

## HOW LOVELY ARE THE MESSENGERS

### PERFORMANCE NOTES

“How Lovely are the Messengers” was written by Felix Mendelssohn for his oratorio *St. Paul*. An oratorio is very much like an opera, in that it is a large work with soloists, choir, and orchestra; however, the oratorio is always based on a religious text. The text for this movement of the oratorio is based on the following verses in the Bible, Romans 10: 15,18. *St. Paul* was composed by Mendelssohn from 1834-1836; the first performance was at the Lower Rhine Festival in Düsseldorf, Germany on May 22, 1836.

Mendelssohn is considered one of the finest composers of the early Romantic period in music. (The Romantic period is generally considered to be the years 1820-1900.) Mendelssohn was born in Germany in 1809; however, he was very popular in England until his early death in 1847.

The original setting of “How Lovely are the Messengers,” in the key of G major, was for SATB voices and is generous in allowing each voice part to have dominant passages throughout. This arrangement has been lowered to the key of F and a piano part has been arranged to make the work accessible for SSA choirs. Great care has been taken to preserve the original quality of Mendelssohn’s timeless work. I hope you enjoy singing this beautiful choral setting.

Russell Robinson, Arranger

# HOW LOVELY ARE THE MESSENGERS

for S.S.A. voices and piano  
with optional PianoTrax CD\*

Arranged by  
**RUSSELL ROBINSON**

Words and Music by  
**FELIX MENDELSSOHN (1809-1847)**

Reverently (♩. = ca. 60)

SOPRANO I *mp* How

SOPRANO II *mp* How

ALTO *mp* How

PIANO *mp*

Reverently (♩. = ca. 60)

5

love - ly are the mes - sen-gers that preach us the gos-pel of peace, how

love - ly are the mes - sen-gers that preach us the gos-pel of peace, how

love - ly are the mes - sen-gers that preach us the gos-pel of peace, how

\* Also available for S.A.B. (33064).  
PianoTrax 2 Accompaniment CD available (31290).

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love - ly are the mes - sen-gers that preach us the gos-pel of peace.

love - ly are the mes - sen-gers that preach us the gos-pel of peace.

love - ly are the mes - sen-gers that preach us the gos-pel of peace, the

*mf* 14  
How love - ly are the mes - sen-gers that preach \_\_\_\_\_ us the

*mf*  
How love - ly are the mes - sen-gers that preach \_\_\_\_\_ us the

*mf*  
gos - pel of peace, the mes - sen-gers that preach us the gos-pel of

17

gos-pel of peace, how love - ly are the mes - sen-gers that preach us the gos-pel of  
 gos-pel of peace, how love - ly are the mes - sen-gers that preach us the gos-pel of  
 peace. How love ly

21

23

peace. To all the na - tions is  
 peace, the words of peace. To all the na - tions is  
 are they that preach us the gos - pel of peace. To all the na - tions is

25

gone forth the sound of their words, to all \_\_\_\_\_ the na - tions is

gone forth the sound of their words, to all \_\_\_\_\_ the na - tions

gone forth the sound of their words, the sound, \_\_\_\_\_ is

29

gone forth the sound of their words, \_\_\_\_\_ is gone forth the sound of their

is gone forth the sound of their words, \_\_\_\_\_ their

gone, \_\_\_\_\_ is gone forth the sound \_\_\_\_\_

32

33

words. How

words. How love - ly are the mes - sen - gers that preach us the gos - pel of

— of — their words. How love - ly

*mf*

36

love - ly are the mes - sen - gers that preach us the gos - pel of peace, ——— the

peace, the mes - sen - gers that preach us,

are the mes - sen - gers that preach us, that preach us the gos - pel of

gos-pel of peace, that preach us the gos - pel of peace. To  
 they \_\_\_\_\_ that preach us the gos - pel of peace. To all \_\_\_\_\_ the  
 peace, that preach us the gos - pel of peace.

all \_\_\_\_\_ the na - tions,  
 na - tions is gone forth the sound of their words, to  
 To all \_\_\_\_\_ the

49

52

to all \_\_\_\_\_ the  
all \_\_\_\_\_ the na - tions  
na - tions is gone forth the sound of their words, to all \_\_\_\_\_ the

This block contains the musical notation for measures 49 through 52. It features three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "to all \_\_\_\_\_ the", "all \_\_\_\_\_ the na - tions", and "na - tions is gone forth the sound of their words, to all \_\_\_\_\_ the". A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid on the score.

53

na - tions is gone forth the sound of their words, is  
is gone forth the sound of their  
na - tions is gone forth the sound of their words, is

This block contains the musical notation for measures 53 through 56. It features three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "na - tions is gone forth the sound of their words, is", "is gone forth the sound of their", and "na - tions is gone forth the sound of their words, is". A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid on the score.



gone forth the sound of their words, \_\_\_\_\_ to all \_\_\_\_\_ the

words, \_\_\_\_\_ is gone forth the sound of their words, to all the

gone forth the sound of their words, \_\_\_\_\_ to all \_\_\_\_\_ the

na - tions is gone forth the sound of their words, through-out

na - tions is gone forth the sound of their words, through-out

na - tions is gone forth the sound of their words, through - out

62

all the lands their glad tid - ings.

all the lands their glad tid - ings.

all the lands their glad tid - ings. How

*mp*

*mp*

66

How

How

love - ly are the mes - sen - gers that preach us the gos - pel of peace, how

*mp*

*mp*

love - ly, \_\_\_\_\_ they that preach us the gos-pel of peace, \_\_\_\_\_

love - ly, they that preach, \_\_\_\_\_ that preach us the gos-pel of

love - ly are the mes - sen - gers that preach us the gos-pel of

they \_\_\_\_\_ that preach us the gos - pel of peace. *p*

peace, that preach us the gos - pel of peace. *p*

peace, that preach us the gos - pel of peace. *p*

*rit. e decresc.* *pp*