

SING NOW A NEW SONG OF WONDER

Responsorial Song from Psalm 96 for Christmas Midnight

CHRISTMAS NIGHT ALLELUIA

for Good News, Great Joy
for Psalmist (Cantata), Assembly and Descant
with Keyboard, Woodwind, Brass & Guitar

TONY BARR

*This day is born for us a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord*

Sing now a new song of wonder!
All Creation, resound with joy!
Thrill to the music, the Word now among us!

Sing of the One now appearing,
bearing justice for every land.
Proclaim the Good News to all who are watching!

Heavens, be glad, earth be dancing!
And you coastlands and seas, sound praise!
Be now attentive, you forests and meadows!

Welcome the One born of promise,
Welcome justice and peace for the world!
Come now, restore us to grace and good fortune!

Allelu, Alleluia! Allelu, Alleluia!

Good news! News of great joy!

For today is born for us
our long-awaited hope.
Yes! Jesus our Messiah
has come for us this day!

Psalms 96, 97 and 98 belong to the group of the Coronation Psalms. Each celebrates the Kingship of Y'hw'h. Their setting was the Feast of the Tabernacles, which had developed from a primitive New Year Festival. The temple editors regarded them as songs of David. After the return from Exile in BC 721, there was a tremendous level of hope and expectation that the new, rebuilt Temple would eventually become the house of prayer for all people.

Psalm 96 reflects the language of a post-Exilic period. It is also found in 1Chronicles 16 as part of a composite hymn sung by the choir as the Ark of the Covenant was carried up to Jerusalem. Chronicles reinterprets the period from David (BC 1000) to the end of the Monarchy, although it was written around BC 300 to describe the restoration of Temple worship as the center of Jewish life. Although a post-Exilic psalm, its origins are ancient. It echoes earlier psalms, as well as Isaiah 40-66, to affirm the worthlessness of idols, God's greatness visible through creation, Nature's invitation to give praise, and the conviction that all nations will one day worship the true God.

The psalm follows the pattern of the hymn, and is in fact a compilation of two hymns each with its own introduction, body, and conclusion.

- Tony Barr

See page 18 for an analysis of this psalm

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SAMPLE

Sing Now A New Song Of Wonder

Responsorial Song from Psalm 96 for Christmas Night

Music & text from Psalm 96 Tony Barr

INTRO ♩ = 60 *gently swaying*

Flute

Oboe

Bb Trumpet

or:

French Horn

rall. *a.t.*

rall. *a.t.*

a.t. Cantor

Em Bm7 G/E Em This

a.t.

Oboe

day is born — for us a Sa - vior, who is Christ — the Lord.

Em D/E G/E Em7 Bm A Em Bm7

This system contains the vocal line and piano accompaniment for the first part of the piece. The vocal line is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piano accompaniment is in G major, with a treble clef and a bass clef. The lyrics are: "day is born — for us a Sa - vior, who is Christ — the Lord." The piano part includes chords: Em, D/E, G/E, Em7, Bm, A, Em, Bm7.

REFRAIN

Flute

Oboe

Trumpet

Horn

Descant on selected Refrains

All

There is born — for us a Sa - vior, who is Christ — the

day is born — for us a Sa - vior, who is Christ — the

G/E Em Em D/E G/D Em7 Bm A

This system contains the instrumental parts for the Refrain section. It includes staves for Flute, Oboe, Trumpet, and Horn. The lyrics are: "There is born — for us a Sa - vior, who is Christ — the" and "day is born — for us a Sa - vior, who is Christ — the". The piano accompaniment includes chords: G/E, Em, Em, D/E, G/D, Em7, Bm, A.

1-3. to Verses

Lord.

Lord.

B C B Am/B G/E F#m/E

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The vocal line consists of three staves, with the first staff containing the melody and the following two staves providing harmonic support. The piano accompaniment is shown in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The lyrics 'Lord.' are placed below the vocal staves. The piano part includes chord symbols: B, C, B, Am/B, G/E, and F#m/E. A large, bold, black 'SAMPLE' watermark is oriented diagonally from the bottom-left to the top-right of the page, partially obscuring the musical notation.

The image displays a musical score for the hymn "Sing Now a New Song of Wonder" (Psalm 96, continuation). The score is written for voice and piano. It features a large, diagonal watermark reading "SAMPLE" across the center. The music is in the key of D major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The score includes a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with the word "Lord." and concludes with a "Final" section marked "Fine". The piano accompaniment includes a right-hand part with chords and a left-hand part with a bass line. Chord symbols A, B, Em7, F#m7, and B are indicated above the piano part. The score is marked with "Final" at the beginning and "Fine" at the end.

