

THAT FIRST NOWELL

for S.A.B. voices, accompanied,*
with optional flute**

Words by DON BESIG
and NANCY PRICE (ASCAP)

Music by
DON BESIG (ASCAP)

FLUTE (optional) *Flowing gently* (♩ = ca. 100) *mp legato*

ACCOMP. *mp*

5

10 SOPRANO & ALTO *mp unis.*

High in the heav - ens a star burn - ing bright

(*tacet to m.* 35)

The musical score is presented in three systems. The first system shows the flute part (optional) and piano accompaniment. The flute part begins with a melodic line marked 'mp legato' and a tempo of 'Flowing gently' (♩ = ca. 100). The piano accompaniment is marked 'mp'. The second system continues the piano accompaniment. The third system introduces the vocal parts for Soprano and Alto, marked 'mp unis.', with the lyrics 'High in the heav - ens a star burn - ing bright'. The vocal line ends with a 'tacet to m. 35' instruction. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the entire page.

*Also available for S.A.T.B. voices, No. 4269, 2-part voices, No. 4271 and Unison or 2-part voices, No. 20957.

**Flute part may be found on pages 11 and 12.

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19

15

S.

A.

brought the good news that first Christ-mas night.

B.

mp

The an - gels were

20

mp

they told of a Sav - ior, a

sing - ing of peace and good will;

27

mf

prom - ise ful filled.

In ex-cel - sis

De - o!

In ex-cel - sis

mf

mf

30

De - o! Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a De - o!

30

35 (FLUTE)

mp

mp

40

S.

44

mf unis.

That - first _____ *No -

A.

mp

B.

dim.

p

40

44

* Christmas, or Christmas joy.

45

Well on a night long a - go was to cer - tain poor shep - herds on

well on a night long a - go was to cer - tain poor shep - herds on

45

50

hill - sides be - low. They were tend - ing their - sheep in the cold win - ter

hill - sides be - low. They were tend - ing their - sheep in the cold win - ter

mp

50

55 *f* *unis.*

air when the song of the an - gels rang out ev - 'ry - where: "No -

55

60

well! No - well! No - well! No - well!

f

60

f

64

68

Come and re - joice in the news that we tell!"

64

68

69

72

mf unis.

High in the heav - ens a

mf

69

72

74

star burn-ing bright tells us a - gain it's Christ-mas to -

The first system of the page contains two staves: a vocal line in treble clef and a bass line in bass clef. The vocal line has lyrics underneath it. The music is in 4/4 time. The vocal line starts with a quarter note 'star', followed by eighth notes 'burn-ing bright', quarter notes 'tells us a - gain', and quarter notes 'it's Christ-mas to -'. The bass line provides a simple accompaniment with quarter and eighth notes.

The piano accompaniment for measures 74-78. It consists of two staves: a right-hand treble staff and a left-hand bass staff. The right hand plays a melody with eighth and quarter notes, often beamed together. The left hand plays a bass line with quarter and eighth notes. There are some ties and slurs across the measures.

79

80

night! The an - gels are sing - ing of peace and good will; the

The second system of the page contains two staves: a vocal line in treble clef and a bass line in bass clef. The vocal line has lyrics underneath it. The music is in 4/4 time. The vocal line starts with a quarter note 'night!', followed by quarter notes 'The an - gels are', quarter notes 'sing - ing of peace and good will;', and a quarter note 'the'. The bass line provides a simple accompaniment with quarter and eighth notes.

The piano accompaniment for measures 79-83. It consists of two staves: a right-hand treble staff and a left-hand bass staff. The right hand plays a melody with eighth and quarter notes, often beamed together. The left hand plays a bass line with quarter and eighth notes. There are some ties and slurs across the measures.

84

88

prom - ise of Christ-mas will stay with us _ still. In ex-cel - sis

This block contains the vocal and bass staves for measures 84 through 88. The vocal line is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "prom - ise of Christ-mas will stay with us _ still. In ex-cel - sis". The bass line is in bass clef. A box containing the number "88" is located at the end of the vocal staff.

84

88

This block contains the piano accompaniment for measures 84 through 88, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef). The music features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a more active bass line.

89

De - o! In ex-cel - sis De - o! Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a

This block contains the vocal and bass staves for measures 89 through 88. The vocal line is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "De - o! In ex-cel - sis De - o! Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a". The bass line is in bass clef.

89

This block contains the piano accompaniment for measures 89 through 88, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef). The music features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a more active bass line.

94 *f* 96 *cresc.*

De - o! No - well! No - well! No - well! No -

f *cresc.*

f *cresc.*

94 *f* 96 *cresc.*

99 *ff* 101

well! Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis

ff

ff

99 *ff* 101

104 (no ritard)

De - o!

(no ritard)

104 (no ritard)

That First Nowell is an anthem for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Christmastide that incorporates the beloved English carol, *The First Nowell*. It may be especially appropriate for a service of lessons and carols. Suggested corresponding scripture readings include Psalm 111, Isaiah 62: 1–11 and Luke 2: 1–20. One basic homiletical theme is praising the birth of the Redeemer King.

Don Besig is Director of Music at Perinton Presbyterian Church in Fairport, New York. He has over thirty years of experience teaching vocal music in the public schools of western New York. **Nancy Price** holds B.M. and M.M. degrees in music from Ithaca College. She began singing in elementary school choirs directed by Don Besig and in her senior year of college first worked with him as a lyricist. Since 1980 they have collaborated on over two hundred fifty compositions for school and church. Both Besig and Price have received several ASCAP Special awards.

That First Nowell

FLUTE

Music by DON BESIG

Flowing gently (♩ = ca. 100)

2 3

mp legato

7 11 8 19 8

27 8 35 *mp*

40 *dim.* *p* 44

46 52 *mp*

53

60 *f*

66 68 *mf*

72

78 80

84 88

90

96 *f* *cresc.* *ff* 101

102 (no ritard)

