O Poor Little Jesus

American traditional carol

Arranged by Christopher Willcock

Expressively (♩ = ca. 66)

Soprano Alto

mp

1. O _____
2. O _____
3. Come ____ down, ____

Tenor Bass

mp

Piano

mp

mp *legato*

(Piano tacet in Vs. 2)

1. poor ____ lit - tle Je - sus, ____ This ____ world ____ gon - na break your ____ heart. There'll be
2. Ma - ry she the moth - er. ____ O ____ Ma - ry she bow down and ____ cry, For there's
3. all you ho - ly an - gels. ____ Sing ____ round him with your gold - en ____ harps, For some-

Performance Notes

O POOR LITTLE JESUS

The text of this American traditional carol picks up some of the ambiguity surrounding Jesus' birth: joy at his coming mixed with acknowledgement of his future death. This realization should guide the performance. The setting is for SATB choir alternating between accompanied and *a cappella* verses. The singing should be well sustained and responsive to the rise and fall of the melodic shape of the phrases. While the dynamic never moves above the moderately soft, the tone should remain intensely expressive.

WHAT YOU GONNA CALL THIS PRETTY LITTLE BABY?

An *a cappella* setting for SATB choir of this American traditional carol. The rocking harmonies should be sung with great smoothness and without lapsing into sentimentality. Sustained breathing and consciousness of phrase shapes are needed to interpret the spirit of this lullaby. A soprano voice will sing the start of the short verses over the choir's sustained chords, then the choir picks up the end of each verse in a softly, expressive phrase. The verses are sung without interruption; the refrain is sung only at the beginning and at the end.

—C.W.

What You Gonna Call Your Pretty Little Baby?

American traditional carol

Arranged by Christopher Willcock

REFRAIN: *Slowly (= ca. 66)*

Soprano
Alto

What you gon-na call your pret-ty lit-tle ba-by, What you gon-na call your

Tenor
Bass

Oo _____ What you gon-na call your

pret-ty lit-tle ba-by, What you gon-na call your pret-ty lit-tle ba-by, Born, born in Beth-le-hem? _ *Fine*

pret-ty lit-tle ba-by, Oo _____ Born, born in Beth-le-hem? _

VERSES

S Solo *mf* All *p* *D.C. after Verse 3*

1. Some say ___ one thing, I'll say Im-man-uel,
2. Some call him one thing, I'll call him Je-sus,
3. Sweet lit-tle ba-by born in a man-ger,

Born, born in Beth-le-hem. _

A *mp* *p*

Oo _____ Born, ___ born in Beth-le-hem. _

T

B *mp* *p*