



WE THREE KINGS
for a cappella treble chorus

Kurt Erickson

2016

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Nearly every December, Christmas sneaks up on me far too quickly, busy as I am with end-of-semester grading and final exams. I'm an admittedly nostalgic guy who unabashedly loves Christmas music, and every year I think to myself 'I really should have written a Christmas piece this year'. Christmas 2015 followed a similar pattern, except for the fact that I received a much needed break from academic life in the form of a sabbatical during the 2016 spring semester. Suddenly finding myself with the freedom to explore and compose, I opened up a Christmas music book and spent nearly the entire month of February improvising on Holiday music.

This arrangement of *We Three Kings* was a joy to write and flowed effortlessly onto paper. Using only the original lyrics, my setting creates an expectant mood that underscores the solitary plight of this mystical trio as they journey across the desert to welcome the birth of Christ.

We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

Born a King on Bethlehem plain,
Gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.

Star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Glorious now, behold Him arise,
King and God, and sacrifice!
Alleluia,
Alleluia

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Slow and static $\text{♩} = 46$

mp Solo or small solo group of three

Soprano 1

Soprano 2

Alto 1

Alto 2

Rehearsal Piano

S 1

S 2

A 1

A 2

Pno.

We three kings of O - ri - ent are;

We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings,

We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings,

Bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a far, _____ Field and

We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings,

We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings,

13

S 1
foun - tain, Moor and moun - tain, — Fol - low - ing yon - der star. —

S 2

A 1
We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings,

A 2
We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings,

Pno.

Entire section

19

S 1
— Born a King on Beth - le - hem plain, Gold I

S 2
Gold I

A 1
We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings,

A 2
We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings,

Pno.

25

S 1
bring to crown him a - gain, King for - ev - er,

S 2
bring to crown him a - gain, King for - ev - er,

A 1
We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings,

A 2
We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings,

Pno.

31

S 1
ceas - ing nev - er, O - ver us all to reign. Star of

S 2
ceas - ing nev - er, O - ver us all to reign. Star of

A 1
We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, Star of

A 2
We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, We three kings, Star of

Pno.

38 *mp*

S 1
won-der, Star of night, Star with roy-al beau-ty bright, West-ward lead-ing, still pro-

S 2
won-der, Star of night, Star with roy-al beau-ty bright, West-ward lead-ing, still pro-

A 1
won-der, Star of night, Star with roy-al beau-ty bright, West-ward lead-ing, still pro-

A 2
won-der, Star of night, Star with roy-al beau-ty bright, West-ward lead-ing, still pro-

Pno.

47 *pp*

S 1
ceed-ing, — Guide us to thy per-fect light. — Glo-ri-ous now, be-

S 2
ceed-ing, — Guide us to thy per-fect light. We three kings, We three kings, Glo-ri-ous now, be-

A 1
ceed-ing, — Guide us to thy per-fect light. We three kings, We three kings, Glo-ri-ous now, be-

A 2
ceed-ing, — Guide us to thy per-fect light. — Glo-ri-ous now, be-

Pno.

55

S 1
hold Him a - rise, King and God, and sac - ri - fice! Al - le - lu - ia

S 2
hold Him a - rise, King and God, and sac - ri - fice! Al - le - lu - ia

A 1
hold Him a - rise King and God, and sac - ri - fice! Al - le - lu Al-le-lu-ia We three kings,

A 2
hold Him a - rise King and God, and sac - ri - fice! Al - le - lu al-le-lu-ia We three kings,

Pno.

61

S 1
Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia

S 2
Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia

A 1
We three kings, Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia

A 2
We three kings, Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia

Pno.

68

S 1
Al - le - lu - - - ia

S 2
Al - le - lu - - - a

A 1
Al - le - lu - - - ia

A 2
Al - le - lu - - - ia

Pno.

The musical score is written for five parts: Soprano 1 (S 1), Soprano 2 (S 2), Alto 1 (A 1), Alto 2 (A 2), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The score begins at measure 68. The vocal parts have lyrics: S 1: 'Al - le - lu - - - ia', S 2: 'Al - le - lu - - - a', A 1: 'Al - le - lu - - - ia', and A 2: 'Al - le - lu - - - ia'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and single notes in the left hand. A large watermark 'FOR PERUSAL USE ONLY' is printed diagonally across the page.

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