

Gordon Thornett

THE SLEEPY SHEPHERD BOY

for children's choir

2011



www.SwirlyMusic.com

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THE SLEEPY SHEPHERD BOY

Children's Choir (Unison with optional 2nd part)

Written for the CBSO Children's Chorus, and first performed by them in Symphony Hall, Birmingham, with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, this light-hearted piece describes a day-dreaming shepherd boy, who suddenly finds himself drawn into the Christmas story.

It has also been performed by a youth chorus in Liverpool, accompanied by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, and by a children's choir in Portugal. It has been warmly received by performers and audiences on all occasions.

The song works equally well with just piano accompaniment, as it is here presented. It is mostly in unison, but there is an optional second part towards the end of the piece.

An orchestration of this piece is available, and the score and parts may be purchased through Swirly Music.

www.newcarols.com

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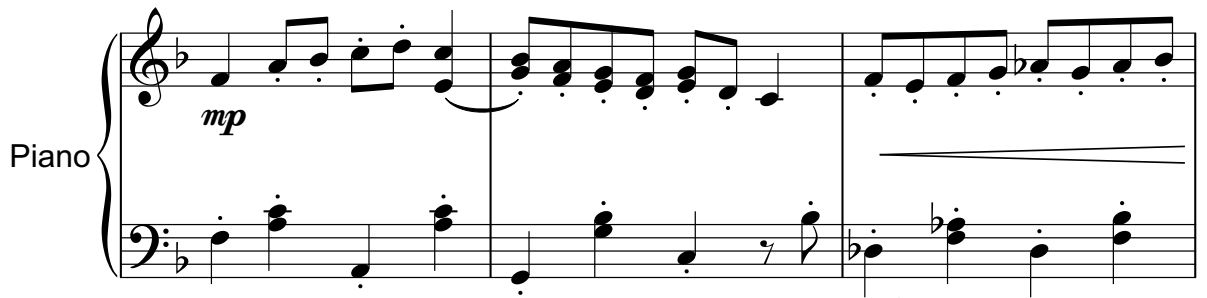
The Sleepy Shepherd Boy

[Note - A few simple actions may be added ad lib. to illustrate the story.]

Words and Music by Gordon Thornett

♩ = 120

Piano



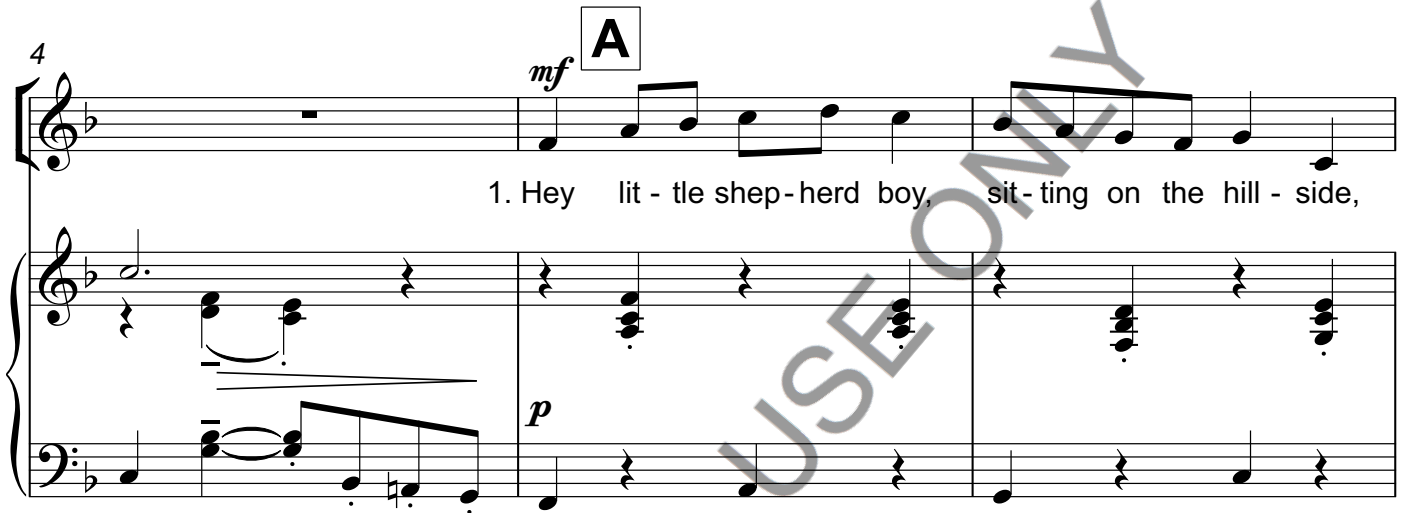
mp

The piano introduction consists of two measures. The right hand plays a melodic line starting on G4, moving up stepwise to B4, then down to A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, and B3. The left hand plays a bass line starting on G3, moving up to B2, then down to A2, G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, and B1.

4

mf **A**

1. Hey lit - tle shep-herd boy, sit - ting on the hill - side,



The vocal line for measures 4-6 starts with a whole rest in measure 4, followed by a half note G4 in measure 5, and a half note A4 in measure 6. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and chords in the right hand. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present above measure 5, and a box labeled 'A' is above measure 6. A piano dynamic marking *p* is present below measure 5.

7


Watch - ing o'er your sheep on a cold, dark night, Say, lit - tle shep-herd boy,



The vocal line for measures 7-9 consists of a continuous eighth-note melody: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, B3. The piano accompaniment continues with the eighth-note bass line and chords. A piano dynamic marking *p* is present below measure 7.

