

# Carol of the Seekers

SSAA *a cappella*  
with optional handbells (A4-E6)

Words and music by Rebecca Oswald  
(1997)

Soprano 1      Soprano 2      Alto 1      Alto 2



The image shows a musical score for four voices: Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto 1, and Alto 2. Each voice part is written on a single staff with a treble clef. The notes are: Soprano 1 (G4, A4, B4), Soprano 2 (F4, G4, A4), Alto 1 (E4, F4, G4), and Alto 2 (D4, E4, F4). The notes are beamed together and have a sharp sign (#) above them, indicating a key signature of one sharp (F#).

Duration 2:55



Rebecca Oswald Music  
[rebeccaoswald.com](http://rebeccaoswald.com)

**Rebecca Oswald** (b. 1958) is an award winning composer and lifelong pianist. Her catalogue includes music for piano as well as other solo instruments, various chamber ensembles, string and full orchestra, art songs, all types of choral ensembles including chorus with orchestra, a clarinet concerto, and an opera. She has also written music for film and games. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree, *summa cum laude*, in music theory and composition from Westminster Choir College (1998), and a Master of Music degree in music composition from the University of Oregon School of Music (2001). For more information please visit [rebeccaoswald.com](http://rebeccaoswald.com) or write to [rebecca@rebeccaoswald.com](mailto:rebecca@rebeccaoswald.com).

Rebecca Oswald

# Carol of the Seekers

SSAA *a cappella*  
or with handbells (A4-E6)

## Program notes:

*Carol of the Seekers* is a short, sweet, simple Christmas carol for treble voices, either *a cappella* or with handbells. The refrain's joyous, cascading "Noël" suggests tintinnabulation, while the five verses offer a metaphysical interpretation of the Christmas story: like the shepherds and the wise men, all who seek the infant Jesus will find him within their own hearts.

## Requests:

- (1) Please report all U.S. performances of this work to BMI (classical@bmi.com) and to me (rebecca@rebeccaoswald.com) by emailing a JPG or PDF of a program, flyer, poster, or ticket showing the title of my programmed work(s) and my name (Rebecca Oswald).
- (2) Similarly, please report all non-U.S. performances to the host country's national performance rights organization, to BMI (classical@bmi.com), and to me (rebecca@rebeccaoswald.com).

Many thanks! I hope you and your choir enjoy singing *Carol of the Seekers*.

— *Rebecca Oswald*



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## Carol of the Seekers

Noël, sing Noël, Noël, sing Noël!

Whom do you seek? The infant Jesus.  
Whom do you seek? The holy Child.  
Come, come along, for God is with us,  
And by the Father's goodness we are called.

Noël, sing Noël, Noël, sing Noël!

How shall we find the infant Jesus?  
How shall we find the holy Child?  
Led by the star that shines within us  
Surely His radiant beauty we'll behold.

Noël, sing Noël, Noël, sing Noël!

Look, how He smiles, the infant Jesus!  
Look, how He smiles, the holy Child!  
Infinite love He freely gives us;  
Let us by love forevermore be ruled.

Noël, sing Noël, Noël, sing Noël!

What shall we give the infant Jesus?  
What shall we give the holy Child?  
Give Him our trust, for He will lead us  
Into the light of grace and truth revealed.

Noël, sing Noël, Noël, sing Noël!

Here, in our hearts, the infant Jesus,  
Here, in our hearts, the holy Child!  
God bless us all with joy this Christmas,  
And ever may our hearts with joy be filled!

Noël, sing Noël, Noël, sing Noël!

# Carol of the Seekers

SSAA a cappella  
(optional handbell part on last page)

Words and music by Rebecca Oswald

Joyfully (♩ = 72)

Refrain:

Soprano 1  
No - ël, No - ël, No - ël! No - ël,

Soprano 2  
Sing No - ël, No - ël, No - ël! No - ël, No -

Alto 1  
No - ël, sing No - ël! Sing No -

Alto 2  
No - ël, sing No - ël! No -

Piano (reh. only)

The first system of the musical score is for the Refrain. It features five staves: Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto 1, Alto 2, and Piano (rehearsal only). The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 2/2. The tempo is marked 'Joyfully' with a quarter note equal to 72 beats per minute. The dynamics are marked with a forte 'f' for the vocal parts. The lyrics for the Refrain are: 'No - ël, No - ël, No - ël! No - ël, Sing No - ël, No - ël, No - ël! No - ël, Sing No - ël, No - ël, No - ël! No - ël, Sing No -'. The piano part provides harmonic support with chords and a steady bass line.

