

COVENTRY CAROL

SSA Voices with Piano

English Carol
Arranged by Noah Reese

BriLee Music
Part-by-Part



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Ranges:

Soprano 1  Soprano 2 
Alto 

Language: English
Use: Holiday
Time: Approx. 2:53
*Difficulty: Moderate

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the Voice of Choral Music

Notes

Coventry Carol was first performed during the sixteenth century in Coventry, England as a part of the Pageant of the Shearman and Tailors. It was a lament by the mothers of children taken in the Biblical “Slaughter of the Innocents.” Robert Croo is credited with writing the lyrics in 1534, and the music was written by an unknown composer in 1591. The original manuscript of Robert Croo’s poem lasted until a fire destroyed it in 1879.

The underlying mixed-meter feeling of this arrangement is meant to help the piece build momentum to the third verse, helping to tell the tragic story depicted in the poem. The repeating motif is based around the altos’ descending chromatic scale.

Teaching the alto part to all singers will help them find their entrances throughout those sections.

About the Arranger

Noah Reese has taught middle school for over ten years. He began singing and playing the piano at an early age and started composing music in high school. He has composed four pieces for the Texas middle school UIL Concert and Sight-Reading contest published through RBC music.

Noah earned his B.A. in Music Education from Bloomsberg University in Bloomsberg, PA. He enjoys teaching, composing and singing with the Texas Master Chorale.

Coventry Carol

for SSA Voices with Piano*

3

ROBERT CROO (1534)

NOAH REESE

Rubato **rit.**

Piano *p*

a tempo ♩ = 108

5

9 **Soprano 1** *p*
Lul - ly, — lul - lay, thou lit - tle ti - ny child.

Soprano 2 *p*
Lul - ly, — lul - lay, thou lit - tle ti - ny child.

Alto *p*
Lul - ly, — lul - lay, thou lit - tle ti - ny child.

* Also available for Three-Part Mixed Voices (BL1079).

13

Bye bye, — lul - ly, lul - lay.

Bye bye, — lul - ly, lul - lay.

Bye bye, — lul - ly, lul - lay.

The musical score for measures 13-16 features three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in a B-flat major key with a common time signature. The lyrics are 'Bye bye, — lul - ly, lul - lay.' The piano accompaniment consists of a right hand with eighth and sixteenth notes and a left hand with chords and eighth notes.

17

mp Lul - ly, — lul - lay, thou lit - tle ti - ny

mp Lul - ly — lul - lay, thou

p Lul - - - ly, lul - - -

The musical score for measures 17-20 continues with three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts include dynamic markings: *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *p* (piano). The lyrics are 'Lul - ly, — lul - lay, thou lit - tle ti - ny' and 'Lul - ly — lul - lay, thou' and 'Lul - - - ly, lul - - -'. The piano accompaniment features a right hand with eighth and sixteenth notes and a left hand with chords and eighth notes.

20

child. Bye bye, — lul - ly, lul - lay.
lit - tle ti - ny child. Lul - ly, lul - lay.
lay, lul - - ly, lul - lay.

This musical system contains measures 20 through 23. It features three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts have lyrics: 'child. Bye bye, — lul - ly, lul - lay.', 'lit - tle ti - ny child. Lul - ly, lul - lay.', and 'lay, lul - - ly, lul - lay.'. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both hands.

24

mf O sis - ters —
mf O sis - sters too, how

This musical system contains measures 24 through 26. It features three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts have lyrics: 'O sis - ters —', 'O sis - sters too, how', and 'how'. The piano accompaniment continues with harmonic support. A large red watermark 'Unlawful to copy or print' is visible across the page.

27

too, how may we do to ___ pre -

may we - - do, do to ___ pre -

mf How may _ we do, do to ___ pre -

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30

serve ___ this day.

serve this day.

serve this day.

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33

mf

This poor _ young - ling for whom we _ do sing,

mf

This poor _ young - ling for whom we _ do

mp

"Lul - - ly, lul - - lay?"

37

"Bye bye, _ lul - ly, lul - lay?"

sing. "Lul - ly, lul - lay?"

Lul - - ly, lul - lay,

f

41

f

He - rod the king in his ra -

f

He - rod the king in his ra -

f

He - rod the king in his ra -

44

ging, char - ged he hath this day.

ging, char - ged he hath this day.

ging, char - ged he hath this day.

48

ff His men _ of might in his _ own

ff His men _ of might

ff His might in his _ own

ff

52

sight all young _ chil - dren to slay.

in his _ own sight chil - dren to slay.

sight chil - - dren to slay.

56 *mf*

Lul - ly, — lul - lay,

mf

Lul - ly — lul -

mf

Lul - - - ly,

59 *rit.* *f*

lul - ly — lul - lay.

rit. *f*

Bye bye, — lul - ly, — lul -

f

lay, lul - lay.

f

Bye bye, — lul - ly, — lul -

f

lul - - - lay.

f

Bye bye, — lul - ly, — lul -

63 **a tempo****rit.**

lay.

lay.

lay.

p

67 **pp**

pp

Bye bye, — lul - ly, lul - lay. —

pp

Bye bye, — lul - ly, lul - lay. —

pp

Bye bye, — lul - ly, lul - lay. —

BriLee Music

the Voice of Choral Music

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