

Fun and full of energy, this setting of the iconic Christmas lyric, It Came Upon a Midnight Clear, utilizes a musical classic by William Billings. Liberal use of unison and 2 part writing along with very easy SATB voicings make this an easy to prepare, yet unforgettable selection for seasonal performances. It is equally effective with piano (harpsichord) or the infectious orchestral accompaniment.

TOM FETTKE is a composer, arranger and producer of music and recordings for the church and school. His published works and recordings number in the hundreds. His classic choral work THE MAJESTY AND GLORY OF YOUR NAME is sung by thousands of church and school choirs throughout the world. For over 50 years, the development of relevant, practical and dynamic choral music has been his passion and his profession.

Tom holds degrees from Oakland City College and California State University at Hayward. He holds a California Lifetime Music Credential in Secondary Music. For a number of years he taught vocal music in California's public school systems. He was a church choir director and minister of music in churches large and small for over 30 years. He was also Director of Choral Activities and Supervisor of Music for the Redwood Christian School System in Castro Valley, California.

Tom was the creator and Senior Editor of THE HYMNAL for Worship and Celebration. Since it's release in 1986, over three million copies have been placed in the pews of today's church. He was also the Senior Editor of THE CELEBRATION HYMNAL, which has been heralded as one of the most innovative "tools" for ministry in the history of the church.

Tom and his wife Jan reside in Nashville, Tennessee. They have two married sons, nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

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# A CHRISTMAS CANTICLE

Arranged by  
TOM FETTKE

Words by  
EDMUND H. SEARS  
Music by  
WILLIAM BILLINGS

Baroque feel ( $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 72$ )

KEYBOARD

*mf*

4

*legato*

*smile*

7

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

*mp*

It

*mp*

*tr*

\* To purchase a full-length performance recording (46501) of this piece, go to [alfred.com/downloads](http://alfred.com/downloads).  
Also available: Orchestration CD-ROM (46496) - For complete instrumentation, go to [jubilatemusic.com](http://jubilatemusic.com).  
InstruTrax Accompaniment CD (46495)

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10

came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious - song - of -

Vocal line for measures 10-12. The melody starts on a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics are "came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious - song - of -".

*mp*

Piano accompaniment for measures 10-12. The right hand plays chords and moving lines, while the left hand plays a steady bass line. Dynamic marking is *mp*.

13

old; From an - gels bend - ing near the earth, - to

Vocal line for measures 13-15. The melody starts on a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics are "old; From an - gels bend - ing near the earth, - to".

Piano accompaniment for measures 13-15. The right hand plays chords and moving lines, while the left hand plays a steady bass line.

16

touch their - harps - of gold. "Peace on the - earth, - good -

*mf*

18

Vocal line for measures 16-18. The melody starts on a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics are "touch their - harps - of gold. 'Peace on the - earth, - good -". Dynamic marking is *mf*. Measure 18 is indicated by a box.

*mf*

Piano accompaniment for measures 16-18. The right hand plays chords and moving lines, while the left hand plays a steady bass line. Dynamic marking is *mf*.

19

will to men from heav - en's all - gra - cious King! The

22

world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels

25

sing.

*legato* *simile*

28

*p*

30

Still through the clo - ven

31

skies. they come, with peace - ful wings un - furled And

34

still their heav-en - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry



37 *mf* **38**

world. A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they

*mf*

40

bend on hov - 'ring wing; And ev - er o'er it's

43

Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.

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46

Musical score for measures 46-48. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The vocal line consists of whole notes. The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the right hand and chords in the left hand.

49

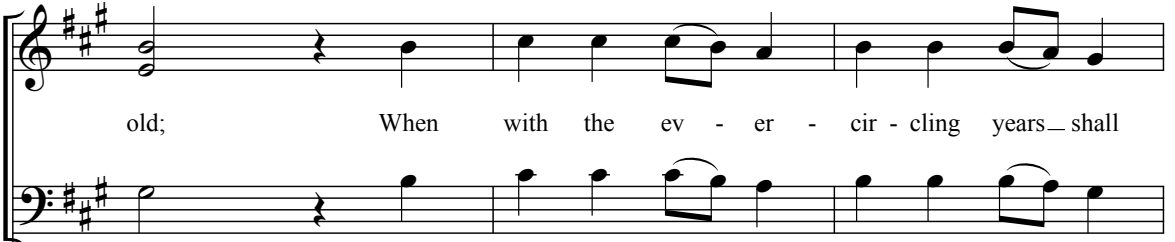
Musical score for measures 49-51. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The vocal line has a rest in measure 49 and begins in measure 50 with the word "For" above a forte (*f*) dynamic marking. The piano accompaniment continues with a similar rhythmic pattern.