VERSES Psalmist (Cantor) from the ambo

1. Sing now a new song of wonder! All Cre -
 2. Sing of the One now ap - pear - ing far - ing
 3. Heav - ens, be glad, earth be danc - ing And you
 4. Wel - come the One born of prom - Wel - come

Em F#m/A Em7 A+

1. a - tion, re - sound with joy Thrill to the
 2. jus - tice for ev - 'ry land. Pro - claim the
 3. coast - lands and seas, thun - der praise! Be now at -
 4. jus - tice and peace for the world! Come now, re -

Am7 Bm7 Em7 A

Flute *D.S.*
 Oboe
or:
 Trumpet *D.S.*
 Horn

1. mus - ic the Word now a - mong us!
 2. Good to all who stand watch - ing!
 3. - ten re, you for - ests and mead - ows!
 us to grace and good for - tune!

Dmaj7 Cmaj7 Em Bm7

Sing Now A New Song Of Wonder

Responsorial Song from Psalm 96 for Christmas Night

music & text from Psalm 96 Tony Barr

REFRAIN ♩ = ca. 66 *gently swaying*
Descant on selected Refrains

This day is born for us a Sa - vior, who is Christ — the Lord.

All

This day is born for us a Sa - vior, who is Christ — the Lord.

VERSES Psalmist (Cantor) *from the ambo*

1. Sing now — a new song of won - der! All Cre -
2. Sing of — the One now pear - ing, bear - ing
3. Heav - ens, — be glad earth be - ing! And you
4. Wel - come — the One of p - ise! Wel - come

1. a - tion, — re - sound with joy! Thrill to the
2. jus - tice — for — ty - land. Pro - claim the
3. coast - lands — and seas, thun - der praise! Be now at -
4. jus - tice — and peace for the world! Come now, re -

1. mus - ic, — the Word now a - mong us! —
2. Good News — to all who stand watch - ing! —
3. — live, — for - ests and mead - ows! —
4. — store us — to grace and good for - tune! —

Christmas Night Gospel Acclamation

News of Great Joy!

music & text from Roman Lectionary, arr. **Tony Barr**

INTRO ♩ = ca. 66 *gently swaying*

Flute

Oboe

or: Bb Trumpet

French Horn

Em Bm7 G Em Bm7 G Em

The Intro section consists of five staves. The first four staves are for woodwinds: Flute, Oboe, Bb Trumpet (with 'or:' above it), and French Horn. The fifth staff is for piano accompaniment, showing chords and a bass line. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The tempo is marked 'ca. 66' and the mood is 'gently swaying'.

ALLELUIA ACCLAMATION

Cantor

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia!

Em Bm G C D Bm Em Bm7

The Alleluia Acclamation section consists of two staves. The top staff is for the Cantor, with lyrics written below the notes. The bottom staff is for piano accompaniment, showing chords and a bass line. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are 'Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia!'.

Flute

Oboe

Bb Trumpet

French Horn

All

Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

Cmaj7 D G C D Bm

VERSE 1 Cantor

Good news! Good news! News of great joy!

G Bm Gmaj7 Cmaj7 D Gmaj7 Em

News of great joy!

Am7 D E D A

INTERMEZZO

Flute

Oboe

Bb Trumpet

French Horn

Em Bm7 Em Bm7 G Em

ALLELUIA ACCLAMATION

Cantor

Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia!

Em G Em C D Bm Em Bm

The musical score is arranged in a system with the following parts from top to bottom:

- Flute**: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#).
- Oboe**: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#).
- Bb Trumpet**: Treble clef, key signature of two sharps (F# and C#).
- French Horn**: Treble clef, key signature of two sharps (F# and C#).
- Descant**: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#).
- All**: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#).
- Chords**: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#).
- Piano**: Grand staff (treble and bass clefs), key signature of one sharp (F#).

The vocal parts (Descant and All) include the lyrics: "Al - le lu - ia! Al - le lu - ia! Al - le lu - ia!" and "Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!".

The piano accompaniment includes the following chord symbols: C, Bm, G, Em, C, D, E, A \flat , B \flat , E \flat maj7, B \flat .

SAMPLE

VERSE 2

The musical score for Verse 2 is arranged in a grand staff format. It includes parts for Flute, Oboe, Bb Trumpet, French Horn, and Piano. The vocal parts are a Duet with lyrics: "For to-day is born for us long a-wait-ed hope. Yes!". The piano accompaniment includes a chord progression: Cm, Ab, Eb, Cm, Bb, Eb, C.

