

# Eboracum Choral Series

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Banks Music Publications, The Old Forge, Sand Hutton, York, YO4 1LB

S.A.T.B.

ECS 47

## Four Victorian Carols

Arranged and edited by Richard Graves

### 1. THE SHEPHERDS' SONG

At a moderate speed

Soprano  
Alto

1. When Bethlehem's shepherds home re - turned,  
2. For their eyes in Da - vid's town, } Hal - le - lu - jah, —  
3. Then broke they forth in songs of joy, }

Tenor  
Bass

7

Praise the Lord! { With joy their hearts with - in them burned, —  
Was Christ the new - born Sa - viour shown, —  
And gazed with love on the Ho - ly boy, — }

13

Sing hal - le - lu - jah, Sing hal - le - lu - jah, Praise our God!

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NOTE: The source of this piece is 'Christmas Carols or Sacred Songs suited to the Festival of our Lord's Nativity', published in 1833. Sub-titled 'The Shepherds Song', the original is scored for SAB, and the same basic tune is set three times, each differing slightly in rhythmic and harmonic detail. I have collated these into one setting, and adapted the arrangement for SATB. The original words, described as 'Old Ballad', have been drastically curtailed and slightly altered. No clue is given as to the provenance of the music.

## 2. GLORY TO GOD

W. J. Irons

R. F. Smith

**Not too fast**

**PREVIEW ONLY**

Soprano  
Alto

1. 'Glo - ry to God in the High-est' is ring-ing,  
2. Glo - ry to God, for as dew's of the morn-ing  
3. We too, with Shep-herd and Ma - gi and An - gel,

Tenor  
Bass

No-well, No-well, No-well, No - well, Glo-ry to

**PREVIEW ONLY**

7

Clear from a - far it is e - cho-ing still.  
Songs of Thy birth-day are fil - ling the air;  
Pros - trate be - fore Thee our hom-age would bring;

'Glo - ry to God,' for the  
Shep-herds of Beth - le-hem  
Hail Thee the Sa - viour, the

No-well, No-well, Glo-ry to

**PREVIEW ONLY**

13

an - gels are sing - ing, 'Peace up - on earth to the men of good - - -  
give us the warn - ing, Child of the Vir - gin, we wel-come Thee  
Christ, the Em - man - uel, Own Thee our Pro - phet, our Priest and our

**PREVIEW ONLY**

19

- will'.  
there!  
King.

No-well, No-well, No - well, No-well.  
*dim.* *pp*

No-well, No - well.  
No-well, No - well, No-well, No - well.  
*dim.* *pp*

No-well, No - well, No - well, No - well.

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NOTE: The Rev. W.J. Irons was the author of many hymns and was a well-known theologian, but I have been unable to discover anything about the composer except that he, too, was a priest. This unusual carol appears in Chope's 'Carols for use in Church' (1876). I have slightly adapted the melody and harmony in the few places where each seemed a little too 'florid', and the alto part in the final two bars has been added. Two verses of the original words have been omitted.

## 3. COME, YE LOFTY

Words and Music by  
Archer Gurney

**Brightly**

Soprano Alto

1. Come, ye lof - ty, come, ye low - ly, Let your songs of  
In a sta - ble lies the Ho - ly, In a man - ger

Tenor Bass

glad - ness ring the King. See, in Ma - ry's arms re - pos - ing,

Christ by high - est Heaven de - scend; Come your cir - cle

round Him clos - ing Pi - ous hearts that love the Lord.

**PREVIEW ONLY**

Come, ye children, blithe and merry,  
This one Child your model make;  
Christmas holly, leaf and berry,  
All be prized for His dear sake.  
Come, ye gentle hearts and tender,  
Come, ye spirits keen and bold,  
All in all your homage render,  
Weak and mighty, young and old.

3. High above a star is shining,  
And the Wise Men haste from far,  
Come, glad hearts and spirits pining  
For you all has ris'n a star.  
Let us bring our poor oblations,  
Thanks and love and faith and praise  
Come, ye people, come, ye nations.  
All in all draw nigh to gaze!

4. Hark! the Heaven of heavens is ringing,  
Christ the Lord to man is born;  
Are not all our hearts, too, singing  
'Welcome, welcome, Christmas morn!'  
Still the Child, all power possessing,  
Smiles as through the ages past;  
On the song of Christmas blessing  
Sweetly sinks to rest at last.

**Banks  
& Music  
Publications**

NOTE: The Rev. Archer Gurney held a number of livings in Britain, as well as spending some time at a Church in Paris. Born in 1820, he wrote the words of a large number of hymns, and in this case also composed the music. The source is Chope's 'Carols'.

## 4. MERRY CHRISTMAS

Words and Music by  
J. H. Leslie

Fast and brightly

Soprano  
Alto

Tenor  
Bass

1. Christ-mas bells are sweet-ly ring-ing, 'Joy to the hap-py—sons of men';
2. Shep-herds heard the won-drous sto-ry, Watch-ing up-on Ju - de - a's plains,
3. 'Peace on earth, good-will to mor-tals, Glo - ry to God', the an-gels sang;

5

Child - ren's voi - ces glad - ly sing - ing Praise to their God and Sa - viour.  
How the Lord of life and glo - ry Ran-som'd the fal - len na - tions.  
Christ has o-pen'd hea-ven's por-tals, Glo - ry to God for e - ver.

9 Chorus

Mer-ry, mer-ry Christ-mas, mer-ry, mer-ry Christ-mas, Joy and plea-sure with-out mea-sure,

13

Mer-ry, mer-ry Christ-mas, mer-ry, mer-ry Christ-mas, Hail, the hap-py day! (*Repeat pp*)

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NOTE: J.H. Leslie was joint compiler of 'Silver Bells: A collection of new music for Board Schools, High Schools, Seminars, Academies, Colleges, Juvenile Bazaarings, and the Home Circle', published in Wakefield in the 1870's. This carol is included in the collection and, whilst its melody and harmony are very basic, it can be made to sound highly effective if sung with good rhythm and crisp enunciation: the addition of a drum rhythm ♩ ♩ ♩ throughout is worth considering. It may be best to repeat the chorus (*pp* as the composer suggests) at the end of the last verse only.