1

B2 *mf*
"I," said the don - key, shag - gy and

C

roughly, as a donkey braying

62

Cl. *f* *mf*

T1 "I car - ried his moth - er up

T2 brown, *mf*

B1 "I car - ried his moth - er up

B2 brown, *roughly, as a donkey braying*

f *mf*

67

Cl. *f* *mf*

T1 hill and down." *mf*

T2 "I car - ried her

B1 hill and down." *mf*

B2 "I car - ried her

f *mf*

72

Cl.

T1

T2

B1

B2

safe - ly to Beth - le - hem town."

safe - ly to Beth - le - hem town."

77

Cl.

T

B

"I," said the don - key, shag - gy and brown.

"I," said the don - key, shag - gy and brown.

mf

D

D

82

Cl. *mf*

T

B

88

Cl. **E** *with warmth of a cow*

Bass 2 *mf with warmth of tone*

B

"I," said the cow all white and red, _____

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

94

Cl. *mf with warmth of tone*

B

"I," gave him my man - ger for his bed." _____

with much pedal

100

Cl.

mf with warmth of tone

T

"I gave him my hay to pil - low his head."

mf with warmth of tone

B

"I gave him my hay to pil - low his head."

106

Cl.

T

"I," said the cow all white and

B

"I," said the cow all white and

111 **F**

Cl.

T

B

F

117 **G**

Cl.

B

"I," said the sheep with
G the flourishes of the "curly horn"

with pedal

121 * "Sheep with curly horn" motive

Cl.

B

curl - y horn, _____

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

124

Cl.

T

(mf)

"I gave him my wool for a

127

Cl.

T

blan - ket warm."

130

Cl.

T

B

"He wore my coat on

"He wore my coat on

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

133

Cl. 

T 
Christ - mas morn.

B 
Christ - mas morn.



136

Cl. 

T 
"I," said the sheep with

B 
"I," said the sheep with



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

139

Cl. H *

T
curl - - - - y horn."

B
curl - - - - y horn."



The musical score for measures 139-141 features a Clarinet (Cl.) part with a 'curly horn' motif marked with a box 'H' and an asterisk. The Tenor (T) and Bass (B) parts have lyrics 'curl - - - - y horn.'" The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand part with a continuous eighth-note pattern and a left-hand part with a simple bass line.

142

Cl.

T

B



The musical score for measures 142-144 shows the Clarinet (Cl.) part continuing the 'curly horn' motif. The Tenor (T) and Bass (B) parts have long notes. The piano accompaniment continues with the eighth-note pattern.

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

145

Cl.

I

(mf)

with pedal

with slight pedal

151

Cl.

157

Cl.

B2

mf

Ah,

Ped.

163

Cl. **J**

T1 *p* *p* (perhaps just a few voices)

T2 *p* (perhaps just a few voices)

B1 *p* (perhaps just a few voices)

B2

gently tremolo, as a bird in flight

J

p

(Ped.)

with much pedal

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168 *as a dove in flight*

Cl. *p* *tr*

T high, "I cooed him to sleep that he

B1 high, "I cooed him to sleep that he

173

Cl.

T should not cry."

B1 should not cry."

B2 *p tenderly*
(perhaps jus a few voices)
div. "We cooed him to

tenderly

178

Cl.

T

B1

B2

pp

Ah,

pp

Ah,

pp very tenderly

unis. (falsetto)

sleep, my mate and I."

pp

Rec.



183

Cl.

T

B1

B2

p

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

p

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

p

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

p

with pedal



188

Cl.

T

B1

B2

mf

193

Cl.

T

B

mf

All

Thus all the beasts by some good spell _____

All

Thus all the beasts by some good spell _____

rit.

L Slower $\text{♩} = 60$

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

197

Cl.

T

B

in the sta - ble dark were glad to tell

The musical score for measures 197-200 is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The Clarinet part (Cl.) begins at measure 197 with a melodic line. The Tenor (T) and Bass (B) parts enter at measure 198 with the lyrics 'in the stable dark were glad to tell'. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and a steady bass line.

200

Cl.

T

B

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

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

The musical score for measures 200-203 continues the piece. The Clarinet part (Cl.) resumes its melodic line at measure 200. The Tenor (T) and Bass (B) parts enter at measure 201 with the lyrics 'of the gifts they gave Im-man-u-el,'. The piano accompaniment continues with harmonic support.

accel.

M *a tempo* ♩ = 60

203

Cl.

T the gifts they gave Im - man - u - el!

B the gifts they gave Im - man - u - el!

accel. **M** *a tempo* ♩ = 60

Play

N [Recap of the animals]

roughly, as a donkey braying

207

Cl. *f*

T

B

N [Recap of the animals]
roughly, as a donkey braying

f

212 O *with warmth of a cow*

Cl. *p*
p warmly

B1 *p warmly*
Hmm _____ Hmm _____

B2 *p warmly*
Hmm _____ Hmm _____

O *gently "petting a calf" style*

p

Red. _____ Red. _____

P * "Sheep with curly horn" motive

218

Cl. *mf*

T _____

B _____

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

mf

Red. _____ Red. _____ Red. _____

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

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

rit.

Cl. *p* *f*

T *p*
Ah,

B *p*
Ah,

Q *p* *rit.*

Ad.

226 **R** **Slower**

Cl.

T *f* in celebration
These are the gifts they gave Im - man - u -

B *f* in celebration
These are the gifts they gave Im - man - u -

R **Slower**
(cue-sized notes are for rehearsal only)

Play *f*

230

Cl. *(f)*

T1
8
el!

T2
8
el!

B1
el!

B2
el!

Ped.

4:15