

Michael Kaulkin

# Neapolitan Carol ("Quanno nascette nino")

*for SATB choir and piano*

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# Neapolitan Carol

(*Quanno nascette ninno*)

for SATB choir and piano (2'30")

This arrangement of the Neapolitan Christmas carol, sometimes known as "*Canzone d'i Zampognari*," or "Carol of the Bagpipers", was written for the San Francisco Bach Choir in 2021. It tells the story of the starry night when Bethlehem was visited by three strangers from far away. Sung here in the original Neapolitan language, there is also an optional English text written by the composer.

### Original Text

*Quanno nascette ninno a Bettelemme,  
Era notte e parea mmiezo juorno!  
Maje le stelle  
Lustere e belle  
Se vedettero accussì!  
La chiù lucente  
Jette a chiammà li Magi, in Oriente.*

### English Version

How splendid was the night sky –  
The stars in dazzling array.  
Refulgent over Bethlehem,  
Shining bright as light of day.  
  
Glowing and gleaming, blazing and beaming, How  
they smiled like never before.  
One very special star  
Was soaring high and beckoning  
Three strangers from afar.

– Michael Kaulkin, 2023

\* **Pronunciation guide** (the original text read by native Neapolitan speaker, Alexandra Amati):  
<http://neapolitan.michaelkaulkin.com>

Special thanks: Alexandra Amati, Vance Maverick, Magen Solomon



**Michael Kaulkin** (b. 1967) is active in the San Francisco Bay Area as a teacher and as a composer of works for chorus, orchestra, film and the musical stage. His music has been described as "*exceptionally beautiful on many counts.*" He is a graduate of the San Francisco Conservatory having previously studied at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, Hungary.

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*Fondly dedicated to the San Francisco Bach Choir  
Magen Solomon, Artistic Director*

# Neapolitan Carol

*(Quanno nascette ninno)*

## Traditional carol from Naples English version by the composer

Michael Kaulkin

**Andante (♩=52)**

**SOPRANO**

**ALTO**

**Piano**

**p**

How splen - did was the  
Quan - no na-sacet - te

**p**

How splen - did was the  
Quan - no na-sacet - te

FOR PEEF

6

S. night sky, the stars in daz - zling ar - ray. Re - ful - gent ov - er Beth-le - hem\_ Shin-ing  
 Nin - no a Bet - te - lem - me, E - ra not - te e pa - re a

A. night sky, the stars in daz - zling ar - ray. Re - ful - gent ov - er Beth-le - hem\_ Shin-ing  
 Nin - no a Bet - te - lem - me, E - ra not - te e pa - re a

Pno.

## Kaulkin - Neapolitan Carol

2

11

S. A

bright as light of day. Glow-ing and gleam-ing, blaz-ing and beam-ing, How they smiled like nev-er be-  
mie - zo juor - no. Ma - je le stel - le, lu ste-re e bel - le, Se ve - det - te - ro ac-cu-

A.

bright as light of day. Glow-ing and gleam-ing, blaz-ing and beam-ing, How they smiled like nev- be-  
mie - zo juor - no. Ma - je le stel - le, lu ste-re e bel - le, Se ve - det - te - ro ac-cu-

Pno.

16

S.

fore. One ver - y spe - cial star was soar - ing high and beck-on - ing three  
si! La chiù lu - cen - te Jet - te a chiam-mà li Ma - gi, in

A.

fore One ver - y spe - cial star was soar - ing high and beck-on - ing three  
si! La chiù lu - cen - te Jet - te a chiam-mà li Ma - gi, in

T. P

One ver - y spe - cial star was soar - ing high and beck-on - ing three  
La chiù lu - cen - te Jet - te a chiam-mà li Ma - gi, in

Pno.

## Kaulkin - Neapolitan Carol

3

21

S. *mp* **B**

strang - ers from a - far.  
O - ri - en - te. Glow-ing and gleam - ing, blaz-ing and beam - ing, How they  
Ma - je le stel - le, lu - ste - re e bel - le, Se ve -

A. *mp*

strang - ers from a - far.  
O - ri - en - te. Glow-ing and gleam - ing, blaz-ing and beam - ing, How they  
Ma - je le stel - le, lu - ste - re e bel - le, Se ve -

T. *mp*

strang - ers from a - far.  
O - ri - en - te. Glow-ing and gleam - ing, blaz-ing and beam - ing, How they  
Ma - je le stel - le, lu - ste - re e bel - le, Se ve -

Pno.

