

Sing We Now of Christmas

A Service of Lessons and Carols

By Howard Helvey
Orchestrations by John Purifoy
Narration by Susan Naus Dengler

Performance Time:

Approximately 30 minutes (if anthems and narration are performed alone as heard on the Listening Recording).

Approximately 55 minutes (if performed with anthems, narration, lessons, and congregational carols).

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*This package of 10 Listening CDs provides an inexpensive way for your choir members to have their own copy of the recording.

**Instrumentation: Oboe, Flute, Clarinet, Horn, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, Double Bass

Jubilate
M U S I C

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FOREWORD

As Organist/Choirmaster of Calvary Episcopal Church in Cincinnati, one of the annual highlights to which I always look forward is the parish's Festival of Lessons and Carols. It remains a special privilege each year to assemble the various readings, prayers, and music to help re-tell the story of Jesus' birth. The voices of Old Testament prophets, the angel Gabriel, Mary, and Gospel authors join together to unfold an elegant narrative pointing to the great mystery of the Incarnation. And the interspersed music helps reflect, emphasize, and in some cases foreshadow the various readings. It has been an honor to collaborate with Susan Dengler, Mark Cabaniss, Lee Dengler, and John Purifoy to create *Sing We Now of Christmas: A Service of Lessons and Carols*. Hopefully the simplicity of form that has been the hallmark of the Lessons and Carols structure for many generations has been retained. While the service can be rendered by the choir and readers alone, the congregation is invited (as an option) to participate throughout by using selections from the suggested hymns and carols. Other performance options are outlined below.

—Howard Helvey

PERFORMANCE OPTIONS

Sing We Now of Christmas: A Service of Lessons and Carols may be used in a variety of ways, depending upon the needs and desires of your congregation:

1. It may be presented exactly as printed, choosing hymns and carols from the suggested lists for the congregation to sing at the appropriate points in the service.
2. For a longer choral concert program, it may be presented as printed, but by having the choir sing the hymn and carol choices.
3. It may be presented as printed, without adding any hymns and carols.
4. All of the scripture passages are from New Revised Standard Version.* Feel free to use a different translation if you wish.
5. For use as part of a worship service, it may be presented as heard on the recording, without the scripture passages, using only the seven anthems and six poetic narratives.
6. It may be presented with orchestra, or simply with piano accompaniment.
7. The seven anthems may be used individually in worship services and concert settings throughout the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany.

* Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright 1952 [2nd edition, 1971] by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

WHAT SHALL WE SING FOR THE CHILD?

Words by
HOWARD HELVEY (ASCAP)

Traditional Catalan Melody
Arranged by
HOWARD HELVEY (ASCAP)

1 Andante, in two (♩ = ca. 112-116)

ACCOMP. *legato*
mp

5 *mp*
TENOR / BASS
What shall we sing for the Child in the sta - ble?

7 *mp*
SOPRANO / ALTO
Sing - ing, we of - fer our
What shall we sing for the In - fant so fair?

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