Flute

Oboe

Bb Trumpet

French Horn

Duet

For to - day is born for us long a - wait - ed hope. Yes!

For to - day is born for us long a - wait - ed hope. Yes!

Cm Ab Eb Cm Bb Eb C

SAMPLE

Jes - us our Mes - si ah has come for us this

Jes - us our Mes - si ah come for us this

Ab Fm Ebmaj7 Ab Bb

SAMPLE

INTERMEZZO

day!
day!

C B \flat A \flat Dm C F Dm

The Intermezzo section consists of six systems of music. The first four systems are vocal lines in G major (one sharp), with the first two systems having lyrics 'day!'. The fifth system is a piano accompaniment with lyrics 'day!' and includes chord markings: C, B \flat , A \flat , Dm, C, F, and Dm. The sixth system is a piano accompaniment with the same chord markings. A large diagonal watermark 'SAMPLE' is overlaid across the entire section.

ALLELUIA ACCLAMATION

Cantor

Al - le - lu, le - lu Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia! _____

Dm Am Dm B \flat C Am Dm Am7

The Alleluia Acclamation section consists of two systems of music. The first system is a vocal line for the Cantor with lyrics 'Al - le - lu, le - lu Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia! _____'. The second system is a piano accompaniment with the same lyrics and includes chord markings: Dm, Am, Dm, B \flat , C, Am, Dm, and Am7. A large diagonal watermark 'SAMPLE' is overlaid across the entire section.

Flute

Oboe

Flute

Oboe

Descant on selected Refrains

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

Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia!

Bbmaj7 C F Gm C Am D

CODA

C Bb/G C/D D

D+6

3

Christmas Night Gospel Acclamation

News of Great Joy!

ACCLAMATION ♩. = ca. 60

1. Cantor 2. All

music & text from the Roman Lectionary arr. Tony Barr

Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia!

VERSE 1 Cantor

Good news! Good news! Good news! News of great News of great joy!

ACCLAMATION

Cantor

Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia!

Descant on selected Refrains

Fine

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

Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia!

VERSE 2 Duet

For today is born for us our long - a - wait - ed

For today is born for us our long - a - wait - ed

D.S.

hope. Yes! - us our Mes - si - ah has come for us this day!

hope. Yes! Jes - us our Mes - si - ah has come for us this day!

Analysis of Psalm 96

Hymn One

vv 1-3 Sing now a new song of wonder

This Introduction invites all the people of God, ultimately all who inhabit the world, to sing an ever-new song. To give praise means to name God as Savior who delivered Israel from Babylonian captivity. God's triumph in creating the world was also a sign of coming victory at the end-times.

vv 4-6 Who Alone Is Worthy Of Praise

God is great and to be feared, an awe-inspiring Deity, who filled the enemy with terror but the faithful with joy. This God was the greatest; all other gods were nonentities, demons, contemptuous idols, not elihim (gods) but elilim (nobodies). *Y'hw'h alone made the heavens*; this appeal to Creation as a proof of God's power reflects the myth of the combat of the gods. *Honor and majesty* are personifications, attendants waiting upon God as servants. *Strength and beauty* are also personifications, used to describe not only the Ark but also the people of Israel. The sanctuary could be God's heavenly dwelling or the restored Temple.

Hymn Two

vv 7-9 The Universal Call To Worship

This renewed introduction exhorts all people to praise Yahweh. This gateway ritual in the open Temple courts may have belonged to the more ancient festival ritual of God's enthronement. The term offering refers to the gifts of tribute paid by the subjects to their lord (King). The Temple had several courts: the Court of the Gentiles, the Women's Court, the Court of Israel, and the Priests' Court. In pre-Exilic times only the first of these courts was accessible to the laity; but in the end times all had free run of the Temple. To tremble before the Lord can mean either to shake in fear or to spin and whirl in the sacred pilgrim dance.

vv 10-13 Y'hw'h Is King And Judge Of All

All of nature is invited to rejoice at the good news that Yahweh reigns. The Lord reigns ~~was further elaborated~~ *Tony Barr* in the Latin hymn *Dominus regnavit a ligno* (the 'Lord has reigned from the tree'. This hymn prophesied Christ's triumph through the Cross, inspiring the 6th Century hymn *Vexilla regis prodeunt*, 'The royal banners forward go.' The new reign would see God judging in equity and fairness. All Creation, Heaven and Earth, the seas, the trees, the plants and the open fields, all dance for joy: the Lord is coming! Little wonder that this psalm has been chosen as the responsorial for the Christmas Night Scriptures.