

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

as recorded by The Collingsworth Family on "A True Family Christmas"

From the Prism Music collection *HERE WITH US*

Arranged and Orchestrated by
Bradley Knight

70 Rubato ♩ = 82

Musical notation for measures 1-3. Treble clef, key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#), 4/4 time signature. The piece begins with a piano introduction marked *mf*. The melody in the treble clef starts with a half note chord, followed by a quarter note melody line. The bass clef provides a simple harmonic accompaniment.

Musical notation for measures 4-7. Measure 4 is marked *rit.* (ritardando). Measure 5 is marked *f* (forte) and *a tempo*. Measure 7 is marked *rit.*. The melody continues with various rhythmic patterns and dynamic markings.

Musical notation for measures 8-11. Measure 8 is marked *a tempo*. Measure 9 is marked *rit.*. Measure 10 is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). Measure 11 is marked *p* (piano). The tempo is indicated as **Slower ♩ = 76**. The piece concludes with a long, sustained chord in the final measure.

NARRATOR: Merry Christmas! I'd like to share with you what I believe is the greatest story ever told...the story of The First Christmas.

Musical notation for measures 12-15. Measure 12 is marked *rit.*. Measure 13 is marked *a tempo*. The melody continues with a steady rhythm and dynamic markings.

Now, imagine yourself over 2,000 years ago, standing on a hillside near a little town in Judea. Look over in the distance. You'll see a man slowly leading a donkey down the road.

Musical notation for measures 16-19. Measure 16 is marked *rit.*. Measure 17 is marked *a tempo*. The melody continues with a steady rhythm and dynamic markings.

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His name is Joseph. Sitting on the back of the donkey is a young virgin lady named Mary. They've been on a very long journey, and they're headed for that little village you see.

20 71 1:13

accel.

Something very special will take place there tonight. For this is the little town of Bethlehem.

24 *rit.* **CHOIR**
p

rit. **CHOIR**
p

0

rit.

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

27 **Andante** ♩ = 73

lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie. A -

31 *rit.* *mp*

bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent - stars go by. Yet, -

TENORS

rit.

35 *accel.* *a tempo* *accel.* *rit.*

in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light. The

Add BASSES

accel. *a tempo* *accel.* *rit.*

39 *a tempo* *rit.* *a tempo*

hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.

a tempo *rit.* *a tempo*

NARRATOR: If you follow Mary and Joseph into the town, you'll see that it's getting dark, and all of the rooms in all of the inns are taken, but one innkeeper tells them they can spend the night in a stable nearby.

72 2:23

Heavenly ♩ = 80

44

This is where something special will take place. You see, inside that stable, a baby boy is born to Mary and Joseph,

48

whom they call "Jesus." They have no baby's crib, so Mary puts little Jesus to sleep in the soft hay of a manger.

73 2:55

LADIES

53

"Away In A Manger"

58

way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, the lit - tle Lord

63

Je - sus lay down His sweet head. The stars in the sky looked

68

down where He lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the

NARRATOR: Now imagine that you leave that peaceful scene in the stable and head back out to the hillside. There, you see a group of shepherds tending

74 3:39 **Mysteriously** ♩ = 80

73

hay.

their flocks. All of a sudden, the shepherds become frightened, for the skies above are instantly filled with a great light.

78

ff **Faster** ♩ = 85 **Slower** ♩ = 72

Then, you hear the voice of the angel of God, who encourages the shepherds to “Fear Not,” for he brings Good News of a Savior born this day—a Savior who is Christ the Lord.

75 4:13

82 $\text{♩} = 79$ $\text{♩} = 73$ $\text{♩} = 79$ $\text{♩} = 82$

86 *rit.* *mf* “The First Noel” $\text{♩} = 78$

No - el, no - el! No - el, no -

$\text{E}\flat$ F $\text{E}\flat$ F13 $\text{B}\flat$ $\text{E}\flat\text{maj}7$ G F F $\text{E}\flat$ $\text{B}\flat$ D $\text{E}\flat 2$ $\text{F}2$ $\text{E}\flat$

90 *rit.* *a tempo* *rit.*

el! Born is the King of Is - ra -

$\text{B}\flat 2$ D F A Gm $\text{B}\flat\text{maj}7$ F $\text{E}\flat$ $\text{B}\flat$ D $\text{E}\flat$ F C $\text{B}\flat$ D $\text{B}\flat$ $\text{B}\flat$ F $\text{F}7$

94 *a tempo* *rit.* 7

el! No - el, no - el! No - el, no -

B \flat D F \sharp Gm E \flat maj7 Dm7 B \flat D E \flat F Gm F A

a tempo *rit.*

98 *a tempo*

el! Born is the King of

B \flat F \sharp 7 Gm B \flat maj7 F E \flat B \flat D E \flat F C

a tempo *rit.*

102 *rit.* *a tempo* 76 5:02 Slightly Faster

Is - ra - el!

B \flat D E \flat B \flat F B \flat

rit. *a tempo* *p*

NARRATOR: After hearing the angel's announcement, you hear the shepherds ask the angel where to find the Christ Child.

