

## REHEARSAL NOTES

**O Sing a Song of Bethlehem** is a lush setting of the English folk hymn tune Kingsfold which begins quietly, then increases in intensity until the final stanza which explodes with energy! Take special care at measure 28 to keep the upper sixteenth notes at a softer dynamic level than the melody beneath, and to keep them absolutely even and smooth. Absolute rhythmic accuracy is required in the final stanza.



**Matthew Compton** (b. 1994) is a Colorado Springs native who has been composing, arranging, and conducting music for handbells since 2007 when he was in the eighth grade. He had his first composition published at the age of 15, making him one of the youngest ever published handbell composers. An avid performer and listener, Matthew is known for his high energy originals and arrangements and beautiful harmonies, and his music has been performed across the world by many elite groups, including The Agape Ringers, The Alleluia Ringers of Concordia University Wisconsin, Pikes Peak Youth Ringers, and Hong Kong Youth Handbell Ensemble. His music has been selected for the repertoire for regional and national handbell festivals, including Distinctly Bronze East and Distinctly Bronze West. He is the new Artistic and Music Director for Bells of the Cascades of Portland, Oregon.

Dedicated to Jacob Erdman, Hannah Boeheme, and Emily Harwood.  
Thank you for being amazing friends and supporters.

# O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

## (I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say)

for 3–5 octaves of Handbells with optional Handchimes\*

Handbells used: 22, 29, 35

Handchimes used: 14, 17, 20

3 octave choirs omit notes in ( ).  
3 and 4 octave choirs omit notes in [ ].

KINGSFOLD, English Folk Tune  
Arranged by Matthew Compton (ASCAP)

Rubato (♩ = ca. 72)

\* To purchase a full-length performance recording (46259) of this piece, go to [alfred.com/downloads](http://alfred.com/downloads).

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46259

Musical score for measures 4-6. The piece is in a minor key. Measure 4 starts with a piano introduction marked *rit.*. Measure 5 begins with a *LV* (Left Hand) accompaniment and is marked *a tempo*. Measure 6 features a *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic and includes a *R* (Right Hand) melodic line. The *mp* (mezzo-piano) dynamic is also indicated for the *a tempo* section.

Andante (♩ = ca. 72)

Musical score for measures 7-9. The tempo is marked *Andante* with a quarter note equal to approximately 72 beats per minute. Each measure (7, 8, and 9) features a *LV* accompaniment consisting of a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a simple harmonic accompaniment in the left hand.

Musical score for measures 10-12. The *LV* accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern in the right hand and harmonic accompaniment in the left hand across these three measures.

Musical score for measures 13-15. The *LV* accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern in the right hand and harmonic accompaniment in the left hand across these three measures.

16 17 18

19 20 21

22 23 24

25 26 27

LV LV LV LV LV LV

*accel.* *rit.* *f a tempo accel.*

*rit.* *LV a tempo accel.* *rit.* *mf a tempo*

With motion

mp 28 LV LV LV 29 LV LV LV

30 LV LV LV 31 LV LV LV

32 LV LV 33 LV LV

The musical score consists of three systems of piano music. Each system has a treble and bass clef staff. The first system starts at measure 28 with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic and includes three measures marked with 'LV'. The second system starts at measure 30 and includes three measures marked with 'LV'. The third system starts at measure 32 and includes two measures marked with 'LV'. A large red watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page, reading 'Preview Only' and 'Legal Use Requires Purchase'. There are also some faint, illegible markings in the background.

LV LV LV LV

34 35

This system contains measures 34 and 35. The right hand features a continuous eighth-note pattern. The left hand provides a bass line with quarter notes and rests. A large red watermark is overlaid on the right side of the page.

LV LV LV LV

*mf*

36 37

*f*

This system contains measures 36 and 37. The right hand continues with eighth notes, while the left hand has a more active bass line. Dynamics markings *mf* and *f* are present. A large red watermark is overlaid on the right side of the page.

LV

R

38 39

This system contains measures 38 and 39. Measure 38 is marked with an 'R' for a right-hand rest. Measure 39 features a dynamic hairpin. A large red watermark is overlaid on the right side of the page.

LV LV LV LV

40 41

*dim.*

This system contains measures 40 and 41. The right hand has eighth notes, and the left hand has a bass line with quarter notes and rests. A *dim.* marking is present. A large red watermark is overlaid on the right side of the page.

With energy (♩ = ca. 108)

5 octave choirs may double top notes 8va

Musical notation for measures 42-43. Measure 42 features a treble clef with a series of eighth notes and a bass clef with a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Measure 43 features a treble clef with chords and a bass clef with chords. Performance markings include *accel.* and *f*. Fingerings are indicated by LV, R, RT, and LV.

Musical notation for measures 44-45. Measure 44 features a treble clef with chords and a bass clef with chords. Measure 45 features a treble clef with chords and a bass clef with chords. Fingerings are indicated by R, RT, LV, R, RT, LV, R, and LV.

Musical notation for measures 46-47. Measure 46 features a treble clef with chords and a bass clef with chords. Measure 47 features a treble clef with chords and a bass clef with chords. Fingerings are indicated by R, RT, LV, R, RT, and LV.

48 49

R RT LV R RT LV

50 51

R RT LV R RT LV

52 53

R RT LV R RT RT



Musical score for measures 54 and 55. The score is written for piano in a key with one flat (B-flat). Measure 54 features a right-hand (RH) melody with a triplet of eighth notes and a left-hand (LH) accompaniment of chords. Measure 55 continues the RH melody and LH accompaniment. Performance markings include 'RT' (Right Hand Trill) in measure 54, 'ff' (fortissimo) in measure 55, and 'R' (Right Hand) above measure 55. The LH part in measure 55 has a 'LV' (Left Hand) marking. Fingering numbers are present below the LH notes.

Musical score for measures 56 and 57. Measure 56 shows a right-hand (RH) melody and a left-hand (LH) accompaniment. Measure 57 continues the RH melody and LH accompaniment. Performance markings include 'LV' (Left Hand) in measure 56 and 'LV' in measure 57.

Musical score for measures 58 and 59. Measure 58 features a right-hand (RH) melody and a left-hand (LH) accompaniment. Measure 59 continues the RH melody and LH accompaniment. Performance markings include 'LV' (Left Hand) in measure 58, and 'R' (Right Hand), 'RT' (Right Hand Trill), and 'LV' (Left Hand) in measure 59. Fingering numbers are present below the LH notes.

60 61

R RT LV R RT RT

62 63

R RT LV R RT LV LV R LV

64 65

R RT LV R RT LV R LV R LV

R RT LV R RT LV

66 67

R  
*rit.*

Andante (♩ = ca. 72)

68 69

LV  
*mp*

70 71 72

LV  
*molto rit.*

R  
*pp*