

Philip Lowe was born in Oldham, into a family in which music and the arts had always been important. He studied music at Huddersfield Polytechnic, subsequently gaining a performance diploma on the organ following training from Andrew Dean. In the intervening years he worked in the NHS, and since 1999 has been on the staff of the University of Manchester Library, being also part of a team of organists providing music for graduation ceremonies in the Whitworth Hall of the University.

Philip Lowe became Director of Music at Rochdale Parish Church (St Chad's) in 1990, since which time he has developed the scope of musical activities at the town's church, and worked as an accompanist with various groups. He has a long connection with the Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside Organists' Association, serving as President from 2002-04 and was responsible for gathering and editing a collection of pieces by local composers (published by Peacock Press in Manchester) to mark the centenary of the association in 2008.

The composer writes:

I have but a hazy memory of how this work came about, save to say that - as for many fellow-organists - repetitions of the same carol endless times each Christmas can sometimes become a little tedious.

I knew of one other composer who had re-set the text, "While Shepherds Watched", but in particular think I drew inspiration from a sprightly choral setting on a similar theme from the pen of Gerald Hendrie, for the carol service at King's College, Cambridge.

Our own choir at Rochdale has derived pleasure from it, which I hope can now be more widely shared.

PREVIEW ONLY



"And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God..." Luke 2 v20

The Shepherds' Carol

Philip Lowe

Allegretto ma non troppo $\text{♩} = c.84$

ORGAN

PREVIEW ONLY

The organ score for the first system consists of three staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 7/8 time signature. It contains a melodic line with a 'Solo' registration mark. The middle staff is in treble clef with the same key signature and time signature, containing a harmonic accompaniment. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, containing a lower harmonic accompaniment. A 'Swell' registration mark is placed below the middle staff.

* The designation 'Solo' simply implies a registration on a differing manual to contrast with the lower pitched accompaniment on the 'Swell', to be determined according to the scope and timbre of stops available on the particular instrument.

4 VOICES

mf 1. While shep - herds watched their flocks by night, all sea - ted on the

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The second system features a voice part and organ accompaniment. The voice part is on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps and a 7/8 time signature. It begins with a 'Sw' (Swell) registration mark. The organ accompaniment consists of two staves: a treble staff and a bass staff, both in the same key signature and time signature. The organ part includes a 'Solo' registration mark on the treble staff.

ground, The an - gel of the Lord came down, and Glo - ry shone a -

Solo

Sw

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12

round

T & B

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Fear not! said he, for migh-ty dread, had seized their troub- led

Solo

Sw

PREVIEW ONLY

Sw

PREVIEW ONLY

16

Glad tid - ings of great joy I bring: To you and all man -

cresc.

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mind: Glad tid - ings of great joy I bring: To you and all man -

cresc.

Sw

Gt

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kind.

Verse 2 *mf* For to

kind.

mp Solo

Sw

Sw

you this day in Dav-id's town is the horn of Dav id's line: A Sav-iour who is

The accompaniment
may be played
with the voice

Ped

Christ the Lord, And this shall be the sign: The heaven-ly Babe you

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4 33 *cresc.*

there shall find To hu - man view dis - lay d ll mean - ly wrapped in

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cresc.

37

swa - thing l and s, And in a man ger laid.

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Tpts (eg Sw reeds)

41

Con poco maestoso *A tempo*

Thus, spake the ser - aph

S & A

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f Verse 3 Thus, spake the ser - aph

Con poco maestoso *A tempo*

f *Gt + Sw* *Ped*

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44 and forth-with, ap - peared a shin ing throng:

and forth with ap - peared a shin - ing throng: Of an - gels prais - ing

f Of an - gels prais - ing

Tpts *Gt*

Full Swell (box shut)

32'

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48

God, who thus ad - dressed their joy - ful song: All

God, who thus ad - dressed their joy - ful song: All

Tpts *Gt*

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PREVIEW ONLY

Glo - ry be to God on high,

To the earth be

51

Glo

God on high,

To the earth be

Glo - ry be to God on high, and to the earth be

32' off

PREVIEW ONLY

54

peace: good - will hence-forth, from heaven to men, be - gin and ne-ver

peace:

meno f

peace:

good - will hence-forth, from heaven to men, be - gin and ne-ver

Sw

Full (Box
shut)Banks
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cease.

Glo - ry be to God on high, —

58

*f***PREVIEW ONLY**

cease.

All — Glo - ry be to God on high, and —

*Gt***PREVIEW ONLY***Gt***PREVIEW ONLY**

To the earth be peace: — good - will hence - forth, from

61

To the earth be peace: —

to the earth be peace: — good - will hence - forth, from

Reduce
Reeds off**Banks**
Music
Publications

8 64 heaven to men, be - gin and ne-ver cease.

PREVIEW ONLY

heaven to men, be - gin and ne-ver cease.

p Solo eg Quiet reed or
Flute + mutation

PREVIEW ONLY

Sw

68

PREVIEW ONLY

PREVIEW ONLY

71

Reduce Solo

Sw.

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