

A CHILD IS BORN FOR US

Puer Natus

for Cantor, Assisting & Choral Descants
with Keyboard, Brass, Percussion & Guitar

TONY BARR

A child is born in Bethlehem
unde gaudet, Jerusalem!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Now clothed in flesh, a human son,
our brother-God! Let praise be sung!

This birth was promised long ago:
benedicamus Domino!

With maiden mother keep we fast
with Zion's Daughter, virgin!

Await the Dawn, the time has come
Natum salutant gentium
unde gaudet, Jerusalem!

unde gaudet, Jerusalem!
benedicamus Domino:
natum salutant gentium:
laudamus, laudamus omnium

This song has been inspired by the Latin text of *Puer Nobis Nascitur (A Child Is Born For Us)*. It reappeared in the 1582 *Piae Cantiones* collection. The song had virtually disappeared, until rare copy found its way to England around 1850, where it ended up in the hands of the noted liturgist and translator J.M. Neale, inspiring him to compose some of the world's most beloved English-language Christmas carols.

In the tradition of many, I have revisited this carol, expanding the original five verses to eight. I have re-cast a somewhat Victorian style into a more relevant biblical rendition of Luke's Infancy Narratives. In doing so, I replaced the literal manger scene with the more symbolic references of the Scriptures, thus restoring the great prophetic inspirations of Isaiah as re-told in Luke.

However, to preserve its original flavor, I have introduced the *macaronic* device into the odd verses, inserting popular Latin texts into a vernacular song.

This piece may be sung by a cantor or schola (perhaps alternating male and female voices)

The refrain is sung with three-voice choral descants *ad lib.*

Solo Instruments may be played on selected verses only;

Optional instruments may also be used: tuned percussion (glockenspiel, etc.), recorders, violins, etc.

- Tony Barr

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JM 182

SAMPLE

Christmas Song Cycle 7

A Child Is Born For Us

Puer Natus In Bethlehem

INTRO ♩ = 64 [Optional Fanfare]

Bb Trumpet

French Horn

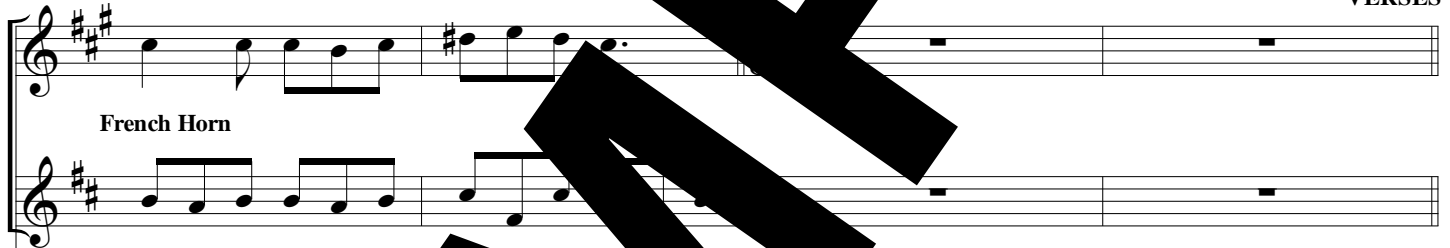


& music T. Barr

Bb Trumpet

VERSES

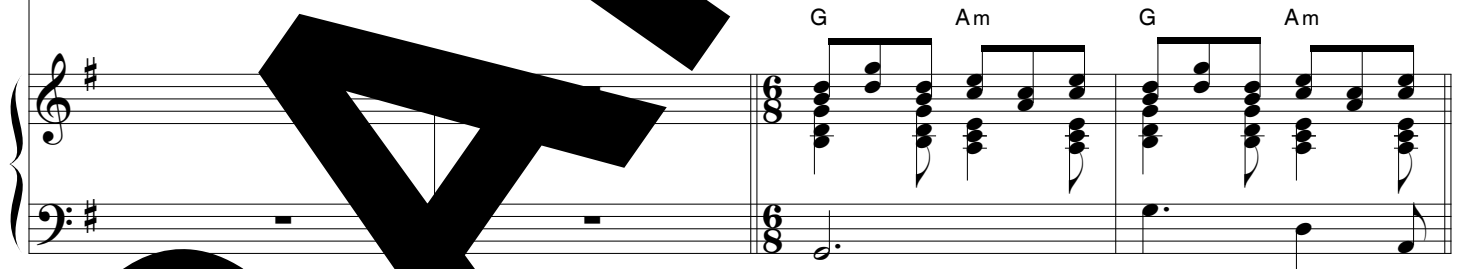
French Horn



Cantor/All

1. A

G Am G Am



SAMPLE

Flute on selected verses

Flute musical staff with notes and rests.

Trumpet on selected verses

Trumpet musical staff with notes and rests.

French Horn on selected verses

French Horn musical staff with notes and rests.

