

*PIANO/CHORAL SCORE*

*Gwyneth Walker*

# *Rejoice!*

*Christmas Songs  
for Chorus and Orchestra (or Piano)*

*"What Child is This?"*

*"Love Came Down at Christmas"*

*"Good Christian Friends Rejoice!"*

*Commissioned by Marilyn Haugen Roverud  
for The Juletide Festival 2001, Luther College*

*Premiered November 28, 2001 – Decorah, Iowa  
by the Luther College Choirs and Orchestra  
Timothy Peter, Conductor*

*Duration: 11 minutes*

### Program Notes

**Rejoice! – Christmas Songs** are new musical settings of three traditional Christmas carols or poems. The intent is to explore the dramatic character of each song.

“What Child is This?” focuses on the question aspect of the lyrics: “What child is this...?” Therefore, the answer: “This, this is Christ the King!” is delayed until after two verses. The first round of questions are posed by the men, with the women’s voices interjecting additional phrases of “What child, what child is this?” The second verse reverses the roles. Then comes the much-anticipated refrain.

The third verse presents the chorus in static harmonies, while the accompaniment provides the rapid, “shimmering” patterns reflective of the lyrics: “So bring him incense, gold and myrrh...” The final refrain (answer) is triumphant.

“Love Came Down at Christmas” is a new setting of the poem by Christina Rossetti. Here, the image of descending (from the title) is the focus of the introduction, marked “gently, as love descending from heaven, or snow falling.” The pattern of stepwise descent is then taken up by the chorus. The essence of this song is gentleness and simplicity. The tonality throughout is C Major, and the meter is 4/4. At the end, while the chorus holds the final chord, a little cadenza is heard in the accompaniment – perhaps a single snowflake descending at Christmas time.

A bridge passage leads into “Good Christian Friends Rejoice!” This is a joyful, lilting song. Many extra “Rejoice!”s are included. The tempo is quick. And the chorus is called upon to sing with as much energy as possible.

[One small note, for the astute listener: the composer, a resident of a family-owned dairy farm, often inserts cows into the lyrics of her songs.]

**Rejoice!** was composed during the summer of 2001 at the composer’s studio on the Brainstorm Dairy Farm in Braintree, Vermont.

# 1. What Child Is This?

for the Luther College Juletide Festival 2001

SATB with Piano (or Organ)\*

arranged by

Gwyneth Walker

Traditional English Carol

With gentle motion  $\text{♩} = 66$

The musical score consists of four systems of music. The first system shows the piano/organ part in G major, 6/8 time, with dynamics *p*, *cresc.*, and *poco Ped. ad lib.*. The second system begins at measure 7, showing a transition with *(cresc.)* and *mf*. The third system begins at measure 12. The fourth system begins at measure 16, with vocal entries for Tenor (T.) and Bass (B.). The vocal parts sing the lyrics "What child is this, \_\_\_\_\_ who, laid to rest, \_\_\_\_\_ on" at *p tenderly*. The piano/organ part continues throughout all systems.

\*The Piano accompaniment may be adapted for Organ. The Organist may judiciously simplify the piano texture. Some suggestions are provided in this score. More adaptations may be made.

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21

*p inquisitively*

**B**

S. - - - - -

A. - - - - -

T. Ma - ry's lap — is sleep - ing? — Whom an - gels greet —

B. Ma - ry's lap — is sleep - ing? — Whom an - gels greet —

\*unobtrusively

**B**

26

S. - - - - -

A. - - - - -

T. with an - themes sweet, — while shep - herds watch are keep - ing? —

B. with an - themes sweet, — while shep - herds watch are keep - ing? —

26

\* Play notes under brackets unobtrusively to support chorus.

31

S. **C** *mp*

A. *mp*

T. *p*

B. *p*

**C**

36

S.

A.

T.

B.