S 1  
No - ël! 1. Whom do you seek? The in - fant Je - sus.

S 2  
ël, No - ël, No - ël! The in - fant Je - sus.

A 1  
ël, No - ël, sing No - ël! The in - fant Je - sus.

A 2  
ël, sing No - ël! The in - fant Je - sus.

Piano

The second system of the musical score continues the vocal parts and piano accompaniment. It features the same five staves as the first system. The lyrics for the first system are: 'No - ël! 1. Whom do you seek? The in - fant Je - sus. ël, No - ël, No - ël! The in - fant Je - sus. ël, No - ël, sing No - ël! The in - fant Je - sus. ël, sing No - ël! The in - fant Je - sus.'. The dynamics are marked with mezzo-forte 'mf' and mezzo-piano 'mp'. The piano part continues with harmonic support, including a handbell part as indicated in the title.

11 *mf* *mp* *mf* *f*

S 1 Whom do you seek? The ho-ly Child. Come, come a-long, for God is with us, And by the Fa-ther's

S 2 The ho-ly Child. Come, come a-long, for God is with us, And by the Fa-ther's

A 1 The ho-ly Child. Come, come a-long, for God is with us, And by the Fa-ther's

A 2 The ho-ly Child. Come, come a-long, for God is with us, And by the Fa-ther's

11 *mf* *mp* *mf* *f*

16 **Refrain:** *f*

S 1 good-ness we are called. No - ël, No - ël, No - ël! No -

S 2 good-ness we are called. Sing No - ël, No - ël, No - ël! No -

A 1 good - ness we are called. No - ël, sing No - ël!

A 2 good - ness we are called. No - ël, sing No - ël!

16 *f*

22

S 1 *mf* *mp*  
ël, No - ël! 2. How shall we find the

S 2 *mf* *mp*  
ël, No - ël, No - ël, No - ël! 2. How shall we find the

A 1 *mp*  
Sing No - ël, No - ël, sing No - ël! the

A 2 *mp*  
No - ël, sing No - ël! the

22

*mf* *mp*

27

S 1 *mf* *mp* *mf*  
in-fant Je - sus? How shall we find the ho - ly Child? Led by the star that shines with - in us

S 2 *mf* *mp* *mf*  
in-fant Je - sus? How shall we find the ho - ly Child? Led by the star that shines with - in us

A 1 *mp* *mf*  
in-fant Je - sus? the ho - ly Child? Led by the star that shines with - in us

A 2 *mp* *mf*  
in-fant Je - sus? the ho - ly Child? Led by the star that shines with - in us

27

*mf* *mp* *mf*

**Refrain:**

32 *f*

S 1 Sure - ly His ra - diant beau - ty we'll be - hold. No - ël, \_\_\_\_\_ No -

S 2 Sure - ly His ra - diant beau - ty we'll be - hold. Sing No - ël, No -

A 1 Sure - ly His ra - diant beau - ty we'll be - hold. No - ël, \_\_\_\_\_

A 2 Sure - ly His ra - diant beau - ty we'll be - hold. No - ël,

32 *f*

The piano accompaniment for measures 32-36 features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and a more active treble line with chords and eighth-note patterns. The music is in a major key with three sharps (F#, C#, G#).

37

S 1 ël, No - ël! No - ël, \_\_\_\_\_ No - ël! \_\_\_\_\_

S 2 ël, No - ël! No - ël, No - ël, \_\_\_\_\_ No - ël, No -

A 1 sing No - ël! Sing No - ël, No - ël, sing No -

A 2 sing No - ël! No - ël, \_\_\_\_\_ sing No -

37

The piano accompaniment for measures 37-41 continues with the same rhythmic and harmonic patterns as the previous section, providing a strong accompaniment for the vocal parts. It concludes with a final chord in the right hand and a sustained bass note in the left hand.



42 *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

S 1 — 3. Look, how He smiles, the in-fant Je - sus! Look, how He smiles, the ho - ly Child!

S 2 — — — — — *p* — — — — — *p* — — — — — *p* — — — — — *p*

A 1 — — — — — *mp* — — — — — *p* — — — — — *mp* — — — — — *p*

A 2 — — — — — *p* — — — — — *p* — — — — — *p* — — — — — *p*

42 *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

47 *mp* *f* *f* *f* **Refrain:**

S 1 In - fin - ite love He free - ly gives us; Let us by love for - e - ver - more be ruled. No -

S 2 In - fin - ite love He free - ly gives us; Let us by love for - e - ver - more be ruled.