Verse Descant

Verse Descant musical staff with notes and rests.

3. birth was pro - mised long - ago, a be - ne - di - ca - mus
6. born of us, with the en - na - m'd child - ser - vant, God in
9. child is born for us this night, Cre - a - tion's glo - ry

Verse Descant musical staff with notes and rests.

1. child is born in Beth - le - hem, un - de - gau - det, Je -
2. clothed in flesh, a son, our bro - ther - God! Let
3. birth was pro - mised long - ago, be - ne - di - ca - mus
4. Zi - on's daugh - ter, in - gen - uine blest, with maid - en moth - er
5. wait the Dawn, the light has come, na - tum sal - u - tant
6. born of us, with the en - na - m'd child - ser - vant, God in
7. wel - come O Roy - al Son, lau - da - mus, Prin - ceps
8. day has just begun, set us free from e - vil, death's dark
9. child is born for us this night, Cre - a - tion's glo - ry

G D G C G

Guitar musical staff with notes and rests.

Guitar on selected verses

Guitar musical staff with notes and rests.

REFRAIN

Musical notation for the Refrain section, consisting of three staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#).

High Descant

Musical notation for the High Descant section, consisting of three staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#).

Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu -

3. Do - mi - no! Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu -

6. hu - man frame,

9. in our sight!

1. ru - sa - le Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu -

2. praise be sung

3. Do - mi - no!

4. keep we fest,

5. gen - ti - um!

6. hu - man frame,

7. om -

8. tyr -

9. in sight!

C D C Bm7 Cmaj7 D

Musical notation for the piano accompaniment, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef) with a key signature of one sharp (F#).

SAMPLE

1-8

D.S.

ia!

ia!

ia!

3. This
Now
A

2. Now
3. This
4. With
5. A-
6. Now
7. We
8. This
9. A

G m G Am *D.S.*

The musical score consists of three systems. The first system has three vocal staves with a first ending bracket labeled '1-8'. The second system has three vocal staves with lyrics 'ia!' and a 'D.S.' marking. The third system has a piano accompaniment with chords G, m, G, and Am, and a 'D.S.' marking. A large diagonal watermark 'SAMPLE' is overlaid across the page.

FINAL REFRAIN

The musical score consists of several staves. The top three staves are vocal parts. The fourth staff is a piano accompaniment with a 'High Descant' section. The fifth and sixth staves are vocal parts with lyrics. The seventh staff is a piano accompaniment with a 'Low Descant' section. The eighth and ninth staves are piano accompaniment. The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 6/8 time signature. The lyrics are: 'Al - le - lu - Al - lu -', 'Al - le - ia Al - lu -', 'Al - le - lu - lu - lu -', and 'Al - le - lu - lu -'. The piano accompaniment includes a 'High Descant' and a 'Low Descant' section. The score also includes a large 'SAMPLE' watermark.

SAMPLE


The image displays a musical score for the hymn "A Child is Born for Us," continuing from page 8. The score is written for a four-part vocal ensemble (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The vocal parts feature a melody with a mix of half and quarter notes, often with ties. The piano accompaniment includes chords and a bass line. The lyrics "ia!" are written under the vocal staves. The piano part includes chord markings: G, Am, Am, and G+2. A large, bold, black "SAMPLE" watermark is oriented vertically across the center of the page.

A Child Is Born For Us

Puer Natus In Bethlehem


VERSES ♩ = 64

Verse Descant




3. This birth was pro - mised long a be -
 6. Now born of us, with giv - en na child -
 9. A child is born for us this night, Cre -

Cantor/All



1. A child is born Beth - hem, un -
 2. Now clothed in flesh hu - son, our
 3. This birth was pro - mised long a - go, be -
 4. With Zi - on's d - te vir - gin blest, with
 5. A - wait the time has come, na -
 6. Now born of us, with giv - en name, child -
 7. We wel - come you, Roy - al Son, lau -
 8. This day ju - set us free from
 9. A child is born for us this night, Cre -



3. ne - di - Do - mi - no!
 6. ser - vant, God in hu - man frame,
 9. a - tion's glo - ry in our sight!



1. de - Je - ru - sa - lem!
 2. bro - Let praise be sung,
 3. ne - mus Do - mi - no!
 4. maid - en - er keep we fest,
 5. sal - tant gen - ti - um!
 6. - vant, in hu - man frame,
 da - in - ceps om - ni - um!
 e death's dark tyr - an - ny,
 tic glo - ry in our sight!

REFRAIN

High Descant

Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu

This staff features a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes with a slur over the first two measures.

Low Descant

Al - le - lu - ia Al lu

This staff features a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes with a slur over the first two measures.

All

Al - le - lu - ia - lu -

This staff features a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes with a slur over the first two measures.

to next Vers

ia! - ia!

ia!

ia!

ia! - ia!

This section contains three staves with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The notes are mostly whole notes with a fermata over the final note of each phrase.

SAMPLE