41

S. *p* **D** *mp*  
The on - ly light, \_\_\_\_\_  
the star - ry night, —

A. *p* *mp*  
The on - ly light, \_\_\_\_\_  
the star - ry night, —

T. *(p)*  
What child is this?  
**D**

B. *(p)*  
What child, what child is this?  
What child, what child?

41

S. **D**

46

S. — the — way to the man - ger lead - ing. *p*  
Oh, —

A. — the — way to the man - ger lead - ing. *p*

T. *(p)*  
Child, what child?  
What child is this?

B. Child, what child?  
Oh, — what child is this?

46

**E**

51

S. what child is this? What child is this? What child is,

A. What child, what child is this? What child is this? What child is,

T. 8 What child, what child is this? What child is this?

B. What child is this? What child is this?

51

56 (cresc.) **F**

S. what child is, what child is This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and

A. (cresc.) **f** what child is, what child is This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and

T. (cresc.) **f** What child is, what child is This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and

B. (cresc.) **f** What child is, what child is This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and

56 (cresc.) **F**

61

S. an - gels sing; \_\_\_\_\_ **G** haste, haste to bring him laud, \_\_\_\_\_ the —  
A. an - gels sing; \_\_\_\_\_ haste, haste - to bring him laud, \_\_\_\_\_ the —  
T. 8 an - gels sing; \_\_\_\_\_ haste, haste to bring him laud, \_\_\_\_\_ the  
B. an - gels sing; \_\_\_\_\_ haste, haste - to bring him laud, \_\_\_\_\_ the —

61

66

S. babe, the son of Ma - ry. \_\_\_\_\_ So ***mf***  
A. babe, the son — of Ma - ry. \_\_\_\_\_ So ***mf***  
T. 8 babe, the son of Ma - ry. \_\_\_\_\_ So ***mf***  
B. babe, the son — of Ma - ry. \_\_\_\_\_ So ***mf***

66

71

**H**

S. bring him in - cense, — gold, and myrrh, — come

A. bring him in - cense, — gold, and myrrh, — come

T. bring him in - cense, — gold, and myrrh, — come

B. bring him in - cense, — gold, and myrrh, — come

*shimmering*

**H**

71

71

75

S. pea - sant, king, to own him; —

A. pea - sant, king, to own him; —

T. pea - sant, king, to own him; —

B. pea - sant, king, to own him; —

*shimmering*

**H**

71

75

75

S. pea - sant, king, to own him; —

A. pea - sant, king, to own him; —

T. pea - sant, king, to own him; —

B. pea - sant, king, to own him; —

*shimmering*

**H**

75

75

78

S. The King of kings \_\_\_\_\_ sal - va - tion brings, \_\_\_\_\_

A. The King of kings \_\_\_\_\_ sal - va - tion brings, \_\_\_\_\_

T. The King of kings \_\_\_\_\_ sal - va - tion brings, \_\_\_\_\_

B. The King of kings \_\_\_\_\_ sal - va - tion brings, \_\_\_\_\_

I

78

(*Reed.*) \_\_\_\_\_ *Reed.* \_\_\_\_\_ *Reed.* \_\_\_\_\_

S. let lov - ing hearts en - throne him. \_\_\_\_\_

A. let lov - ing hearts en - throne him. \_\_\_\_\_

T. let lov - ing hearts en - throne him. \_\_\_\_\_

B. let lov - ing hearts en - throne him. \_\_\_\_\_

J

82

(*Reed.*) \_\_\_\_\_ *Reed.* \_\_\_\_\_ *Reed.* \_\_\_\_\_ *Reed.* \_\_\_\_\_



Ah,

Ah,

96

S. shep - herds guard and an - gels sing; **L** haste, haste to bring him laud,—  
A. shep - herds guard and an - gels sing; **L** haste, haste to bring him laud,—  
T. shep - herds guard and an - gels sing; **L** haste, haste to bring him laud,—  
B. shep - herds guard and an - gels sing; **L** haste, haste to bring him laud,—

96

**L**

rit. (thru m.114) . . . **M** Ma - - -

101

S. the — babe, the son, *Descant with Sop. f* the — babe, the son — of Ma - - -  
A. the — babe, the son, *f* the — babe, the son — of Ma - - -

T. the — babe, the son,  
B. the — babe, the son, *p (echo)* *f* This is

rit. (thru m.114) . . . **M** . . .