The angel tells them to go to the manger, where they will find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes.
As the shepherds leave, the skies are filled with a multitude of angels, saying,

107

rit. *a tempo*

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to all men.”

111

rit. *p accel.* *rit.*

Glo

TENORS, falsetto

rit. *accel.* *rit.*

The shepherds rush to the manger and fall on their knees in worship,
for this child is Christ the Lord.

115

a tempo *rit.*

ri - a! O

a tempo *rit.*

77 5:39

119 "O Come All Ye Faithful"

come, let us a - dore Him. O come, let us a - dore Him. O

78 6:11

come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord.

rit. **f** *a tempo*
For He a - lone is wor - thy. For

He a - lone is wor - thy. For He a - lone is

wor - thy, Christ the Lord.

79

6:49 NARRATOR: Now, look up into the sky. Do you see that beautiful bright star gleaming in the heavens? There are three men who are also looking at that star. They're traveling from far away.

Ethereal ♩ = 77

pp

They are using the star as a guide to lead them to the Christ Child. Who are these three men that followed the star?

80 7:08 **Desert Feel** ♩ = 120

p *mp*

"We Three Kings"

MEN
mp

144

We three kings of O - ri - ent are;

Bm B⁴ Bm

p

147

bear - ing gifts we trav - erse a - far, field and foun - tain,

B⁴ Bm Bm A/C#

p

150

moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star,

D B⁷/D# Em F⁷ Bm

rit.

81 7:40 NARRATOR: Yes... those three men are the three wise men. The bright star leads them straight

♩ = 118

153

pp

to Bethlehem where they meet baby Jesus. There, the three wise men present the first Christmas gifts ever given to anyone:

155

(timed with the musical accents) Gold Frankincense..... and Myrrh.

157 rit.

And they, too, fall on their knees to worship Him. But why would these noble men bow down to worship a child?

161 $\text{♩} = 66$

You see, this is no ordinary child! This child is God's gift to us! He has brought us the gospel of love and peace! He has come to set the captive free!

166

He has come to bring salvation for you and for me! That is why we celebrate this night called Christmas.

171 $\overset{A}{E}$

So, let's join our hearts in worship and praise! Come, let us adore Him, for He is Christ the Lord!

82 8:36

Ab(unis.)

Ab7sus

176

“O Holy Night”

MEN *mf*

180

Tru - ly, He taught us to love one a -

184

noth - er. His law is love, and His gos - pel is peace.

189

Chains shall He break, for the slave is our bro -

194

ther, and in His name all o - pres - sion - shall cease. Sweet

Vocal line for measures 194-198. The melody starts with a quarter note 'ther', followed by a quarter rest, then eighth notes 'and in His name', a quarter note 'all', a quarter rest, eighth notes 'o - pres - sion -', a quarter note 'shall', a quarter rest, and a quarter note 'cease.' The line ends with a quarter note 'Sweet'.

C°7 F#m C# C# E# F#m

Piano accompaniment for measures 194-198. The right hand features chords and moving lines, while the left hand provides a steady bass line. Chord changes are indicated above the staff: C°7, F#m/C#, C#E#, and F#m.

199

hymns of joy in grate - ful cho - rus raise we. Let all with -

Vocal line for measures 199-203. The melody consists of quarter notes: 'hymns of joy in grate - ful cho - rus raise we. Let all with -'.

A7sus D/A A7sus

Piano accompaniment for measures 199-203. The right hand has chords and moving lines, while the left hand has a steady bass line. Chord changes are indicated above the staff: A7sus, D/A, and A7sus.

204

83 9:31

in us praise His ho - ly name!

Vocal line for measures 204-208. The melody starts with a quarter note 'in', a quarter rest, eighth notes 'us praise His ho - ly', and a quarter note 'name!' followed by a long note with a fermata.

A G D F# Dsus E D N.C. F# Bm F# C# A#

Piano accompaniment for measures 204-208. The right hand has chords and moving lines, while the left hand has a steady bass line. Chord changes are indicated above the staff: A, G, D/F#, Dsus/E, D, N.C., F#C#, Bm, and F#A#.

209

Christ is the Lord! O praise

Ten. mel.

Bm F#m Em

f

214

His name for - ev - er! His pow'r and

Bm D F#m C#m Bm Gm Bb D A A G

219

glo - ry ev - er - more pro - claim!

D F#m G D A A C#m D

His pow'r and glo - ry

D Dsus D D E F# Em D A A G D F# D G Em G

229

ev - er - more pro - claim!

D A D A

233

84 10:18
rit.

a tempo
A FEW sopranos take the upper part

Fall on your knees!

D D C Gm Bb D7 A Gm Dm F A E Dm

rit. *ff a tempo*

238

O hear the an - gel voic - es! O

Cm Gm Bb D A Gm Ebm C Bb D Ebm

243

night di - vine, O night

Bb F Eb Bb D Eb Bb F

248

when Christ was born. O night di -

E A Bb Dm Gm F Eb

vine, O night, O

Bb D Eb F (unis.)

night di - vine, di -

Bb Bb Ab Ebm Gb Ebm Bb F Ebm

vine!

Bb