

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime
Helgen

TTBB, accompanied

WJMS1154

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

TTBB with Piano, Flute, and Optional String Bass



JO-MICHAEL SCHEIBE Choral Series

Committed to Musical & Educational Excellence

Arranged by
John Helgen

Text by
Jean de Brebeuf
(1593-1649)



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About the Work

This Native American hymn can be traced to Jean de Brébeuf (1593-1649), a Jesuit priest and missionary who worked among the Canadian Huron people. He was born in France and came to Quebec after being ordained in 1622. Brébeuf wrote the lyrics in the native language of the Huron/Wendat people; the song's original Huron title is "Jesous Ahathonhia" ("Jesus, he is born"). The English translation was made by Jesse Middleton, a journalist who also served for nearly forty years as the choral director at Centennial United Church in Toronto. The tune is a French Noël melody which has been popular since the 17th century.

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

'Twas in the moon of wintertime,
when all the birds had fled,
that God, the Lord of all the earth,
sent angel choirs instead.
Before their light the stars grew dim
and wand'ring hunters heard the hymn:

Jesus, your king, is born!
Jesus is born!
Glory be to God on high!

The earliest moon of wintertime
is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory
around the infant there.
And when the shepherds then drew near
the angel voices rang out clear:

O children of the forest free,
the angel song is true:
the holy child of earth and heaven
is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant boy
who brings you beauty, peace, and joy.

About the Composer

John Helgen currently serves as Director of Music at Roseville Lutheran Church (ELCA) in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he plays the piano and organ and conducts several vocal and instrumental ensembles. A native of Minnesota, he attended St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, where he received a B.A. in Music Theory/Composition, studied piano, organ, voice and the euphonium, and was a member of the St. Olaf Band and the St. Olaf Choir. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota School of Law. He currently resides in Minneapolis where he is active as a piano player, arranger, composer, performer, and producer. A member of ASCAP, ACDA, and ALCM, he is the author of about seventy published choral anthems and arrangements as well as numerous resources for worship published through Walton Music, Neil A. Kjos Music, Augsburg Fortress, MorningStar, Choristers Guild, and CPH.

Duration: Approx. 4:45

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

TTBB with Piano, Flute* and optional String Bass**

Text by JEAN de BREBEUF (1593-1649)

Translation by JESSE MIDDLETON

French melody: "Une Jeune Pucelle"

Arranged by JOHN HELGEN (b. 1957)

Slowly, with rubato (♩ = ca. 88)

Flute

mf

Piano

mp

Pedal harmonically throughout

poco rit.

12 **Con moto** (♩ = ca. 64)

* A separate flute part is found on page 12.

** A separate string bass part can be downloaded at: waltonmusic.com

*** Whole-note chords may be rolled slightly in measures 1-8.

16

Fl.

T

B

pp

Oo

pp

Oo

A

22

8

Oo

Oo

28

mf

Glo - ry be to God on high! Glo - ry be to

mf

Glo - ry be to God on high! Glo - ry be — to

mf

34

B

God on high! —

Solo, small group, or section

God on high! — 'Twas in the moon of win-ter-time, when all the birds had
The ear-liest moon of win-ter-time is not so round and

mp

40

fled, that God, the Lord of all the earth, sent an - gel choirs in - stead. Be -
fair as was the ring of glo - ry a - round the in - fant there. And

45

poco rit.

for their light the stars grew dim and wan - d'ring hunt - ers heard the hymn:—
when the shep - herds then drew near the an - gel voic - es rang out clear:—

49

a tempo

Je - sus, your king, is born! Je - sus is born! Glo - ry

Je - sus, your king, is born! Je - sus is born! Glo - ry

 mf

53

1. 2.

be to God! God!
be to God on high! high!

The musical score for measures 53-57 consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in G major (one flat) with a first ending (marked '1.') and a second ending (marked '2.'). The vocal line has lyrics 'be to God! God!' for the first ending and 'be to God on high! high!' for the second ending. The middle staff is a piano accompaniment for the voice, with lyrics 'be to God on high! high!' and a 'C' time signature. The bottom staff is a grand piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (F major or D minor) and the time signature is common time (C).

C

58

mf

mf

Glo - ry be to God on high! Glo - ry
Glo - ry be to God on high! Glo - ry

The musical score for measures 58-62 consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in G major (one flat) with lyrics 'Glo - ry be to God on high! Glo - ry'. The middle staff is a piano accompaniment for the voice, with lyrics 'Glo - ry be to God on high! Glo - ry' and a 'C' time signature. The bottom staff is a grand piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (F major or D minor) and the time signature is common time (C). The dynamic marking *mf* (mezzo-forte) is present in the vocal and piano accompaniment staves.

63 D

be to God on high! O chil-dren of the

be to God on high! O chil-dren of the

mf

68

for - est free, the an - gel song is true: the ho - ly child of

for - est free, the an - gel song is true: the ho - ly child of

72

earth and heav'n is born to - day for you. Come kneel be - fore the

earth and heav'n is born to - day for you. Come kneel be - fore the

76

rit.

ra - dant boy who brings you beau - ty, — peace, and joy. —

ra - dant boy who brings you beau - ty, — peace, and joy.

E a tempo

81

81

mf

mf

mf

Je - sus, your king, is born! Je - sus is born! Glo - ry

Je - sus, your king, is born! Je - sus is born! Glo - ry

mf

This block contains measures 81 through 84 of a musical score. It features three staves: a vocal melody at the top, a vocal accompaniment in the middle, and a piano accompaniment at the bottom. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 8/8. The vocal parts are marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The lyrics are "Je - sus, your king, is born! Je - sus is born! Glo - ry". The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands.

85

85

pp

pp

p

be to God! Oo

be to God on high! Oo

p

This block contains measures 85 through 90 of the musical score. It continues with the same three-staff format. Measures 85 and 86 have lyrics "be to God!" and "be to God on high!" respectively, followed by a long note. Measures 87 and 88 have the vocal melody "Oo" and a long note. The piano accompaniment features a crescendo leading to a piano (*p*) dynamic in measure 89. The score ends with a final chord in measure 90.

92 F

mp

Oo _____ Je-sus, your king, is born!

Oo _____ Je-sus, your king, is born!

f

mf

98 rit.

Je - sus is born! Glo - ry be to God on high!

Je - sus is born! Glo - ry be to God on high!

ff

ff

f