101

*p* *f*



12

(rit.)

113

S.

A.

T.

B.

(rit.)

113

5

5

(R&d.)

115 **N** (♩ = 54)  
**N** (♩ = 160) with motion, but not rushed

S.

A.

T.

B.

(♩ = 54)

**N** (♩ = 160) with motion, but not rushed

115

(f)

5

3

5

3

5

R&d. \_\_\_\_\_ R&d. \_\_\_\_\_ R&d. \_\_\_\_\_

117

5                    3                    5  
5                    3                    5  
Ped.                Ped.                Ped.

rit. and dim. thru m.125

119

5                    3                    5                    3  
5                    3                    5                    3  
Ped.                Ped.                Ped.                Ped.

(rit. and dim.)

121

5                    3                    5  
5                    3                    5                    3  
Ped.                Ped.                Ped.                Ped.

(rit. and dim.)

123

(Organ R.H.)

*8va*

pp

Ped.                Ped.

## **2. Love Came Down at Christmas**

*for the Luther College Juletide Festival 2001*

## SATB with Piano (or Organ)

Christina Rossetti

# Gwyneth Walker

(1830–1894).

8 Gently, as love descending from heaven, or snow falling

rit

*Gently, as love descending from heaven, or snow falling*

(Organ R.H.)

Piano (or Organ)

*rit.*

*8va*

*pp*

*p*

(Ped.) Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

**A** a tempo ( $\text{♩} = 88$ )

*poco*

rit.

7      *p*

S. Love came down at Christ - mas, love all love - ly, love di - vine;

A. *p* Love at — Christ - mas, love all love - ly, love di - vine;

T. *p* Love came down at, love at Christ - mas, love all love - ly, love di - vine;

B. *p* Love came down at Christ - mas, love all love - ly, love di - vine;

**A** a tempo ( $\text{♩} = 88$ )      rit. • • • • ,

7      *poco*

\* *ped.*      *ped.*      *ped.*      *ped.*      *ped.*      *ped.*      *ped.*

\*Organ: sustain low C through measure.

11 a tempo

S. love was born at Christ - mas: star and an - gels gave the sign, star and an - gels  
 A. born at Christ - mas: star and an - gels gave the sign, star and an - gels  
 T. 8 love was born at, born at Christ - mas: star and an - gels gave the sign, star and an - gels  
 B. love was born at Christ - mas: star and an - gels gave the sign, star and an - gels

poco rit. • • • , a tempo

11 a tempo

poco rit. • • • , a tempo

16 mf

S. gave the sign. Love

A. mf p rit. • • • •  
gave the sign. Love

T. 8 mf  
gave the sign. Love

B. mf  
gave the sign.

16

mf rit. • • • •

*Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.*

16

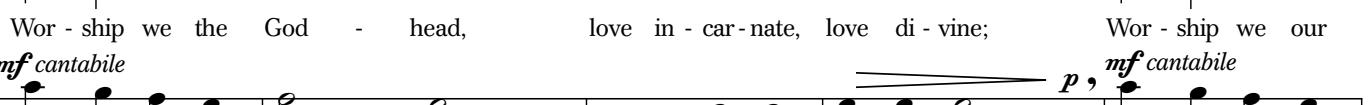
21 **B** a tempo ( $\text{♩} = 88$ )

(perhaps just a few voices)

