

Michal Dawson Connor



MARY HAD A BABY

FOR SATB CHOIR AND SOPRANO SOLO

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for SATB choir and soprano solo

An indomitable sense of hope, and unvarnished sorrow, permeate each line and melody of these unforgettable songs- forged in the anvil of abject misery and despair, aching for freedom's light.

Humiliated beyond all human reckoning, and given no respite from the daily drudgery of endless toil- these fiercely resilient souls somehow persevered, despite the harshest obstacles- leaving behind a true golden legacy of words and music to cherish.

In his famous autobiography, Frederick Douglass wrote:

"Slaves sing most when they are most unhappy. The songs of the slave represent the sorrows of his heart; and he is relieved by them, only as an aching heart is relieved by its tears."

I am deeply honored to present these musical footprints of my proud ancestors- and hope that by singing them, we pause to remember the undaunted courage and grit of the men and women who originally composed them.

— MICHAL DAWSON CONNOR

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Mary Had a Baby

for SATB a cappella choir with soprano solo

Michal Connor

Teneramente (♩=55)

f

Soprano solo
Ooh, _____ ooh, _____ ooh, _____ ooh, _____ ooh, _____

mf
Soprano
Ooh, _____ ooh, _____ ooh, _____ ooh, _____ ooh, _____ ooh, _____

mf
Alto
Ooh, _____ ooh, _____ ooh, _____ ooh, _____ ooh, _____ ooh, _____

mf
Tenor
Ooh, _____ ooh, _____ ooh, _____ ooh, _____ ooh, _____ ooh, _____

mf
Bass
Ooh, _____ ooh, _____ ooh, _____ ooh, _____ ooh, _____ ooh, _____

Teneramente (♩=55)

mf

(for rehearsal only)

7 **molto rit.** *pp* *dolce*

Soprano solo
This child, my ba - by. Ma-ry had a ba - by, Ma-ry had a ba - by,

Soprano
this child. (hmm) Yes, Lord. *mf*

Alto
this child. (hmm) Yes, Lord. *mf*

Tenor
this child. (hmm) Yes, Lord. *mf*

Bass
this child. (hmm) Yes, Lord. *mf*

molto rit.

12

Solo

S

A

T

B

Ma-ry had a ba - by, yes, Lord, the peo-ple keep a-com-ing an' the

Yes, my Lord. Ma-ry had a ba - by, yes, my Lord, peo-ple keep-a-com-ing an' the

Yes, my Lord. Ma-ry had a ba - by, yes, my Lord, peo-ple keep a-com-ing and the

Yes, my Lord. Ma-ry had a ba - by, yes, my Lord, peo-ple keep a-com-ing and the

Yes, my Lord. Ma-ry had a ba - by, yes, my Lord, peo-ple keep a-com-ing and the

16

Solo

S

A

T

B

train done gone.

train done gone. *f* Migh - ty Coun-sel-or born in a man-ger low_ named Him King Je - sus,

train-a done gone. *f* Migh-ty Couns' - lor born to save us named Him King Je - sus,

train-a done gone. *f* Migh-ty Couns' - lor born to save us named Him King Je - sus,

train-a done gone. *f* Migh-ty Couns' - lor born to save us named Him King Je - sus,

20

S *dolce*
 Yes my, — yes my, — yes my — Lord. Born in a man - ger, yes Lord.

A *dolce*
 Yes my, — yes my, — yes my — Lord. Born in a man - ger, yes Lord.

T *dolce*
 Yes my, — yes my — yes my — Lord. Born in a man - ger, yes, oh yes Lord.

B *dolce*
 Yes my, yes, yes my, yes, yes my — Lord. Born in a man - ger, yes Lord.



24

S
 Born in a man - ger, yes my Lord. Born in a man - ger, yes my Lord,

A
 Born in a man - ger, yes my Lord. Born in a man - ger, yes, oh yes, yes my Lord,

T
 Born in a man - ger, yes my Lord. Born in a man - ger, yes, oh yes, yes my Lord,

B
 Born in a man - ger, yes my Lord. Born in a man - ger yes, oh yes, yes Lord,



28

S peo-ple keep a-com-ing an' the train done gone. *f* Migh- ty Coun-se- lor, born in a man-ger low,

A peo-ple keep a-com-ing an' the train done gone. *f* Migh-ty Couns' - lor born to save us

T peo-ple keep a-com-ing an' the train done gone. *f* Migh-ty Couns' - lor born to save us

B peo-ple keep a-com-ing an' the train done gone. *f* Migh-ty Couns' - lor born to save us

32

Solo

S named Him King Je- sus, yes my, yes my, yes my Lord. *mp* *f* Ooh, ooh,

A named Him King Je- sus, yes my, yes my, yes my Lord. *mp* *f* Ooh, ooh,

T named Him King Je- sus, yes my, yes my, yes my Lord. *mp* *f* Ooh, ooh,

B named Him King Je- sus, yes my, yes, yes my, yes, yes my Lord. *mp* *f* Ooh, ooh,

37 **molto rit.** *pp*

Solo *pp*
 ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh. This child, my ba-by.

S *pp*
 ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh. this child. (hmm)

A *pp*
 ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh. this child. (hmm)

T *pp*
 ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh. this child. (hmm)

B *pp*
 ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh. this child. (hmm)

pp **molto rit.**

43 *mf* *p subito*

S *mf* *p subito*
 My soul does mag - ni - fy Him! My soul does mag - ni - fy the Lord. Qui-et He lays with

A *mf* *p subito*
 My soul does mag - ni - fy Him! My soul does mag - ni - fy the Lord. Qui-et He lays a -

T *mf* *p subito*
 My soul does mag - n - fy Him! My soul does mag - ni - fy the Lord. Qui-et He lays a -

B *mf* *p subito*
 My soul does mag - ni - fy Him! My soul does mag - ni - fy the Lord. Qui-et He lays a -

mf *p subito*

48

S in me! sang the mo-ther of the Liv-ing Word!

A mongst the low - ly sang the mo-ther of the Liv-ing Word!

T mongst the low - ly sang the moth-er of the Liv-ing Word!

B mongst the low - ly sang the moth-er of the Liv - ing Word!

51

Solo *f* Ma - ry had a lit - tle lamb, This child, my own! *pp*

S *f* Migh - ty Coun-se-lor, born in a man - ger. this child. (hmm) *pp*

A *f* Migh - ty Couns' - lor, born to save us, this child. (hmm) *pp*

T *f* Migh - ty Couns' - lor, born to save us, this child. (hmm) *pp*

B *f* Migh - ty Couns' - lor born to save us, — this child. (hmm) *pp*

molto rit.