

Gordon Thornett

BRIGHT WAS THE STAR

for Mixed Choir (SATB)

2013



SWIRLY MUSIC

www.SwirlyMusic.com

Gordon Thornett

BRIGHT WAS THE STAR

*Mixed Choir - SATB
with piano (or organ) accompaniment*

This simple Christmas setting resulted from an international collaboration between Brian Holmes of California and Gordon Thornett from the UK. Brian's poem has been set for mixed voices (SATB) and piano (or organ). The piece describes how the cold of winter is turned into spring by the coming of the Christ Child.

Bright was the Star received its first performances in the UK, by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and CBSO Chorus, conducted by Simon Halsey in December 2013. The orchestration is also available by arrangement with the composer.

Gordon Thornett has written a number of choral pieces for Christmas, published in the UK by OUP and in Norway by Norsk Musikforlag. Some other Christmas titles are obtainable from Swirly Music. His Festive Christmas Overture 'The Joy of Christmas' is published by Faber Music.

www.newcarols.com

Catalog No. GTT-010

Copyright © 2013 G J Thornett & Brian Holmes

Unauthorized photocopying or reproduction of any part of this material is prohibited.



SWIRLY MUSIC

www.SwirlyMusic.com

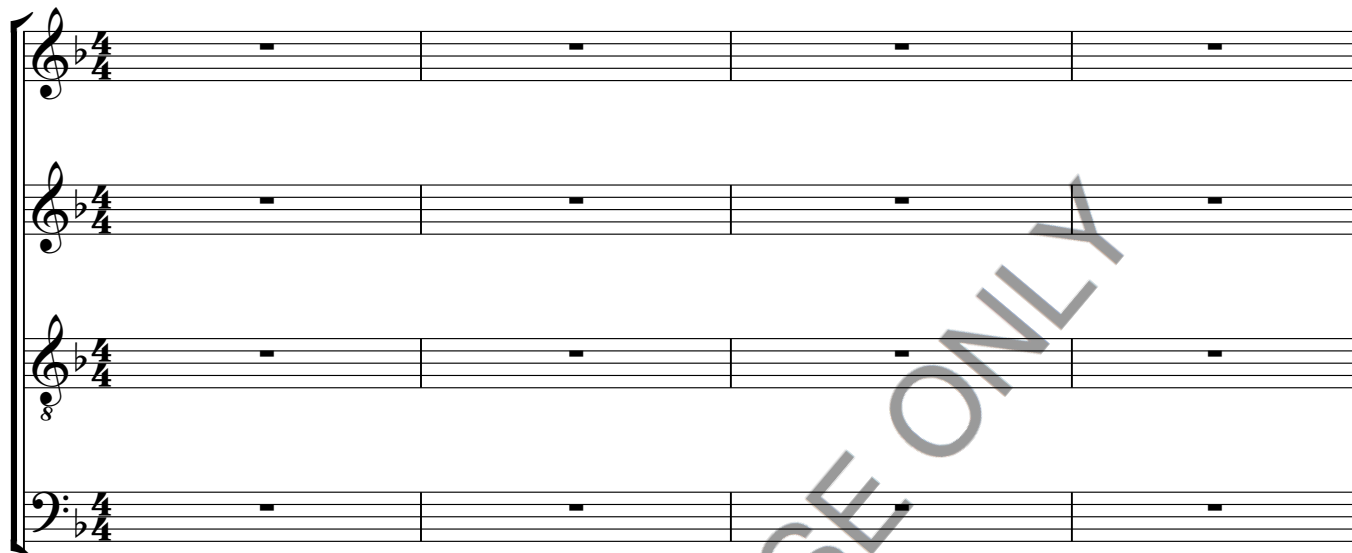
Bright was the Star

Prepared for CBSO Christmas Concerts, December 2013

Brian Holmes

Gordon Thornett

Andante legato ♩ = 92



Andante legato ♩ = 92



V.S.

A *mp*

5 High on a hill the snow lay white. Chill was the mid-night air.

mp

The snow, the snow lay white. Chill was the mid-night air

mp

8 The snow, the snow lay white. Chill was the air.

mp

The snow, the snow lay white. Chill was the air.