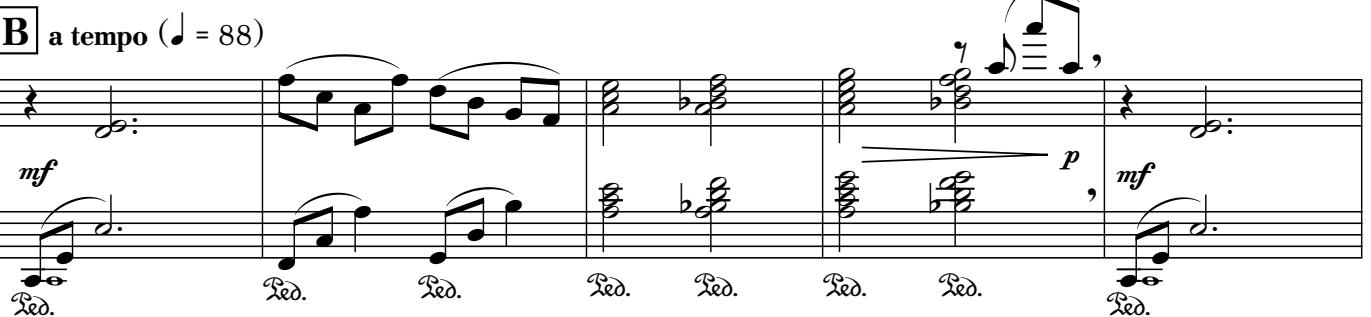
S. 

A. 

T. 

B. 

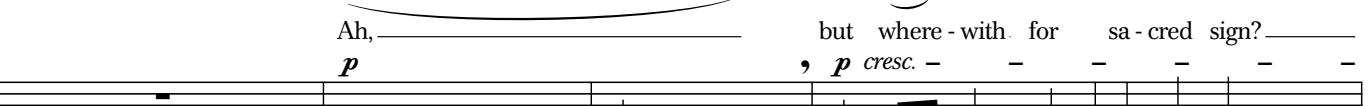
21 **B** a tempo ( $\text{♩} = 88$ )



rit. . . . a tempo

26

S. 

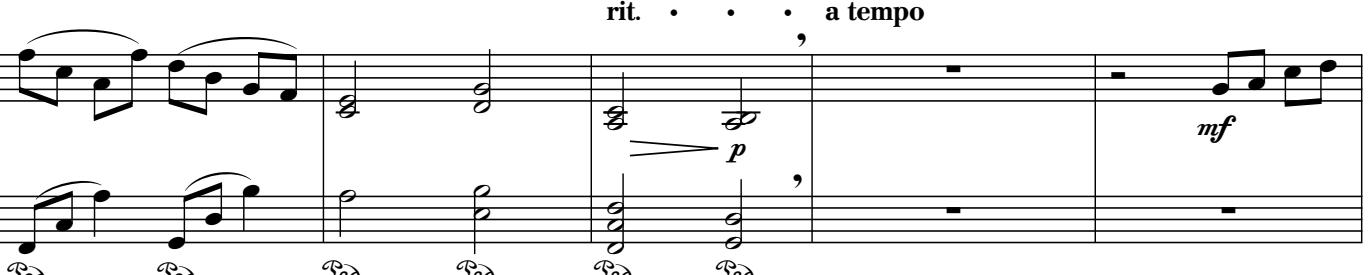
A. 

T. 

B. 

rit. . . . a tempo

26



**C**

31 *mf*

S. —

A. —

T. —

B. —

Love \_\_\_\_\_

Love \_\_\_\_\_

Love \_\_\_\_\_

Love \_\_\_\_\_

**C**

31

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

**D** Faster  $\text{♩} = 108$   
*mf* with strength

S. — is the sign. Wor-ship we the God - head,

A. — is the sign. Wor-ship we the God - head,

T. — Love, love, love is the sign. Wor-ship we the God - head,

B. — Love, love, love is the sign. Wor-ship we the God - head,

*p* non dim. *mf* with strength

*p* non dim. *mf* with strength

**D** Faster  $\text{♩} = 108$

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

S. 41

A.

T.

B.

S. 41

A.

T.

B.

S. 46

A.

T.

B.

