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What Do You See in the Manger
SATB Choir, Piano, Guitar, Recorder,
Glockenspiel, Finger Cymbals, Assembly

M.D. Ridge/Steven Ottományi



What Do You See in the Manger

À LA CLAIRE FONTAINE

Arranged by
Steven Ottományi

Text by
M.D. Ridge

What Do You See in the Manger

M.D. Ridge, 1938–2017

À LA CLAIRE FONTAINE, 76 76 with refrain

French folk melody, ca. 1608

Arranged by Steven Ottományi

INTRO (♩ = ca. 80)

Recorder

Glockenspiel

Finger Cymbals

Piano

8va

6

(8va)

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♩ VERSES 1, 6, 7

11 Soprano/Children

Alto

1. "Glo - ry to God," the an - gels sang, "Peace to all on earth," _____
 6. Peo - ple of God, come quick - ly— what does the man - ger hold? _____
 7. Come, chil - dren of all a - ges, come clos - er; do not fear. _____

Tenor

Bass

15

1. tell - ing the joy - ful tid - ings: news of a won - drous birth. _____
 6. Light for a world in dark - ness, more pre - cious far than gold. _____
 7. Here is your in - fant broth - er; God's in - fant Son is here. _____

20

Glock.

1, 2

1: to Verse 2
2: D.S. to Verse 7

1, 6, 7. What do you see in the man-ger? Hope for a wound-ed world. _____

1, 2

1: to Verse 2
2: D.S. to Verse 7

mf

1, 2

1: to Verse 2
2: D.S. to Verse 7

Note: Ideally, the children's choir will sing the refrains ("What do you see...") as a "response" to the verse, but the refrain may be sung by any combination of children, women, or men. If the children sing the refrain melody, then the choir should sing "ooh," otherwise the choir should sing the text. For verse one, the lower three voices may hum or sing "ooh" while the sopranos sing the text.

What Do You See in the Manger

25 **Final** **VERSE 2** *Fine*

Tenor/Bass
mf

2. From star - lit hill - sides shep - herds

30 **Recorder**

Glock.

2. came at the an - gels' call, leav - ing their flocks in pas - ture, find - ing a sta - ble small. —

And. *sim.*

37

Rec.

All

2. What do you see in the man-ger? Hope for a wound-ed world.

VERSE 3

42

Glock.

Soprano

Alto

3. Young moth-er wrapped her ba-by, laid him in man-ger hay where breath of

8va

47

3. beasts would keep him warm till the break of day.

(8va)

loco

51

All

3. What do you see in the man-ger? Hope for a wound-ed world.

VERSE 4

56 Solo or T/B

4. Gen - tle, pro - tec - tive hus-band, true to the Lord's com - mand— how could he

61

4. keep them safe with dan - ger at ev - ery hand?

65 S/A/Children

4. What do you see in the man-ger? Hope for a wound-ed world.

T/B

VERSE 5

70 Finger Cym.

5. Ooh Oh

5. Wise men from far - off king-doms, drawn by a shin - ing star,

74 Glock.

5. Ah, _____ gold, frank-in - cense and myrrh. _____

5. car - ried their roy - al trib-ute: gold, frank-in - cense and myrrh. _____

79

(All)

5. What do you see in the man - ger? Hope for a wound-ed world. _____

T B

D.S.

(play as needed)

D.S.

Textwriter Notes

The melody of this arrangement is an old French folk song, which has been popular in Canada since the establishment of the first permanent French settlement in Québec in 1608. The simple melody uses only four notes of the scale, but has a haunting quality that inspired this text to ask, over and over, “What do you see in the manger?” In this sad, war-torn world, each person perceives the Christmas story differently—but hope remains.

—*M.D. Ridge*

Composer Notes

This arrangement is designed to be modular, so that middle verses can be switched out and used as necessary. Always begin with the first verse and end with the seventh verse. For celebrations during the Christmas season, I recommend the following order:

All Christmas Masses:	Verses 1, 2, 3, (6), 7
Holy Family/Holy Innocents:	Verses 1, 3, 4, (6), 7
Mary, Mother of God:	Verses (1), 3, (5), 6, 7
Epiphany:	Verses 1, 5, 6, 7

For all refrains (“What do you see in the manger...”), the children may sing alone, and children may take the women’s voice parts on the verses, if desired.

The keyboard part is written primarily with piano performance in mind; it may be adapted with minimal effort for the organ. When doing so, keep in mind the effect of the rolled open-fifth chords: the sound should be delicate, perhaps employing only lighter flute stops. The keyboard may double the voices in the *a cappella* sections, and may play throughout; it may also substitute for the SATB voices, supporting the choir if it sings the melody in unison (or a subset of the full choir: all women, all men, or a soloist).

