

*(As Narrator speaks, two or more sheep are on one side of the platform, in “the fields” outside Bethlehem. They are looking upward in wonder at the sky.)*

**NARRATOR:** As Jesus slept comfortably in the manger, tucked snugly in the soft, warm straw, a heavenly angel choir appeared in the countryside around Bethlehem, singing “Glory to God” and “Noel!” A bright light shone all around, as one of the angels announced the birth of God’s Son in a humble stable in Bethlehem. The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem to see God’s Son, Jesus.

**WOOLIAN:** *(looking up, wonderingly)* Pssst! Shiloh! Did you see those really, really bright creatures with wings up in the sky?

**SHILOH:** *(sighing, with a know-it-all expression)* Yes, Woolian. They were angels.

**WOOLIAN:** Well, that’s not something you see every night!

**SHILOH:** *(sighing dramatically)* No, Woolian, that was a once-in-a-lifetime – *(pauses)* of – the – UNIVERSE – *(pauses)* event.

**WOOLIAN:** Did you hear what they sang? First one Noel, and then another! What exactly does that mean – Noel?

**SHILOH:** Noel means “Christmas,” Woolian. The angels were singing of the birth of Christ, who is God’s Son. So this is Christ’s birthday – Christmas!

**WOOLIAN:** *(excited)* A brand new Baby – let’s go see! Let’s get the rest of the flock and go to Bethlehem! Let’s follow the shepherds, and – and SEE this thing which has come to pass!

**SHILOH:** *(in amazement, stuttering)* To BAAA-thlehem, Woolian? L-l-leave our field? Do you really think we’d be welcome?

**WOOLIAN:** Are you kidding? It’s a stable! We’re sheep! Of course we’ll be welcome, every LAST one of us!

**SHILOH:** But ... but ...

**WOOLIAN:** Shiloh, I’m going, if it’s the LAST thing I do, and I’m gonna need your help to find my way BAAA-ack!

*(Sheep hurriedly make their way to the manger area.)*

## GLORIOUS NOEL MEDLEY

**(Rise Up, Shepherd / The First Noel / Angels We Have Heard on High)**  
*Choir and opt. Shiloh Solo*

**With excitement** (♩ = ca. 116-122) *(opt. Shiloh Solo)* ***mf*** 5

**RISE UP, SHEPHERD**  
Traditional spiritual;  
words by Ruth Elaine Schram and Scott Schram

**VOICES**

There were an - gels— here with news to tell!

**(opt. ALL VOICES)**

**7** ***mf*** ***(opt. Shiloh Solo)***

Rise up, Shi-loh, and fol - low! Hear the ech - o— of their last No - el.

11 (opt. ALL VOICES) 13 (opt. Shiloh Solo)

Rise up, Shi-loh, and fol - low! We are on our— way to Beth - le - hem!

15 (opt. ALL VOICES) (opt. Shiloh Solo)

Rise up, Shi-loh, and fol - low! Gon-na see that— Child, gon-na wor - ship Him!—

19 (opt. ALL VOICES) (ALL VOICES)  
(+opt. audience / congregation)

*rall.* *a tempo* 3 *mf*

Rise up, Shi - loh, and fol - low! The—

25 **THE FIRST NOEL**  
Traditional English carol

first— No - el the— an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor

30 33

shep - herds in fields as they lay; in— fields— where— they lay—

35

keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's night— that was— so

40 41

deep. No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el,

45 49

born is the King— of Is - ra - el! No - el, No -

50 *poco rall.*

el, No - el, No - el, born is the King— of Is - ra - el!