S. 46

love in - car - nate, love di - vine; wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where - with for

love in - car - nate, love di - vine; wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where - with for

love in - car - nate, love di - vine; wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where - with for

love in - car - nate, love di - vine; wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where - with for

rit. . . . . E (♩ = 88)

f triumphantly

sa - cred sign, but where - with for sa - cred sign? Love shall be our to - ken;

f triumphantly

sa - cred sign, but where - with for sa - cred sign? Love shall be our to - ken;

f triumphantly

sa - cred sign, but where - with for sa - cred sign? Love shall be our to - ken;

f triumphantly

rit. . . . . E (♩ = 88)

f

2.LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS



20

**F**

59 *f emphatically* rit. . . . . **Tempo primo** ( $\text{♩} = 88$ ) , *p gently*

S. love shall be our to - ken. For love, for

A. love shall be our to - ken. For love came down, for love came down, for

T. love shall be our to - ken, our to - ken. For love came down, for

B. love shall be our to - ken, our to - ken. For

59 **F** rit. . . . . **Tempo primo** ( $\text{♩} = 88$ )

*f emphatically* , *p* (Play small notes only if needed to support chorus.)

64 rit. . . . .

S. love came down at Christ - mas time.

A. love came down at Christ - mas time.

T. love came down at Christ - mas time.

B. love came down at Christ - mas time.

64

*p* (freely, as a cadenza)

*8va* ----- 3

*8vb*

**G**

S. (rit.) 68 (♩ = ♩.) ♩. = 116

A.

T.

B.

68 (rit.) (8va) loco (♩ = ♩.) ♩. = 116

*mf*

**G**

These measures may be omitted unless performing with orchestra.

73

80

# 3. Good Christian Friends Rejoice!

*for the Luther College Juletide Festival 2001*

SATB with Piano (or Organ)

*arranged by*  
Gwyneth Walker

With a joyful lilt  $\text{♩.} = 116$

Piano  
(or Organ)

$f$

$*$

$(\text{sim.})$

\*Organ: Omit upper note L.H. in all similar passages.

7

S. A. T. B.

**A**

$f$  joyfully\*

Re - joice! Re - joice! —

$f$  joyfully\*

Re - joice! Re - joice! —

$f$  joyfully\*

Good Chris - tian men re - joice — with

$f$  joyfully\*

Good Chris - tian men re - joice — with

**A**

$mf$

\* At this quick tempo, the singing should focus on rhythm and diction more than on tone.

13

S. *Re - joice! Re - joice!* \_\_\_\_\_ *News! News!*  
*with hushed excitement*

A. *Re - joice! Re - joice!* \_\_\_\_\_ *News! News!*  
*with hushed excitement*

T. *heart and soul and voice.* \_\_\_\_\_ *Give ye heed to what we say:* \_\_\_\_\_

B. *heart and soul and voice.* \_\_\_\_\_ *Give ye heed to what we say:* \_\_\_\_\_

\*Organ: sustain D, omit A

20

S. News! News! Re - joice! Re - joice! **B**

A. News! News! Re - joice! Re - joice!

T. Je - sus Christ is born to - day. Ox and cows be - fore him bow,

B. Je - sus Christ is born to - day. Ox and cows be - fore him bow,

Musical score for piano, page 20, section B. The score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Measure 1 starts with a dynamic of (cresc.) followed by a forte dynamic (mf). Measures 2-4 show a repeating pattern of eighth-note chords. Measure 5 begins with a dynamic of  $p$ . Measures 6-7 show a continuation of the eighth-note chords. Measure 8 ends with a dynamic of  $f$ . Measure 9 starts with a dynamic of  $p$ . Measure 10 ends with a dynamic of  $f$ . A box labeled "B" is placed above the first measure of section B. The instruction "no Ped." is written below the bass staff.

27

S. Ox and cows — Re - joice Re - joice! **rit.**

A. Ox and cows — Re - joice Re - joice!

T. — and he is in the man - ger now. **rit.**

B. — and he is in the man - ger now. **rit.**

27

(no Ped.) **rit.** **Red.** **Red.** **Red.** **Red.** **rit.**

**C** a tempo (♩. = 116)

S. Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!

A. Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!

T. Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!

B. Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!

