

THE SHEPHERDS' NOWELL

for unison or 2-part voices, accompanied,*
with optional flute**

Incorporating *THE FIRST NOWELL*
Words and Music by ANNA LAURA PAGE

Gently (♩ = ca. 96-100)

FLUTE

ACCOMP.

5

(*tacet*)

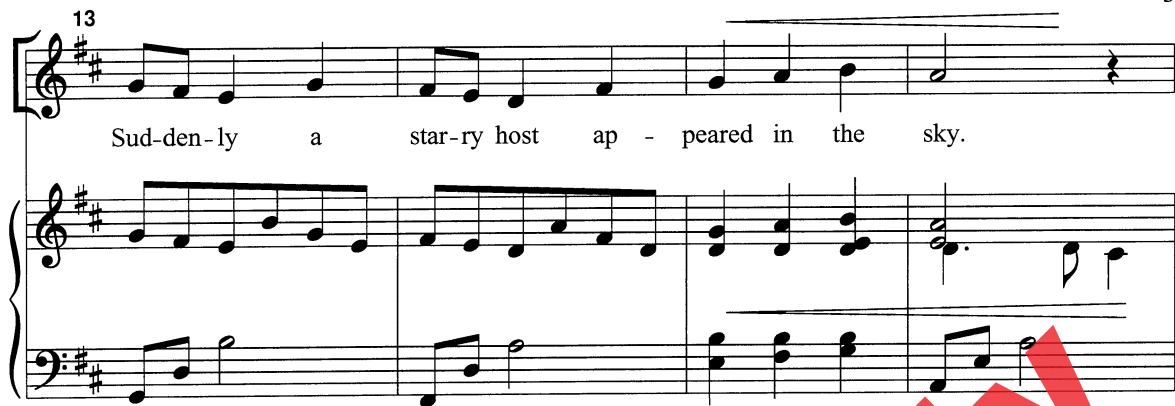
9 UNISON VOICES
mp

Lit-tle lambs lay sleep - ing, shep-herds watch were keep - ing;

* Also available for S.A.T.B. voices, No. 16090, and S.A.B. voices, No. 16091.

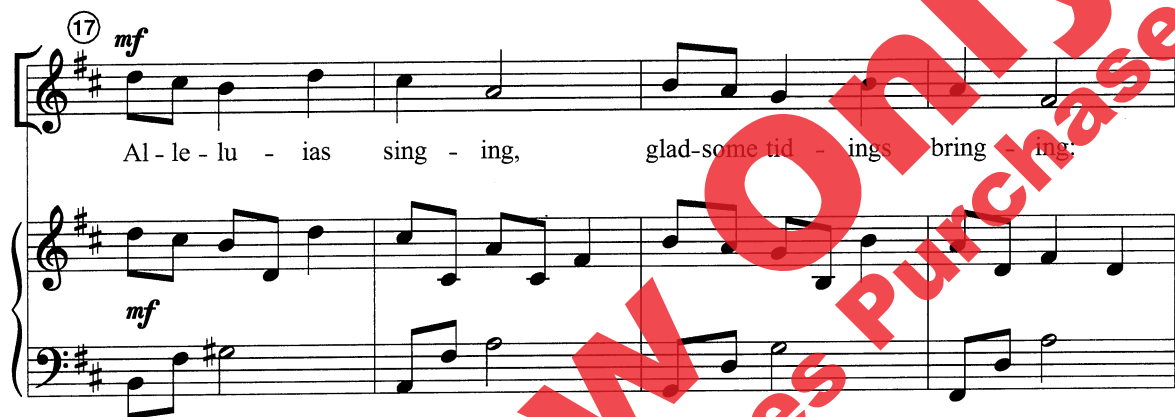
** Flute part may be found on page 8.

13



Sud-den-ly a star-ry host ap - peared in the sky.

17 *mf*



mf

Al - le - lu - ias sing - ing, glad-some tid - ings bring - ing.

21



On this night the Sav - iour Je - sus is born!

25

26



Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now -

29

ell! Born is the King of Is - ra -

33 *mp*

el.

FLUTE

mp

mp

37 PART I

* PART II

mp

Oo —

* (tacet)

37

* Unison voices sing Part I to end.

** Flute may double Part II one octave higher in mm. 40-57 (see flute part on page 8).

41 *mf*

Have no fear, but hur - ry to the man - ger low - ly;

Oo —

45

There you'll find the new-born King a - sleep on the hay.

Oo —

49

Bow_ down be - fore Him, wor - ship and a - dore Him;

Oo —

53

On this night the Sav - ior Je - sus is born.

Je - sus is born.

57

f (58) *dim.*
Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now -

f *dim.*
Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now -

61

mf
ell! Shep - herds sing Now -

mf
ell! Shep-herds sing Now - ell, Now -

(65) *rit. e dim. poco a poco* *p*

The musical score consists of four staves. The top two staves are vocal parts for two voices, both in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "ell, Now - ell." The tempo and dynamics markings are *rit. e dim. poco a poco* and *p*. The third staff is for the FLUTE, also in treble clef with the same key signature, playing a melodic line with a *mp* dynamic and *rit. e dim. poco a poco* tempo. The bottom staff is the piano accompaniment, in grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with the same key signature, featuring a *rit. e dim. poco a poco* tempo. A large red watermark "PREVIEW ONLY" is overlaid diagonally across the score.

ell, Now - ell.

ell, Now - ell.

FLUTE

mp rit. e dim. poco a poco

(65) *rit. e dim. poco a poco*

The Shepherds' Nowell is a Christmas anthem that incorporates the beloved traditional carol *The First Nowell*. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Psalm 97, Isaiah 62: 6-12, Luke 2: 1-20 and Titus 3: 4-7. One basic homiletical theme is that the first to see the infant Jesus were the meek and lowly, the shepherds and the animals in the manger.

This gentle Christmas anthem is best performed with flowing four-measure phrases and an overall feeling of one pulse per measure. The newly-composed melody in mm. 9-25 is repeated in mm. 41-57 in counterpoint with the beloved carol tune *The First Nowell*. Strive to achieve a beautifully focused unison choral timbre with all singers rehearsing both melodies. Randomly divide the choir and practice both melodies simultaneously until they are well-balanced (the carol tune should be sung more softly than the newly-composed melody).

This anthem may be performed by unison or 2-part voices as follows:

UNISON:

- mm. 40-end, all voices sing Part I

2-PART:

- mm. 40-end, divide voices equally between the parts
- mm. 40-end, assign most voices to Part I, a few voices to Part II

In either case, a flute may perform Part II one octave higher from mm. 40-57 (please see flute part on page 8).

Anna Laura Page is Handbell Editor for Alfred Publishing Company. She received her B.M.E. in vocal music education and M.M. in music theory from the University of Kentucky. Active as a composer, clinician, and organ recitalist, she has served on the Music Committee of the Southern Baptist Hymnal Committee and has received the ASCAP Standards Award annually for the past several years. Ms. Page currently resides in Sherman, Texas, where her husband Oscar is president of Austin College.

THE SHEPHERDS' NOWELL

FLUTE

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Gently (♩ = ca. 96-100)

The musical score is written for a flute in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of eight staves of music. The tempo is marked 'Gently' with a quarter note equal to approximately 96-100 beats per minute. The dynamic starts at *mp* (mezzo-piano) and ends at *p* (piano). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and fermatas. Measure numbers 6, 9, 8, 17, 9, 26, 7, 33, 41, 38, 43, 48, 49, 53, 58, and 7 are indicated. The final instruction is *mp rit. e dim. poco a poco p*.