A 1 In - fin - ite love He free - ly gives us; Let us by love for - e - ver - more be ruled.

A 2 In - fin - ite love He free - ly gives us; Let us by love for - e - ver - more be ruled.

47 *mp* *f* *f*

52

S 1 *f* *f* *f*  
 ël, \_\_\_\_\_ No - ël, No - ël! No - ël, \_\_\_\_\_ No -

S 2 *f*  
 Sing No - ël, No - ël, No - ël! No - ël, No - ël, \_\_\_\_\_ No -

A 1 *f*  
 No - ël, \_\_\_\_\_ sing No - ël! Sing No - ël, No -

A 2 *f*  
 No - ël, sing No - ël! No - ël, \_\_\_\_\_

52

58 *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

S 1 *mf*  
 ël! \_\_\_\_\_ 4. What shall we give the in-fant Je - sus? What shall we give the

S 2 *mf*  
 ël, No - ël! 4. What shall we give the in-fant Je - sus? What shall we give the

A 1 *mf*  
 ël, sing No - ël! the in-fant Je - sus? the

A 2 *mf*  
 sing No - ël! 4. What shall we give the in-fant Je - sus? What shall we give the

58 *mf*

63

*f*

S 1 ho - ly Child? Give Him our trust, for He will lead us In - to the light of grace and truth re -

S 2 ho - ly Child? Give Him our trust, for He will lead us In - to the light of grace and truth re -

A 1 ho - ly Child? Give Him our trust, for He will lead us In - to the light of grace and truth re -

A 2 ho - ly Child? Give Him our trust, for He will lead us In - to the light of grace and truth re -

68

**Refrain:**

*f*

S 1 vealed. No - ël, No - ël, No - ë! No - ël,

S 2 vealed. Sing No - ël, No - ël, No - ë! No - ël, No -

A 1 vealed. No - ël, sing No - ë! Sing No -

A 2 vealed. No - ël, sing No - ë! No -

74

S 1 *f*  
No - ël! 5. Here, in our hearts, the in - fant Je - sus,

S 2 *f*  
ël, No - ël, No - ël! 5. Here, in our hearts, the in - fant Je - sus,

A 1 *f*  
ël, No - ël, sing No - ël! 5. Here, in our hearts, the in - fant Je - sus,

A 2 *f*  
ël, sing No - ël! 5. Here, in our hearts, the in - fant Je - sus,

79

S 1 *ff*  
Here, in our hearts, the ho - ly Child! God bless us all with joy this Christ-mas, And e-ver may our

S 2 *ff*  
Here, in our hearts, the ho - ly Child! God bless us all with joy this Christ-mas, And e-ver may our

A 1 *ff*  
Here, in our hearts, the ho - ly Child! God bless us all with joy this Christ-mas, And e-ver may our

A 2 *ff*  
Here, in our hearts, the ho - ly Child! God bless us all with joy this Christ-mas, And e-ver may our

79

Refrain:

84

*f*

S 1 hearts with joy be filled! No - ël, No - ël, No -

S 2 hearts with joy be filled! Sing No - ël, No - ël, No -

A 1 hearts with joy be filled! No - ël, sing No -

A 2 hearts with joy be filled! No - ël, sing No -

89

S 1 ël! No - ël, No - ël, No - ël!

S 2 ël! No - ël, No - ël, No - ël, No - ël!

A 1 ël! Sing No - ël, No - ël, sing No - - - ël!

A 2 ël! No - ël, sing No - - - ël!

89

Optional Handbell part

Bells used

Musical notation for Bells used, showing a sequence of notes on a grand staff. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4 in the treble clef; and G3, A3, B3, C4, B3, A3, G3 in the bass clef.

Joyfully (♩ = 72)

Refrain:

Musical notation for the first part of the Refrain. It consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a piano (*f*) dynamic and contains a sequence of notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The second staff contains notes: G3, A3, B3, C4, B3, A3, G3. Above the first staff are markings "LV LV LV LV LV LV LV". Above the second staff is a marking "LV".

Musical notation for the second part of the Refrain. It consists of two staves. The first staff contains notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The second staff contains notes: G3, A3, B3, C4, B3, A3, G3. Above the first staff are markings "LV LV" and a bracketed section "1. 2. 3. 4. 5." with "LV LV" below it. Above the second staff are markings "LV LV".

Musical notation for the Verses. It consists of two staves. The first staff contains notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The second staff contains notes: G3, A3, B3, C4, B3, A3, G3. Above the first staff are markings "(Verses)", "LV", and "6. LV". Above the second staff are markings "SK LV" and "SK LV".