**C** a tempo (♩. = 116)

33 **f** **no Ped.**

25

**D**

S. 40 (f) lightly  
Good Chris-tian wo-men re -

A. (f) lightly  
Good Chris-tian wo-men re -

T. 8

B.

Musical score for orchestra, page 10, section D. The score consists of two staves. The top staff shows a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, starting with a rest. The bottom staff shows harmonic bass notes. Measure numbers 40 and 41 are indicated above the staves. Section labels 'Ped.' and '(sim.)' are placed below specific measures. Dynamics 'mf' and 'f' are marked on the right side. A large square bracket labeled 'D' spans both staves.

46

S. joice with heart and soul and voice.

A. joice with heart and soul and voice.

T. *f. boisterously*  
Re-joice! Re - joice! — Re-joice! Re -

B. *f. boisterously*  
Re-joice! Re - joice! — Re-joice! Re -

46

F

52

S. Now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!

A. Now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!

T. joice! Joy! Joy! Joy! Re -   
 (f)

B. joice! Joy! Joy! Joy! Re -   
 (f)

52

\*Organ: sustain D

59

S. — He has o - pened the heav'n - ly door. And

A. — He has o - pened the heav'n - ly door. And

T. joice! Re - joice! — He has o - pened

B. joice! Re - joice! — He has o - pened

**E**

59

no Ped.

S. we are bless-ed e - ver-more. — Christ was born for this! —

A. we are bless-ed e - ver-more. — Christ was born for this! —

T. Re - joice! Re - joice! — Christ was born for this! —

B. Re - joice! Re - joice! — Christ was born for this! —

**rit.** (♩ = ♩)

S. (sim.)

**F** a tempo ♩. = 116

S. Christ was born for this! —

A. Christ was born for this! —

T. Christ was born for this! —

B. Christ was born for this! —

**F** a tempo ♩. = 116

S. no Ped.

28

**G**

S.

A.

T.

B.

poco accel. • • • • • • • *p*

Re -

Re -

*p*

Re - joyce! Re - joyce! Re - joyce! Re - joyce!

*p*

Re - joyce! Re - joyce! Re - joyce! Re - joyce!

Musical score for piano, page 78, section G. The score consists of two staves. The top staff shows a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The bottom staff shows a bass clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The music features a series of eighth-note chords and sustained notes. A large square box labeled 'G' is positioned above the first measure. The instruction 'poco accel.' is placed above the last measure, and 'poco Ped.' is placed below it.

83 (poco accel.) • • • • • •  
mp

88 (poco accel.) *mf* Quickly rit. . . . (♩ = ♩) Grandly ♩ = ca.176 (conduct in 1) 29

S. joice! Re-joice! Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice! Good Chris - tian friends re -

A. joice! Re-joice! Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice! Good Chris - tian friends re -

T. 8 Re - joice! Re - joice! Good Love at Christ - mas, Chris - tian friends re -

B. Re - joice! Re - joice! Good Love at Christ - mas, Chris - tian friends re -

(poco accel.) Quickly rit. . . . (♩ = ♩) Grandly ♩ = ca.176

95

S. joice \_\_\_\_\_ with heart — and soul — and voice. \_\_\_\_\_

A. joice \_\_\_\_\_ with heart — and soul — and voice. \_\_\_\_\_

T. <sup>8</sup> joice \_\_\_\_\_ with heart — and soul — and voice. \_\_\_\_\_

B. joice \_\_\_\_\_ with heart — and soul — and voice. \_\_\_\_\_

103

**I**

S. - - - - - *p* - - - - -  
 Peace! Peace!

A. - - - - - *p* - - - - -  
 Peace! Peace!

T. - - - - - *mf* - - - - -  
 Now ye need not fear the grave:

B. - - - - - *mf* - - - - -  
 Now ye need not fear the grave:

103 - - - - - **I** - - - - - *p* - - - - -  
 - - - - - *mf* - - - - -  
*Reo.* *8vb* - - - - -

