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Hang Bê-lem/In Bethlehem
SATB Choir, Keyboard, Guitar,
Solo Instrument in C, Assembly

Hải Linh



HANG BÊ-LEM/IN BETHLEHEM

HẢI LINH

Preview

Composer Notes

About the Composer

Hải Linh (1920–1988) was one of the most preeminent Vietnamese liturgical composers of his generation. Born Francis Trần Văn Đệ in Ninh Bình, a province in northern Vietnam, Hải Linh came from a devout Catholic family, where he was trained in music and singing at an early age. At 20, he moved to the province of Bùi Chu (northern Vietnam), where he later taught music and French. In Bùi Chu, he began composing music and later was the founding member of the composer group Sao Mai. The group published the first original Vietnamese collections of Catholic sacred music, moving beyond previous translations of Vietnamese and Latin texts, and providing sacred music that expressed the national character.

In 1950, Hải Linh went to Rome to study and after seven months moved to Paris, where he studied composition at the Cesar Franck School of Music and studied conducting at the Institut Grégorien. In 1955, he returned to South Vietnam. The country had split in two in 1954. He lived mostly in Saigon as a teacher, choral conductor, and composer, except for nine years (1961–1970) when he did research on music education at the University of Ohio. He also participated in other teaching programs across the United States. He left Vietnam permanently in 1986, under the United States Orderly Departure Program (ODP), and lived his final two years in New Orleans.

Story of the Song

In November of 1945, while Hải Linh was living in Bùi Chu, he was approached by a newspaper editor, Mr. Minh Châu, to compose a Christmas song. Minh Châu said he would publish it in his *Đường Sống* newspaper. After three days, Hải Linh returned to the office and sang “Hang Bê-lem” for Minh Châu and his staff. Minh Châu was so impressed with the song that he sent it off to Hanoi for engraving on a woodblock, and 500 copies were printed. The first performance, directed by the composer himself, was at the historic Phát Diệm Cathedral, in the neighboring province of Bùi Chu, for midnight Mass. The song became an instant hit, and the popularity of this song was one of the reasons why this layman was sent by his diocese’s bishop to Rome and Paris for further study.

Over the coming decades, “Hang Bê-lem” became a core staple of the Vietnamese Christmas repertoire, recorded by numerous famous singers, heard on radio programs, and currently played on loudspeakers in Vietnam shopping malls. The prominence of this title in Vietnamese liturgical celebration is best summed up by the esteemed Vietnamese composer Rev. Kim Long:

“It can be said that Christmas Eve without singing Hải Linh’s ‘Hang Bê-lem’ feels like something is missing—because it has its own resonance that expresses the feeling people must have when waiting for God, and meeting God in this blessed night.”

—Bro. Rufino Zaragoza, OFM
with information provided by
Rev. Nguyễn Xuân Thảo, OFM
and other colleagues

Hang Bê-lem/In Bethlehem

Vietnamese, Hải Linh
English, Dan Damon

Hải Linh
Acc. by Scott Soper

INTRO (♩ = ca. 72)

Keyboard

f

F B \flat F

dim.

mf

Dm C7 F

All *mf*

Vietnamese Đêm — đông lạnh lẽo Chúa sinh ra đời Chúa
English Re - joice! for Christ the Lord is born. Re -

F C F

mf

sinh ra đời nằm trong hang đá nơi máng lừa!
joice! for Christ the Lord is laid in a man - ger.

C7 F C7 F

dim.

♩ ĐIỆP KHÚC/REFRAIN

Soprano/
Tenor *p* *f*

Trông hang Bê - lem: ánh sáng tỏa lan tung
In Beth - le - hem the light of God now

Alto/Bass *p* *f*

♩ *p* *f*

bùng, nghe trên không trung tiếng hát Thiên Thần vang
shines. In Beth - le - hem the an - gels sing for

C *p* *f* *C7*

lùng. Đàn hát Xương ca
joy. O come and see.

Réo rất tiếng hát Dư âm vang
to Beth - le - hem, the ho - ly

F *Bb* *F*

Hang Bê-lem/In Bethlehem

— Đây Chúa thiên tòa giáng sinh vì (chúng) ta.
 — Come see the light on the ba - by's face.

xa:
 child.

Dm C/E F C

— Người hỡi Đền xem
 — A child is born.

Hãy kíp bước tới nơi hang Bê -
 A ho - ly child, the prince of

B \flat F

— Ôi Chúa giáng sinh khó khăn thấp hèn.
 — A child is born in Beth - le - hem.

lem.
 peace.

last time: rit. (Fine)

Dm C F (Fine)

last time: rit.

