

For Andrew and Matthew
I SING THE BIRTH

for s.a.t.b. voices, unaccompanied

"A Hymn on the Nativity of My Savior"
 Ben Jonson (1573-1637)

RICHARD DIRKSEN

With Majesty (♩ = 40)*

SOP. *p*
 I sing the birth was born this

ALTO *pp*
 I sing, I sing, I sing the birth was

TEN. *pp*
 I sing, I sing, I sing, I sing, I sing the birth was

BASS *pp*
 I sing, I sing, I sing, I sing, I sing the birth was

(for rehearsal only) *pp*

night, The au - thor both of life and light; The

born this night, The au - thor both of life and light;

born this night, The au - thor both of life and light;

born this night, The au - thor both of life and light; The

Perf. Time: Approx. 2:20

*Do not sing it faster—slower, yes!—like great bells striking, softly, muffled.

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an - gels so did sound it. And like the rav - ished shep - herds

The an - gels so did sound it. And like the rav - ished

The an - gels so did sound it. And

an - gels so did sound it. And like the rav - ished

Detailed description: This system contains four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in G major with a 2/2 time signature. The lyrics are: 'an - gels so did sound it. And like the rav - ished shep - herds'. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand.

said, Who saw the light and were a - fraid, Yet

shep - herds said, Who saw the light and were a - fraid,

like the rav - ished shep - herds said, Who saw the light and were a -

shep - herds said, Who saw the light and were a - fraid, Yet

Detailed description: This system continues the musical score with four vocal staves and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'said, Who saw the light and were a - fraid, Yet shep - herds said, Who saw the light and were a - fraid, like the rav - ished shep - herds said, Who saw the light and were a - shep - herds said, Who saw the light and were a - fraid, Yet'. The piano accompaniment continues with similar harmonic support.

poco ritard.

a tempo

searched and true they found it. The Son of God, th'e - ter - nal

— Yet searched and true they found_ it. The Son of God, th'e -

fraid, Yet searched and true they found_ it. The Son of God, th'e -

searched and true_ they found_ it. The Son of God, th'e -

poco ritard. *a tempo*

King, That did us all sal - va - tion bring, And

ter - nal_ King, That did_ us_ sal - va - tion_ bring, And

ter-nal King, That did us all sal - va - tion bring, And

ter-nal King, That did us all sal - va - tion bring, And

mp *mf* *mp* *mp*

freed the soul from dan - ger; He whom the whole world could not
 freed the soul from dan - ger; He whom the whole
 freed the soul from dan - ger; He whom the whole world
 freed the soul from dan - ger; He whom the whole world

mf take, The Word, which heav'n and earth did make, was
mf world could not take, The Word, which heav'n and earth did
f could not take, The Word, which heav'n and earth did make, was
mf could not take, The Word, which heav'n and earth did make, was

*very slowly, expressively**a tempo e meno mosso*

now laid in a man - ger.

make, was now laid in a man - ger. To -

now laid in a man - ger. I sing,

now laid in a man - ger. To -

very slowly, expressively *a tempo e meno mosso*

molto ritard. *ppp* *more and more slowly and softly* *(morendo)*

I sing the birth was born to - night.

night, the birth was born to - night.

I sing the birth was born to - night.

night, the birth was born to - night.

molto ritard. *more and more slowly and softly*