52

Musical score for measures 52-54. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The vocal line has lyrics: "lo, the days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of". The piano accompaniment starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic marking and features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the right hand and chords in the left hand.

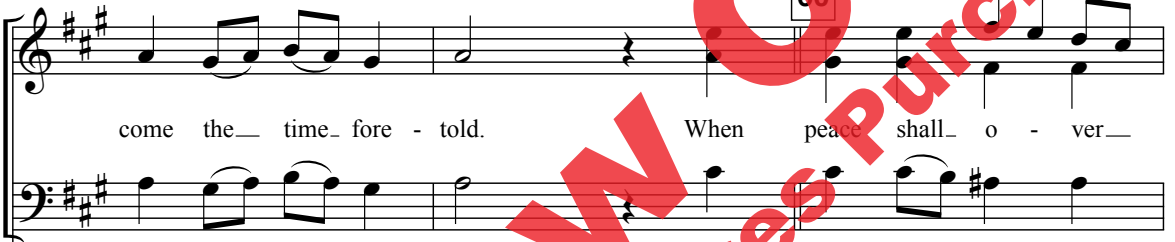
55

old; When with the ev - er - cir - cling years - shall



58

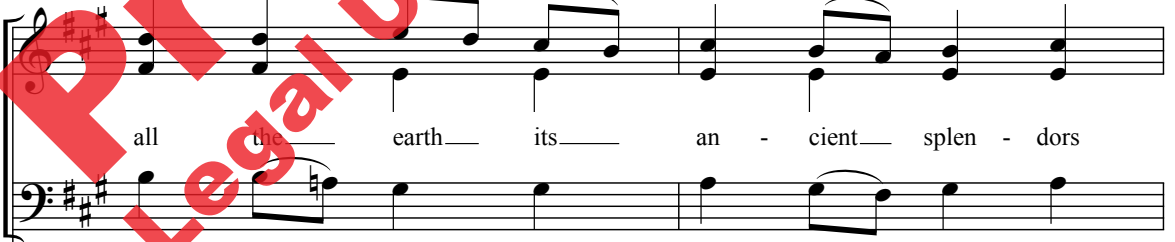
come the - time fore - told. When peace shall o - ver -



60

61

all the earth its an - cient splen - dors





63

fling, And the whole world send

65

back the song which now the an - gels

67

68

sing. When peace shall o - ver all the earth its

70

an - cient splen - dors fling, And the whole world send

Detailed description: This system contains measures 70, 71, and 72. The vocal line is in a soprano clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The lyrics are "an - cient splen - dors fling, And the whole world send". The piano accompaniment consists of a right hand with chords and a left hand with a simple bass line.

Detailed description: This system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 70-72. The right hand features chords and melodic fragments, while the left hand provides a steady bass line.

73

back the song which now the an - gels sing

Detailed description: This system contains measures 73, 74, and 75. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "back the song which now the an - gels sing". The piano accompaniment continues with similar harmonic support.

Detailed description: This system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 73-75. The right hand has a more active melodic line in measure 75, while the left hand remains steady.

76

77

Glo - ri - a!

Detailed description: This system contains measures 76, 77, and 78. Measure 76 is a whole rest for the vocal line. Measure 77 has the lyrics "Glo - ri - a!". Measure 78 is a whole rest. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line.

Detailed description: This system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 76-78. The right hand has chords and a melodic line, while the left hand has a bass line.

79

Glo - ri - a!

Musical notation for measures 79-81. The vocal line consists of a dotted quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note B4. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and chords in the right hand.

82

Sing, "Glo - ri a!"

Musical notation for measures 82-84. The vocal line has a rest in measure 82, followed by a dotted quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note B4. The piano accompaniment continues with a steady eighth-note bass line and chords.

85

Musical notation for measures 85-87. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords. A dynamic marking of **ff** (fortissimo) is present in measure 87. The piece concludes with a double bar line.