A

9 *mf*

Bright was the star that shed its light On shep - herds watch-ing there,

mf

Bright was the star that shed its light On shep - herds watch-ing there,

mf

8 Bright was the star that shed its light On shep - herds watch-ing there,

mf *p*

Bright was the star that shed its light On shep - herds watch-ing there, Bright was the

mp

13

p Bright was the star that shed its light On shep-herds watch - ing

p Bright was the star that shone On shep-herds watch - ing

p Bright was the star On shep - herds watch - ing

star, _____ shed - ding its light On shep-herds watch - ing

p

16 **B** *mp* there. **poco rit.**

mp there.

mp there. *mf espr*

mp there. Then

there. **B** *mf* , **poco rit.** *p*

20

p Ah _____ ah _____ news of a ba-by's birth, *mf* ah_

p Ah _____ ah _____ news of a ba-by's birth, *mf* ah_

8 _____ came a mess-en-ger _____ who told News of a ba-by's birth, *f* One who would end the

p Ah _____ Ah, _____ news of a ba-by's birth, *mf* Ah_

p *mf*

25

ah _____ And wake _____ the *mp*

ah _____ And wake _____ the *mp*

8 win - ter's cold And wake the wait - ing earth, *mf* And wake the wait-ing

ah _____ And wake _____ the *mp*

29

earth.

earth.

8 earth.

earth.

p *mp*

34

C

mp espr.

Snug in a mang-er full of straw, Safe in a cat-tle

mp espr.

Snug in a mang-er full of straw, Safe in a cat-tle

mp espr.

Snug in a mang-er full of straw, Safe in a cat-tle

mp espr.

Snug in a mang-er full of straw, Safe in a cat-tle

C

p *mp*

39

shed, Slum-bers the child whose love will thaw the ice of hu-man

shed, Slum-bers the child whose love will thaw the ice of hu-man

shed, Slum-bers the child whose love will thaw the ice of hu-man

shed, Slum-bers the child whose love will thaw the ice of hu-man

p *mp*

This block contains the musical notation for measures 39 through 42. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "shed, Slum-bers the child whose love will thaw the ice of hu-man". The piano part includes dynamic markings *p* and *mp*.

43

dread, whose love will thaw The ice of hu-man dread.

dread, whose love will thaw The ice of hu-man dread.

dread, whose love will thaw The ice of hu-man dread.

dread, whose love will thaw The ice of hu-man dread.

f *p* *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *p* *mp*

This block contains the musical notation for measures 43 through 46. It features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "dread, whose love will thaw The ice of hu-man dread." The piano part includes dynamic markings *f*, *p*, *pp*, and *mp*.

48 **D**

p cresc

Bright was the

D

52

p cresc

Bright was the star, so bright was the

star, bright was the star, was the

p cresc

Bright was the star, bright was the star, the

p cresc

Bright was the star, bright was the star, the

rit.

A tempo

55 *f* **E** *ff* star! So now we come, and now, and now we tell news of the

f star! So now we come, and now we tell News of the new-born

f star! *ff* So now we come, and now we tell News of the

star! So now we come, and now we tell News of the **E**

A tempo

59 *f* King. God has come down to dwell, And *mf*

King. God has come down on earth to dwell, And *mf*

new-born King. God has come down on earth to dwell, And *mf*

King. God has come down on *p* *mf*

62

f *mf*

Win - ter now is Spring. God has come down,

f *p* *mf*

Win - ter now is Spring. Ah, God has come

f *p*

Win - ter now is Spring. Ah

f *p*

Win - ter now is Spring. Ah

f *p*

Win - ter now is Spring. Ah

65

poco meno mosso

p espr. (sotto voce)

God has come down, And Win - ter now is Spring.

p espr. (sotto voce)

down, And Win - ter now is Spring.

p espr. (sotto voce)

And Win - ter now is Spring.

p espr. (sotto voce)

And Win - ter now is Spring.

poco meno mosso

p

68 **F** **A tempo**

f God has come down on earth to dwell, And *mp* Win - ter

f God has come down on earth to dwell, *mp* Win - ter

f God has come down on earth to dwell, *mp* Win - ter

f God has come down on earth to dwell, *mp* Win - ter

F **A tempo**

f *pp*

71 *p* *poco rit.*

now is Spring! *p*

now is Spring! *p*

now is Spring, now is Spring! *p*

now is Spring! *p* now is Spring! *p*

now is Spring! *poco rit.*

p *pp*