The instrument parts in the score (following Orff instrumentation) are meant to be played by students. Handbells—or a second player at the piano, taking the notes two octaves above written pitch—may substitute for the glockenspiel. The recorder part is written for a soprano instrument. A flute may substitute for the recorder, in which case it should play the part an octave higher (although it may also play at written pitch). The finger cymbals (also called antique cymbals) may be played on triangle, or even crotales (in which case, the highest sounding D should be used).

In all cases, cue-sized notes are optional.

—*Steven Ottományi*

What Do You See in the Manger

(Hymn Version)

M.D. Ridge, 1938–2017

À LA CLAIRE FONTAINE, 76 76 with refrain

French folk melody, ca. 1608

Arranged by Steven Ottományi

♩ = 56–66

Capo 3: (D) (D/C#) (Bm) (D/A) (G) (D/F#) (Em) (A) (D)
 F F/E Dm F/C B \flat F/A Gm C F

1. "Glo - ry to God," the an - gels sang, "Peace to all on earth,"
 2. From star - lit hill - sides shep - herds came at the an - gels' call,
 3. Young moth - er wrapped her ba - by, laid him in man - ger hay
 4. Gen - tle, pro - tec - tive hus - band, true to the Lord's com - mand—
 5. Wise men from far - off king - doms, drawn by a shin - ing star,
 6. Peo - ple of God, come quick - ly— what does the man - ger hold?
 7. Come, chil - dren of all a - ges, come clos - er; do not fear.

(F#m) (Bm) (G) (F#m/A) (Bm7) (D/A) (F#m) (Bm7) (G) (A)
 Am Dm B \flat Am/C Dm7 F/C Am Dm7 B \flat C

1. tell - ing the joy - ful tid - ings: news of a won - drous birth. _____
 2. leav - ing their flocks in pas - ture, find - ing a sta - ble small. _____
 3. where breath of beasts would keep him warm till the break of day. _____
 4. how could he keep them safe with dan - ger at ev - ery hand? _____
 5. car - ried their roy - al trib - ute: gold, frank - in - cense and myrrh. _____
 6. Light for a world in dark - ness, more pre - cious far than gold. _____
 7. Here is your in - fant broth - er; God's in - fant Son is here. _____

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(Bm) (D) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm) (G) (A) (D)
 Dm F Dm Am Dm B \flat C F

1-7. What do you see in the man-ger? Hope for a wound-ed world.

Preview

What Do You See in the Manger

ORFF INSTRUMENTS

À LA CLAIRE FONTAINE
French folk melody, ca. 1608
Arranged by Steven Ottományi

INTRO (♩ = 56-66)

Recorder

Glockenspiel

Finger Cymbals

6

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VERSES 1, 6, 7

11

9

Glock.

1, 2

1: to Verse 2
2: D.S. to Verse 7

Final

Fine

Melody

What do you see in the man-ger? Hope for a__ wound-ed world. _____

VERSE 2

26

Recorder

Glock.

35

Rec.

What do you see in the man-ger? Hope for a__ wound-ed world. _____

VERSE 3

42

Glock.

Note: Ideally, the children’s choir will sing the refrains (“What do you see...”) as a “response” to the verse, but the refrain may be sung by any combination of children, women, or men.

50

What do you see in the man-ger? Hope for a wound-ed world.

VERSE 4

56

9

What do you see in the man-ger? Hope for a wound-ed world.

VERSE 5

70

Finger Cym.

76

Glock.

D.S.

What do you see in the man-ger? Hope for a wound-ed world.

D.S.

Assembly Edition

WHAT DO YOU SEE IN THE MANGER

À LA CLAIRE FONTAINE



1. "Glo - ry to God," the an - gels sang, "Peace to
2. From star - lit hill - sides shep - herds came at the
3. Young moth - er wrapped her ba - by, laid him in
4. Gen - tle, pro - tec - tive hus - band, true to the
5. Wise men from far - off king - doms, drawn by a
6. Peo - ple of God, come quick - ly— what does the
7. Come, chil - dren of all a - ges, come clos - er;



1. all on earth," tell - ing the joy - ful tid - ings:
2. an - gels' call, leav - ing their flocks in pas - ture,
3. man - ger hay where breath of beasts would keep him
4. Lord's com - mand— how could he keep them safe with
5. shin - ing star, car - ried their roy - al trib - ute:
6. man - ger hold? Light for a world in dark - ness,
7. do not fear. Here is your in - fant broth - er;



1. news of a won - drous birth.
2. find - ing a sta - ble small.
3. warm till the break of day.
4. dan - ger at ev - ery hand? What do you
5. gold, frank - in - cense and myrrh.
6. more pre - cious far than gold.
7. God's in - fant Son is here.



- 1-7. see in the man - ger? Hope for a wound - ed world.

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