

The Gift is a charming carol arrangement for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, or Christmastide. A suggested corresponding lectionary reading is Luke 2: 1-20. One basic homilical theme is that of the Creator of the Cosmos as peasant baby.

This much-loved carol is skillfully adapted for SAB choir alone or for combined SAB and unison children's choirs. When the two choirs join at m. 35, the unison children's choir is always supported on the melody by a section of the adult choir. In rehearsing this section, instruct the adults to sing only where they have the melody, which is traded from one part to another, while the children sing the melody in an unbroken line. Then carefully highlight this melodic chain through the dynamics indicated. The free-flowing keyboard accompaniment should remain rather relaxed and should be discreetly pedalled. The addition of handbells will insure a truly magical quality for this Christmas musical gift.

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THE GIFT

for S.A.B. voices, accompanied,
with optional children's choir and handbells*

Ihr Kinderlein, kommet
by CHRISTIAN VON SCHMID
TR. ANONYMOUS; adapted by W.C.

TRADITIONAL GERMAN CAROL
by J.A.P. SCHULZ (1747-1800)
Arranged by WILLIAM CUTTER

Sweetly (♩ = ca. 66-72)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR **

HANDBELLS (optional)

ACCOMP.

Pedal carefully

4

mp

6

O come, lit - tle chil - dren, O

*Part for 2-octave handbells may be found on page 11.

**May be performed by baritones down one octave if children's choir is unavailable.

7

come, one and all. O come to the cra - dle in Beth - le - hem's stall. Come

10

see what has hap - pened this ho - liest of nights. Come gaze on the gift from the

13

dim. e poco rit. mp a tempo
 Fa - ther of Might

SOPRANO
 ALTO
 How

HANDBELLS
a tempo
poco rit. mp

dim. e poco rit. mp

16

SOP.

ALTO

BAR.

sweet - ly He lies in His bed made of straw As

mp

18

Mar - y and Jo - seph be - hold Him in awe! The shep - herds are kneel - ing be -

mf

mf

mf

21

fore His poor bed, While car - ol - ing an - gels are heard o - ver -

f

f

f

24 *mf* *poco rit.*
mf (unis.)

head. O

HANDBELLS
f *poco rit.*

24 *mf* *poco rit.*
 L.h. *
 Red.

26 *a tempo*
f
 come, join the shep - herds, Give thanks to the Fa - ther for
mf
 come, join the shep - herds and on bend-ed knee Give thanks to the

a tempo
mf

26 *a tempo*
 (mf)

29

Je - su, our King. O lift up your voi - ces and
Fa - ther.

cresc. poco a poco

29

cresc. poco a poco

31

join in the praise the an - gels from heav'n to the

31

33 CHILDREN'S CHOIR (optional)

35

mp

Fa - ther - - - - - now raise. - - - - -

mp

mp

36

come, lit - tle chil - dren, O come, one and all. O

O come, one and all. *cresc.*

come, lit - tle chil - dren, O come. O

36

38

come to the cra - dle in Beth - le - hem's stall. Come *(mp)*

come *f* in — Beth - le - hem's stall. Come *mp unis.*

come to the cra - dle in Beth - le - hem's stall. *(mp)*

f *mp*

38

f *mp*

40

see what has hap - pened this ho - liest of nights. Come

see what has hap - pened this ho - liest of nights. Come

cresc.

40

cresc.

42 *dim. poco a poco* (9)

gaze on the gift from the Fa - ther of

dim. poco a poco (9)

gaze on the gift from the Fa - ther of

dim. poco a poco (9)

mf *dim. poco a poco* *8va*

45 *poco rit.*

Might!

poco rit.

Might!

45 *p* *dim. e poco rit.* *pp* *r.h.*

red.

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HANDBELLS

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Bells used: 13



Sweetly (♩ = ca. 66-72)

1 2 3 4 2 6 13

pp *mp* *poco rit.*

14 *a tempo* 15 16 7 23 24 25

mp *f* *poco rit.*

26 *a tempo* 27 28 29 30

mf *cresc. poco a poco*

31 32 33 34 35 36

f *mp*

37 38 39 40 41

f *mp*

42 43 44 45 46 47

mf *dim. poco a poco*

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