

THE LOWLY CHILD

Charles S. Brown, 1899

Derek Healey

Simply, not too fast (♩ = ca. 116)

mf 8' Oboe solo

*Organ

sempre legato

p Sw. 8' Gedeckt

Solo *mf*

1. Pre - cious is the sto - ry How the king of glo - ry
2. Shep - herds watch were keep - ing While their flocks were sleep - ing,

Sw. *p*

Soprano I *mp*

1. Came to earth a low - ly child; Came a lit - tle strang - er,
2. In Ju - de - a far a - way, When an an - gel cho - rus

Soprano II *mp*

1. Came a lit - tle strang - er,
2. When an an - gel cho - rus

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*May also be played by piano or harp.

1. Sleep - ing in a man - ger, Sim - ple, pure, and un - de - filed.
 2. Sang a song so glo - ri - ous That it ech - oes still to - day:

1. Sleep - ing in a man ger, Sim - ple, pure, and un - de - filed.
 2. Sang a song so glo - ri - ous That it ech - oes still to - day:

mf *mp* *p*

1. Christ our Sav - ior, bless - ed Sav - ior, Came to earth a low - ly child.
 2. Sang of Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Sang of Christ the low - ly child.

mf *mp* *p*

1. Christ our Sav - ior, bless - ed Sav - ior, Came to earth a low - ly child.
 2. Sang of Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Sang of Christ the low - ly child.

mp *p*

Oboe *mf*

Sw. *p*

Soprano I
mf

3. With a glo - ry beam - ing, And a ra - diance stream - ing,

Soprano II
mf

3. With a glo - ry beam - ing, And a ra - diance stream - ing,

Alto
mf

3. With a glo - ry beam - ing, And a ra - diance stream - ing,

mp
Sw. *mp* Soft flutes 8', 4'

mf *mp* *mf*

3. Shone a lit - tle strang - er star: And the wise men dar - ing,

mf *mp* *mf*

3. Shone a lit - tle strang - er star: And the wise men dar - ing,

mf *mp* *mf*

3. Shone a lit - tle strang - er star: And the wise men dar - ing,

(Accomp. *ad. lib.*)

3. Gold and trea - sures bear - ing, Jour - neyed in its light a - far:

3. Gold and trea - sures bear - ing, Jour - neyed in its light a - far:

3. Gold and trea - sures bear - ing, Jour - neyed in its light a - far:

3. Came to Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Came to Christ, the low - ly child.

3. Came to Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Came to Christ, the low - ly child.

3. Came to Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Came to Christ, the low - ly child.

Oboe *mf*

a tempo

Sw. 8' Gedeckt

p

molto rit.

*
p 16', 8'

The musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is for Oboe, marked *mf*, with a tempo of *a tempo*. The middle staff is for Sw. 8' Gedeckt, marked *p*. The bottom staff is for piano or harp, marked with an asterisk and *p* 16', 8'. The tempo changes to *molto rit.* in the final measure of the piece.

*Omit if played on piano or harp.

Preview

PERFORMANCE NOTES

The overall feel of "The Lowly Child" should be that of a simple Mediterranean folk carol with a bagpipe introduction and ritornello. A gentle 6/8 lilt pervades the work, which should be performed in a relaxed, unpretentious manner.

As far as is possible, the vocal tone should be warm and simple, even childlike. It is also important that the first soprano's entries on the high E should be made without tension. Care should also be taken to ensure that the voices balance each other, particularly in the final verse.

The right-hand melody of the four-measure organ (keyboard) introduction, interlude and ending could alternatively be performed on a solo instrument such as oboe, violin, recorder or even a trumpet (if transposed). If this is the case, the organ should not double the solo instrument and also the instrument should not be used during the verses.

—Derek Healey

Preview