Hang Bê-lem/In Bethlehem

PHIÊN KHÚC/VERSES

S/A p

1-5. Nửa đêm mừng Chúa giáng sinh ra chốn gian trần.
1-5. Now to the poor and low - ly Je - sus comes,

p

F C F

T/B mf

1-5. Người đem ân phúc xuống cho muôn dân làm than.
1-5. and in our la - bor Je - sus gives us grace.

mf

C F

S/T f >

1. Nơi hang Bê - lem Thiên Thần xướng ca.
2. Nơi hang Bê - lem chiêm lừa thờ hoi.
3. Nơi hang Bê - lem mục đồng xúm quanh.
4. Nơi hang Bê - lem huy hoàng ánh sao.
5. Nơi hang Bê - lem ta quý thiết tha.

1. At Je - sus' crib the an - gel song
2. At Je - sus' crib we hum - bly kneel;
3. At Je - sus' crib the shep - herds knelt
4. At Je - sus' crib a don - key slept,
5. At Je - sus' crib a bright star shone

A/B f >

f >

B \flat F

Hang Bê-lem/In Bethlehem

dim. *D.S.*

1. Thiên Chúa vinh danh chúng nhân an hòa. _____
 2. Tan giá đêm đông âm thân Con Người. _____
 3. Ca hát vang lòng mến yêu chân thành. _____
 4. Đưa lời Ba Vua phương Đông đến châu. _____
 5. Xin Chúa nhân hiền xuống on chan hòa. _____

1. of peace on earth rang clear and strong. _____
 2. the Christ is born and peace is real. _____
 3. to sing and show the love they felt. _____
 4. whose breath - ing warmed the watch he kept. _____
 5. to lead the wise to heav - en's throne. _____

dim.

Dm C7 F *D.S.*

Hang Bê-lem/In Bethlehem

(Guitar/Choral)

Vietnamese, Hải Linh
English, Dan Damon

Hải Linh

INTRO (♩ = ca. 72)

Capo 3: (D) F (G) B \flat (D) F (Bm) Dm (A7) C7 (D) F

f *dim.* *mf*

(Kbd)

mf (D) F (A) C (D) F

Vietnamese Đem — đông lạnh lẽo Chúa sinh ra đời Chúa
English Re - joice! for Christ the Lord is born. Re -

(A7) C7 (D) F (A7) C7 (D) F *dim.*

sinh ra đời nằm trong hang đá nơi máng lừa!
joice! for Christ the Lord is laid in a man - ger.

DIỆP KHÚC/REFRAIN

Soprano/
Tenor *p* (D) F (A) C *f* *p* *f*

Alto/
Bass Trông hang Bê - lem: ánh sáng tỏa lan tung bưng, nghe trên không trung tiếng
In Beth - le - hem the light of God now shines. In Beth - le - hem the

(A7) C7 (D) F (G) B \flat (D) F

hát Thiên Thần vang lừng. Đản hát (Réo rất tiếng hát) Xương — ca (Dư âm vang
an - gels sing for joy. O come (to Beth - le - hem) and — see. (the ho - ly

(Bm) Dm (A/C#) C/E (D) F (A) C (G) B \flat

xa.) Đây Chúa thiên tòa giáng — sinh vì ta. Người hỡi (Hãy kíp bước
child). Come see the light on the ba - by's face. A child (a ho - ly

(D) F (Bm) Dm (A) C (D) F (Fine)

tới) Đến — xem (nơi hang Bê - lem.) Ôi Chúa giáng sinh khó khăn thấp — hèn.
child) is — born. (the prince of peace). A child is born in Beth - le - hem.

PHIÊN KHÚC/VERSES

S/A *p* (D) F (A) C (D) F

1-5. Nửa đêm mừng Chúa giáng sinh ra chốn gian trần.
1-5. Now to the poor and low - ly Je - sus comes,

T/B *mf* (A) C (D) F

1-5. Người đem ân phúc xuống cho muôn dân làm than.
1-5. and in our la - bor Je - sus gives us grace.

S/T *f* > > > (G) B \flat (D) F

A/B

1. Nơi hang Bê - lem Thiên Thần xương ca.
2. Nơi hang Bê - lem chiêm lừa thờ hoi.
3. Nơi hang Bê - lem mục đồng xúm quanh.
4. Nơi hang Bê - lem huy hoàng ánh sao.
5. Nơi hang Bê - lem ta quỳ thiết tha.

1. At Je - sus' crib the an - gel song
2. At Je - sus' crib we hum - bly kneel;
3. At Je - sus' crib the shep - herds knelt
4. At Je - sus' crib a don - key slept,
5. At Je - sus' crib a bright star shone

(Bm) Dm *dim.* (A7) C7 (D) F D.S.

1. Thiên Chúa vinh danh chúng nhân an hòa.
2. Tán giá đêm đông âm thân Con Người.
3. Ca hát vang lừng mến yêu chân thành.
4. Đưa lối Ba Vua phượng Đông đến châu.
5. Xin Chúa nhân hiền xuống ơn chan hòa.

