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, which would aiming a performance diploma on the ergin is like ingreducing than Andrew Dean. In the intervening years he work doming N 15, 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 202-04 and was responsible for gathering and dringla chiecking f pieces by local composers (published by Peacock Press 1994), 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.

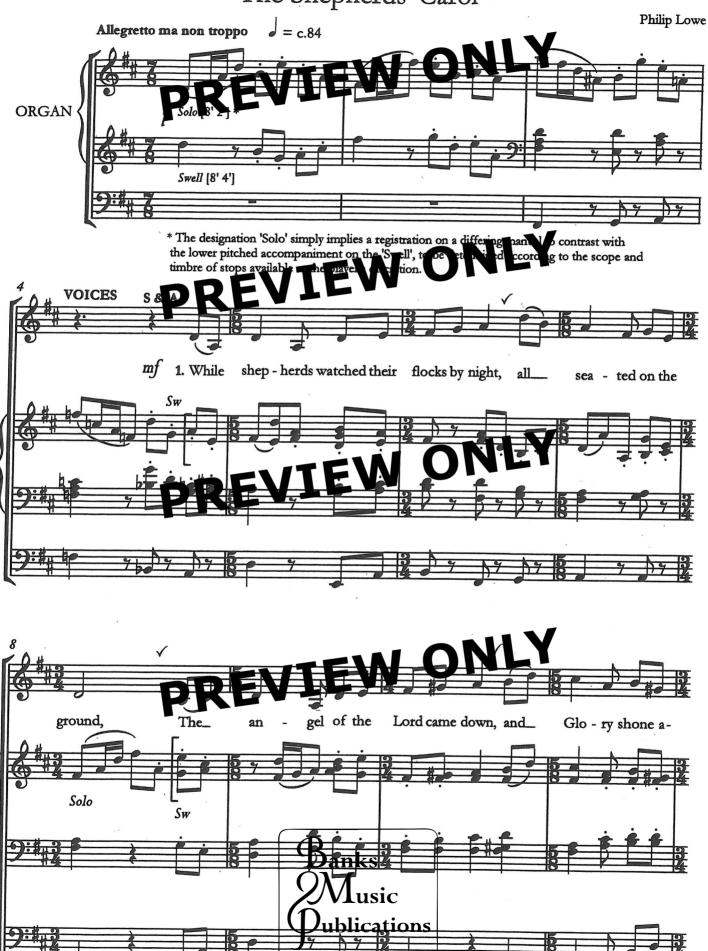
I knew of one ther to preser who had re-set the text, "While Shepherds Watched", but in particular think I drew inspiration from a sprightly choral setting on a similar theme from the pen of Gerald Hendrie, for the carol service at King's College, Cambridge.

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





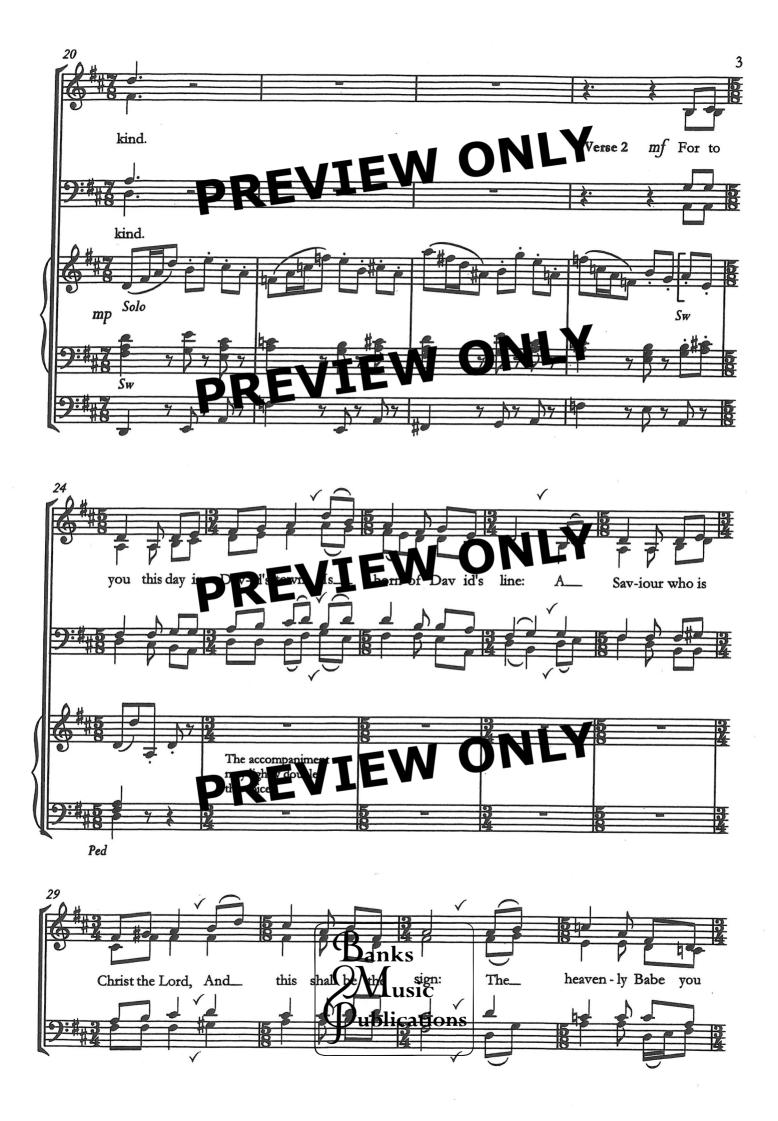




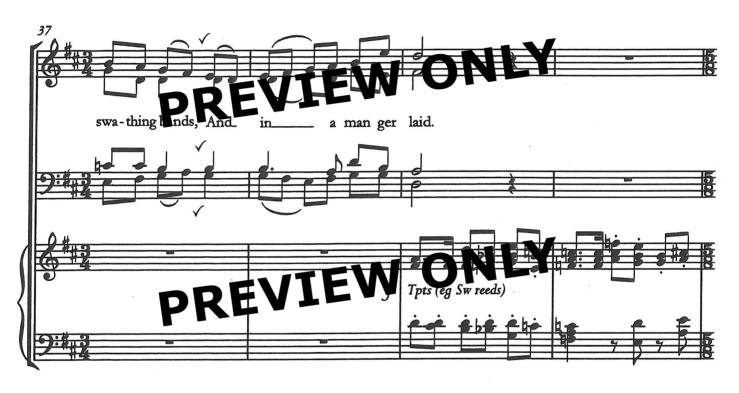


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