S. - - - - - *mf* - - - - - **J** *f* - - - - -  
 Je - sus Christ was born to save! Calls us one and calls us

A. - - - - - *mf* - - - - - *f* - - - - -  
 Je - sus Christ was born to save! Calls us one and calls us

T. - - - - - *mf* - - - - - *f* - - - - -  
 Je - sus Christ was born to save! Calls us one and calls us

B. - - - - - *mf* - - - - - *f* - - - - -  
 Je - sus Christ was born to save! Calls us one and calls us

*III* *mf* - - - - - **J** - - - - - *f* - - - - -  
*Reo.* - - - - -

120

S. *mf* all, to gain his e - ver - last - ing hall.

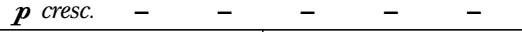
A. *mf* all, to gain his e - ver - last - ing hall.

T. *mf* all, to gain his e - ver - last - ing hall.

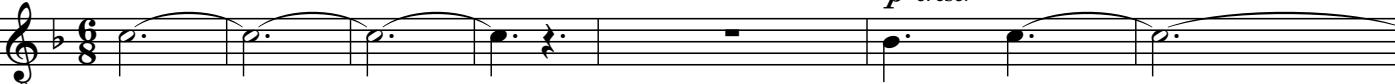
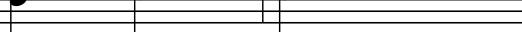
B. *mf* all, to gain his e - ver - last - ing hall.

120

135 K Quickly  $\text{d}.$  = 144

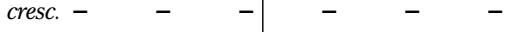
S.   
save! \_\_\_\_\_ News! 

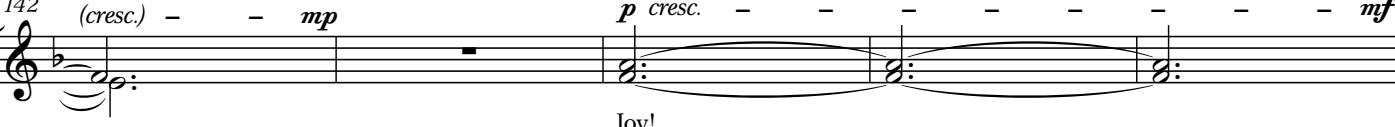
A.   
save! \_\_\_\_\_ News! 

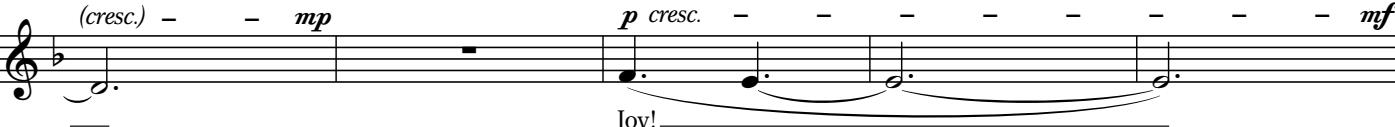
T.   
save! \_\_\_\_\_ News! 

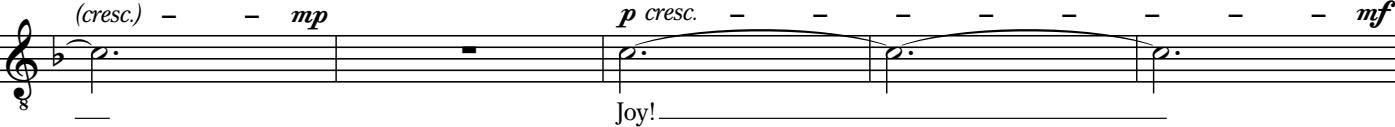
B.   
save! \_\_\_\_\_ News! 