10

what can you be think - ing As you gaze up in won - der at the stars so bright?



The vocal line for measures 10-12 consists of a continuous eighth-note melody: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, B3. The piano accompaniment continues with the eighth-note bass line and chords.

13

Tell me, O shep-herd boy, poor lit-tle shep-herd boy, How d'you stay a-wake on such a

16

B REFRAIN

night? Hey there! A pen-ny for your thoughts, lit-tle

19

shep-herd boy, on this cold, cold night! No text mess-ag-ing,

22

tel-ly* or com-pu-ter games, You might as well be count ing sheep, lit-tle

*In the UK 'telly' means television - please feel free to substitute 'TV'!

25

shep-herd boy!

Musical score for measures 25-28. The vocal line starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are "shep-herd boy!". The piano accompaniment consists of a right hand with eighth and sixteenth notes and a left hand with chords and single notes.

29

C

2. Say, have you heard of a - no - ther lit - tle shep - herd boy? Da - vid was his name, and he was

f

p

Musical score for measures 29-31. The vocal line starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are "2. Say, have you heard of a - no - ther lit - tle shep - herd boy? Da - vid was his name, and he was". The piano accompaniment features a right hand with chords and a left hand with a simple bass line. A dynamic marking of *f* is present above the vocal line and *p* below the piano part.

32

brave and true. He killed a hung - ry li - on just to keep his flocks from dan - ger, They

Musical score for measures 32-34. The vocal line continues with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are "brave and true. He killed a hung - ry li - on just to keep his flocks from dan - ger, They". The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line.

35

say he killed a gi - ant called Go - li - ath too! Five lit - tle stones he took and

p

Musical score for measures 35-38. The vocal line continues with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are "say he killed a gi - ant called Go - li - ath too! Five lit - tle stones he took and". The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line. A dynamic marking of *p* is present above the vocal line.

38 *f*

with his sling took aim and struck the might-y gi-ant right be-tween the eyes!

41 **D** REFRAIN

Hey there! what a bor-ing life for a shep-herd boy, on this cold, cold night!

45 [shrugging shoulders]

No wild an-i-mals, or fights with might-y gi-ants, You might as well be count-ing

48 *poco rall..*

sheep, lit-tle shep-herd boy!

poco rall..

E A little slower

*May be spoken by one person, with rest of children humming in background.

52 *mf*

3. *One two three four five six sev - en eight nine ten e -
[Counts his sheep, rather hesitatingly]

p

56

-lev - en twelve, Thir - teen four - teen, fif - teen - six - teen, My

59 *rall. - (fading away...)*

eye-lids are get - ting ve - ry hea - vy now! sev'n - teen eight - een, nine - teen, ten - teen,

rall. .

[Some of the children make snoring sounds.]

F ♩ = 120
A tempo **REFRAIN**

p *tutti*

63

mm - - - - Hey there! A pen-ny for your dreams lit-tle

♩ = 120
A tempo

pp

67

shep-herd boy, on this cold, cold night, No text mess-ag-ing,

70

tel-ly* or com-pu-ters as you drift in-to the land of_ dreams, lit-tle

G *mf* [telling story]

73

shep-herd boy! 4. Once long a-go on a Beth-le-hem hill-side

mp *p*

77

there were some shep - herds just like you, Watch-ing their flocks and_

80

feel-ing rath - er drow - sy, hud-dled up to-ge-ther with_ no-thing to do, When

83

all of a sud - den a bright_ light shone o - ver them, A

pp

pp

85

voice seemed to e-cho through the skies: 'Hey there!

H **f** REFRAIN

mp

88

mp tenderly

Do not be a- fraid', said the an- gel, 'I've got news for you: There's a lit- tle ba- by,

p espr.

92

born in a sta - ble. He's come to set the whole world free, lit - tle

95

shep-herd boy.'

mf

99

f 5. Now the light shines e - ven bright - er, Heav'n-ly mu - sic fills the air. *divisi:*

mp

103 1st group

Ah _____ 'Peace on_ earth good - will_ to all.'

*2nd group

An- gel_ voi- ces ring- ing out their mess- age: 'Peace on_ earth good - will_ to all.'

mf

107 *p* *mp*

Hey, lit- tle shep- herd boy, are you still sleep- ing? Wake up now and join_ in the

p *mp*

Ah, _____ Ah, _____ Wake up! wake up!

pp *cresc.*

110 *f* REFRAIN

song: Glo - ry, glo - ry be to God on_

f

Wake up now and join in the song, lit- tle shep- herd boy, sit- ting on the hill- side,

J

mf

*If desired '2nd group' may be omitted, except for bars 103 & 104, where it has the main tune!

113

high, and peace to all! Join in ev'-ry-one,
 Won't you sing a-long with the an-gel choir? Join in ev'-ry-one,

116

sing-ing with the an-gels Now you're widea-wake and sing-ing too,
 sing-ing with the an-gels Now you're widea-wake and sing-ing too, lit-tle

119

ff **K**
 Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o, glo-ri-a, sing glo-ri-a,
 shep-herd boy. *ff* in ex-cel-sis De-o, glo-ri-a!

123 *f*

Et in ter - ra pax ho - min - i - bus, ev' - ry - bod - y join - ing in the

Et in ter - ra pax ho - min - i - bus, ev' - ry - bod - y

mp cresc.

126

song with the shep - herd boy.

join - ing in the song with the shep - herd boy.

f

128

p *mf* *sfz*