1. of peace on earth rang clear and strong.
2. the Christ is born and peace is real.
3. to sing and show the love they felt.
4. whose breath - ing warmed the watch he kept.
5. to lead the wise to heav - en's throne.

Hang Bê-lem/In Bethlehem

SOLO INSTRUMENT in C

Hải Linh
Arr. by Scott Soper

INTRO (♩ = ca. 72)

Musical notation for the Intro section. The piano part (Kbd) starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 2/4 time signature. It begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note B-flat, a quarter note A, and a quarter note G. The dynamic is *f*. The vocal part (Vocal begins) starts with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note B-flat, a quarter note A, and a quarter note G. The dynamic is *mf*. The section concludes with a triplet of eighth notes (B-flat, A, G) and a quarter rest, with a *dim.* dynamic marking.

♩ ĐIỆP KHÚC/REFRAIN*

Musical notation for the Diệp khúc/Refrain section. The piano part starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 2/4 time signature. It begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note B-flat, a quarter note A, and a quarter note G. The dynamic is *f*. The vocal part starts with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note B-flat, a quarter note A, and a quarter note G. The dynamic is *mf*. The section concludes with a quarter note B-flat, a quarter note A, and a quarter note G, with a *Fine* marking.

PHIÊN KHÚC/VERSE

Musical notation for the Phiên khúc/Verse section. The piano part starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 2/4 time signature. It begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note B-flat, a quarter note A, and a quarter note G. The dynamic is *mp*. The vocal part starts with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note B-flat, a quarter note A, and a quarter note G. The dynamic is *mf*. The section concludes with a quarter note B-flat, a quarter note A, and a quarter note G, with a *dim.* dynamic marking.

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*The Refrain/Verse sections may be repeated as needed, with either refrain serving as the Final Refrain.

ĐIỆP KHÚC/REFRAIN



PHIÊN KHÚC/VERSE



HANG BÊ-LEM/IN BETHLEHEM

Hải Linh

Intro
 Đêm đông lạnh lẽo Chúa sinh ra đời Chúa
 sinh ra đời năm trong hang đá nơi máng lừa!
Diệp khúc/Refrain

Trông hang Bê - lem: ánh sáng tỏa lan tung bừng, nghe
In Beth - le - hem the light of God now shines. In

trên không trung tiếng hát Thiên Thần vang lừng. Đàn
Beth - le - hem the an - gels sing for joy. O

hát (Réo rất tiếng hát) Xương ca (Dù âm vang xa): Đầy Chúa thiên
come (to Beth - le - hem) and see. (the ho - ly child). Come see the

tòa giáng sinh vì ta. Người hỡi (Hãy kíp bước tới) Đến
light on the ba-by's face. A child (a ho - ly child) is

xem (nơi hang Bê - lem) Ôi Chúa giáng sinh khó khăn thấp hèn.
born. (the prince of peace). A child is born in Beth - le - hem.

(Fine)

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HANG BÊ-LEM/IN BETHLEHEM (cont.)

Phiên khúc/Verses

1-5. Nửa đêm mừng Chúa giáng sinh ra chốn gian trần.
 1-5. Now to the poor and low - ly Je - sus comes,

1-5. Người đem ân phúc xuống cho muôn dân làm than.
 1-5. and in our la - bor Je - sus gives us grace.

1. Nơi hang Bê - lem	Thiên nhiên	Thần lừa	xương ca.
2. Nơi hang Bê - lem	chiến đấu	lừa thờ	hỡi.
3. Nơi hang Bê - lem	mục đồng	đồng xóm	quanh.
4. Nơi hang Bê - lem	huy hoàng	hoàng ánh	sao.
5. Nơi hang Bê - lem	ta	quỳ thiết	tha.

1. At Je - sus' crib	the	an - gel	song
2. At Je - sus' crib	we	hum - bly	kneel;
3. At Je - sus' crib	the	shep - herds	kneit
4. At Je - sus' crib	a	don - key	slept,
5. At Je - sus' crib	a	bright star	shone

to Refrain

1. Thiên Chúa vinh danh	chúng	nhân	hòa.
2. Tân giá đêm đông	ấm	thần Con	Người.
3. Ca hát vang lừng	mến	chân yêu	thành.
4. Đưa lời Ba Vua	phương	Đông đến	châu.
5. Xin Chúa nhân hiền	xuống	on chan	hòa.

1. of peace on earth	rang	clear	strong.
2. the Christ is born	and	peace	is real.
3. to sing and show	the	love	they felt.
4. whose breath - ing	warmed	the	he kept.
5. to lead the wise	to	heav - en's	throne.

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