**B**

*mp*

25

S. *mp*

smiled like nev - er be - fore One ver - y spe - cial star was soar - ing high and  
*det - te - ro ac - cu - si!* La chiù lu - cen te Jet - te a chiam-mà li

A. *mp*

smiled like nev - er be - fore One ver - y spe - cial star was soar - ing high and  
*det - te - ro ac - cu - si!* La chiù lu - cen te Jet - te a chiam-mà li

T. *mp*

smiled like nev - er be - fore One ver - y spe - cial star was soar - ing high and  
*det - te - ro ac - cu - si!* La chiù lu - cen te Jet - te a chiam-mà li

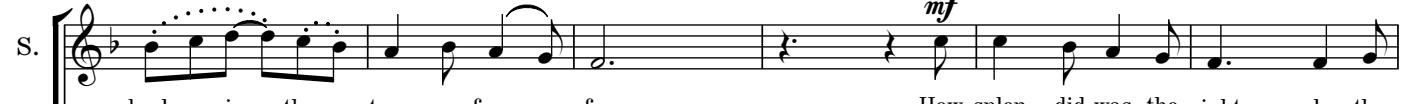
Pno.

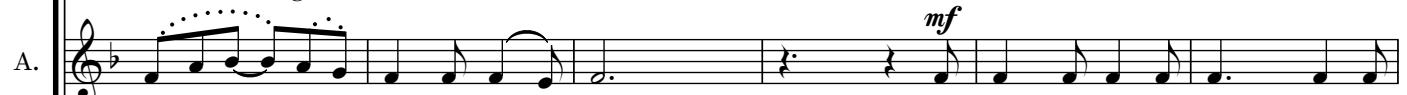
## Kaulkin - Neapolitan Carol

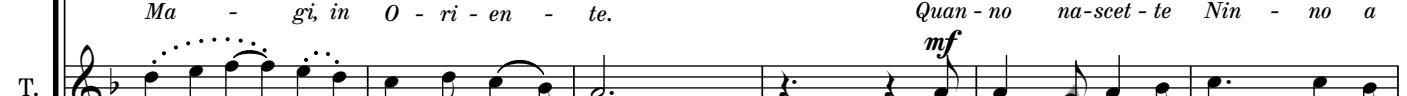
C

4

30

S. 

A. 

T. 

B. 

Pno. 

36

S. 

A. 

T. 

B. 

Pno. 

## Kaulkin - Neapolitan Carol

5

40

S. *bright - as light of day.* *Glow-ing and gleam - ing, blaz-ing and beam - ing,* *How they*  
*mie - zo juor - no.* *Ma - je le stel - le, lu - ste - re e bel - le, Se ve -*

A. *bright - as light of day.* *Glow-ing and gleam - ing, blaz-ing and beam - ing,* *How they*  
*mie - zo juor - no.* *Ma - je le stel - le, lu - ste - re e bel - le, Se ve -*

T. *bright - as light of day.* *Glow-ing and gleam - ing, blaz-ing and beam - ing,* *How they*  
*mie - zo juor - no.* *Ma - je le stel - le, lu - ste - re e bel - le, Se ve -*

B. *bright - as light of day.* *Glow-ing and gleam - ing, blaz-ing and beam - ing,* *How they*  
*mie - zo juor - no.* *Ma - je le stel - le, lu - ste - re e bel - le, Se ve -*

Pno. **D** *mp*

44

S. *smiled like nev - er be - fore* *One ver - y spe - cial star* *was Jet -*  
*det - te - ro ac - cu - si!* *La chiù lu - cen te*

A. *smiled like nev - er be - fore* *One ver - y spe - cial star* *was Jet -*  
*det - te - ro ac - cu - si!* *La chiù lu - cen te*

T. *smiled like nev - er be - fore* *One ver - y spe - cial star* *was Jet -*  
*det - te - ro ac - cu - si!* *La chiù lu - cen te*

B. *smiled like nev - er be - fore* *One ver - y spe - cial star* *was Jet -*  
*det - te - ro ac - cu - si!* *La chiù lu - cen te*

Pno. **mf**

## Kaulkin - Neapolitan Carol

6 48

S. soar - ing high and beck-on - ing three strang - ers from a - far. Glow-ing and  
*te a chiam-mà li Ma - gi, in O - ri - en - te.* Ma - je le *mp*

A. soar - ing high and beck-on - ing three strang - ers from a - far. Glow-ing and  
*te a chiam-mà li Ma - gi, in O - ri - en - te.* Ma - je le *mp*

T. soar - ing high and beck-on - ing three strang - ers from a - far. Glow-ing and  
*te a chiam-mà li Ma - gi, in O - ri - en - te.* Ma - je le *mp*

B. soar - ing high and beck-on - ing three strang - ers from a - far. Glow-ing and  
*te a chiam-mà li Ma - gi, in O - ri - en - te.* Ma - je le *mp*

Pno. *rit.* *1.* *mp*

52 2. rit.

S. far.  
*te.*

A. far.  
*te.*

T. far.  
*te.*

B. far.  
*te.*

Pno. *rit.* *2.* *p*