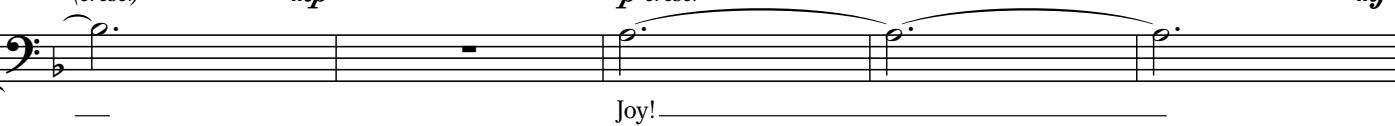
135 K Quickly  $\text{d}.$  = 144

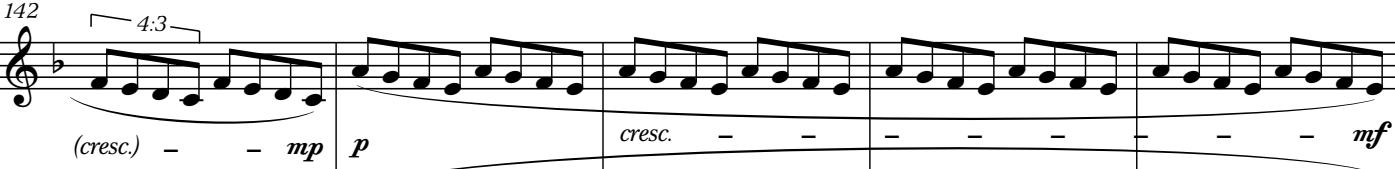
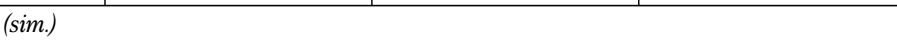
  
(sim.)   
*Reed.* \_\_\_\_\_

142 (cresc.) - - - *mp*   
Joy! \_\_\_\_\_

A. (cresc.) - - - *mp*   
Joy! \_\_\_\_\_

T. (cresc.) - - - *mp*   
Joy! \_\_\_\_\_

B. (cresc.) - - - *mp*   
Joy! \_\_\_\_\_

142   
*Reed.* \_\_\_\_\_ 



34

**M** Slower  $\text{d} = 88$ 

155

S. calls us one and calls us all *p* rit. . . . . *f* a tempo  
A. calls us one and calls us all *f*  
T. calls us one and calls us all *f*  
B. calls us one and calls us all *f* to gain his e - ver

**M** Slower  $\text{d} = 88$ 

freely, as a Trumpet cadenza

rit.

a tempo

155

*f* (f)

Organ Ped. stops here —

160

S. last - ing hall. *p* rit. . . . . *f* a tempo  
A. last - ing hall. *p* , *f*  
T. last - ing hall. *p* , *f*  
B. last - ing hall. *p* , *f* Give ye heed to what we say:  
Give ye heed to what we say:  
Give ye heed to what we say:  
Give ye heed to what we say:

160

(f)

Organ Ped. stops here — *f* rit. . . . . *f* a tempo  
Organ Ped. stops here — *f*

(*Leo.*)

♩. = 144 quickly and very joyously

171

S. *Play and play joyfully*

A.

T.

B.

day! \_\_\_\_\_ Re - joice! \_\_\_\_\_ Re - joice! \_\_\_\_\_ Re - joice! \_\_\_\_\_ Re -

day! \_\_\_\_\_ Re - joice! \_\_\_\_\_ Re - joice! \_\_\_\_\_ Re - joice! \_\_\_\_\_ Re -

day, to - day! Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice! Re -

day, to - day! Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice! Re -

**171** ♩. = 144 quickly and very joyously

36

**O**

177

S. joice! Re - joice!

A. joice! Re - joice!

T. joice! Re - joice!

B. joice! Re - joice!

**O**

177

**P**

182

S. Re - joice!

A. Re - joice!

T. Re - joice! Re -

B. Re - joice! Re -

**P**

182

187

S. Re - joice! Re - joice!

A. Re - joice! Re -

T. joice! Re - joice! Re - joice!

B. joice! Re - joice! Re - joice!

rit. to end

187

rit. to end

(rit.)

192

S. joice!

A. joice!

T. joice!

B. joice!

(rit.)

192