

I sing the birth was born tonight

"An Hymn on the Nativity of my Saviour"

Ben Jonson (1573-1637)

ROBIN DOVETON

Tempo giusto e con moto ♩ = c. 112

S1
S2
A
T
Bar
B

1. I sing the birth was born to-night The Au - thor both of

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1. I sing the birth was born to-night The Au - thor both of

Keyboard reduction

5

life and light; The an - gels so did sound it, the an - gels so did

life and light; The an - gels so did sound it, the an - gels so did

life and light; The an - gels so did sound it, the an - gels so did

5

life and light; The an - gels so, the an - gels so did

9 *mp*

sound it. And like the rav-ished shep-herds said, Who saw the light, and

9 *mp*

sound it. And like the rav-ished shep-herds said, Who saw the light, and

8 *mp*

sound it. And like the rav-ished shep-herds said, Who saw the light, and

mp

sound it. And like the rav-ished shep-herds said, Who saw the light, and

13 *cresc.* *f* **pociss. rit.**

were a - fraid, Yet searched, yet searched, and true they

13 *cresc.* *f*

were a - fraid, Yet searched, yet searched, and true they

8 *cresc.* *f*

were a - fraid, Yet searched, yet searched, and true they

cresc. *f*

were a - fraid, Yet searched, yet searched, and true they

13

poco rit. $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$
 , *a tempo*

31 was now laid in a man-ger.
 now, was now laid in a man-ger.

now, was now laid in a man-ger.

was now, was now laid in a man-ger. *mf marcato* 3. The

was now, was now laid in a man-ger. *mf marcato* 3. The Fa - ther's

31

Detailed description: This system contains five vocal staves and two piano accompaniment staves. The vocal parts are in G major and 3/4 time. The piano accompaniment features a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand. The lyrics are: 'was now laid in a man-ger. now, was now laid in a man-ger. now, was now laid in a man-ger. was now, was now laid in a man-ger. was now, was now laid in a man-ger. 3. The Fa - ther's'. Performance markings include 'poco rit.', 'a tempo', and 'mf marcato'. A measure number '31' is placed at the beginning of the first vocal staff.

mp soave

The Son's o - be - dience knew no - No,

mp soave *mf*

The Son's o - be-dience knew no No, Both

mf

Fa - ther willed it so, Both

mf

wis-dom willed it so, Both

Detailed description: This system contains four vocal staves and two piano accompaniment staves. The vocal parts continue in G major and 3/4 time. The piano accompaniment continues with the same texture as the first system. The lyrics are: 'The Son's o - be - dience knew no - No, The Son's o - be-dience knew no No, Both Fa - ther willed it so, Both wis-dom willed it so, Both'. Performance markings include 'mp soave' and 'mf'. A measure number '31' is placed at the beginning of the first vocal staff.

40 *mp*

And *mp*

wills were in one sta - ture, both - wills were in one sta - ture; And

wills were in one sta - ture, - both - wills were in one sta - ture; And

wills were in one sta - ture, - both - wills were in one sta - ture;

40

sostenuto e ritenuto

44 *p*

as that wis-dom had de-creed, The Word was now made flesh in - deed, And.

as that wis-dom had de-creed, The Word was now made flesh in - deed, And

as de - creed, The Word_ was now made flesh in - deed, And
flesh, And

The Word was nowmade flesh in -

44

63 *con calore* man for - get, _____
our defence: Can man for - get can man for -
con calore
our de - fence: Can man for - get, _____ can - man _____ for -
con calore *f*
our defence: Can man, can - man for-get the
con calore
our de - fence: Can man, can man for - get, _____

63

67 *sempre f* *allargando*
get, _____ can - man for - get _____ the sto - - - ry?
get, _____ can man for - get _____ the sto - - - ry?
sto-ry, can man for - get _____ the sto - - - ry?
for - get, for - get the sto - ry?
_____ can man for - get the sto - - - ry?

67
