

Noel, Noel, Glad Tidings to Tell

Based on a Noel found in volume one of the *Nouvelles Poésies*, published in Paris between 1730 and 1737.

With three new verses of text written by

John Metz

The original source of this Noel is Volume One of the *Nouvelles Poésies* published in Paris between 1630 and 1737. The complete title page of this eight-volume series was *Nouvelles Poésies Spirituelles et Morales sur les plus beaux Airs de la Musique Française et Italienne, avec une Basse continue*. These volumes contained a variety of moral texts set to airs of the day, including music by Lully, Campra, Bacilly and François Couperin as well as various popular vaudeville tunes. Poetic settings of the Fables of La Fontaine made up the final section of each volume, and these settings formed the basis of my DMA Dissertation (The Juilliard School, 1980), *The Fables of La Fontaine, A Critical Edition of the Eighteenth Century Vocal Settings*, subsequently published by Pendragon Press in 1986. I discovered this seemingly unknown noel when I was working on the dissertation, and I vowed to return to it "someday." Well, here I am, thirty-one years later!

The original French text (consisting of one verse only) would not be palatable to most Christians today. The staunch moral tone was full of condemnation and salvation -- hardly suitable to our idea of Christmas. I have written three verses suitable to all eras, and although they may have special appeal to my fellow Unitarian Universalists, I believe that all thoughtful people will find value in the intended message. I have endeavored to keep the rhyme scheme and the syllabic nature of the original French Noel. The original was in d minor; I've made my arrangement available in d minor or transposed to c minor. (Contact me if you want a different transposition.)

I don't know the composer of the original music; I would be grateful should any reader be able to identify it to me. The manuscript gives only a solo vocal line with a lightly figured basso continuo part. In addition to this solo version I have prepared a SATB realization available upon request. I moved the music one beat earlier in relationship to the bar-lines, as I think the original was mis-barred.

You are welcome to copy the music and to perform it at no charge. However, I would appreciate knowing when you are performing it. JohnMetz@ct.metrocast.net www.MetzMusic.com 860 437 7170

Thanks[™]

John Metz

text by John Metz

harmonization and accompaniment by John Metz

Moderato

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

No - el! No-el! Glad tid-ings to tell. A

Moderato

Piano

f

rit *simile*

4

child is born on this star - lit night, to bring a mes-sage of truth so bright, a

child is born on this star - lit night, to bring a mes-sage of truth so bright, a

child is born on this star - lit night, to bring a mes-sage of truth so bright, a

6

1. 2.

pro-phet, ex - em - plar of loves' de - light. No - pro-phet, ex - em - plar of loves' de - light. A

pro-phet, ex - em - plar of loves' light. pro-phet, ex - em - plar of loves' light. A

pro-phet, ex - em - plar of loves' de-light. pro-phet, ex - em - plar of loves' de-light. A

8

son of man, teach-ing - us tol - er-ance, all fel - low trav' lers de - ser-ving of re - ve-rance,

son of man, teach - us to - ler-ance. All trav' lers de - ser - ving re - ve - rance,

son of man, teach - us to - ler-ance. All trav-lers de - ser - ving re - ve-rance,

Spi - rit e - ter - nal who calls us all to nur - ture, love, and care for crea-tures both

Spi - rit e - ter - nal who calls us all to nur - ture, love, and care for all.

Spr - rit e - ter - nal who calls us all to nur - ture, love, and care for all.

10

Spi - rit e - ter - nal who calls us all to nur - ture, love, and care for crea-tures both

Spi - rit e - ter - nal who calls us all to nur - ture, love, and care for all.

Spr - rit e - ter - nal who calls us all to nur - ture, love, and care for all.

12

great and small. A spi-rit con-fes-sing no-thing dis-tres-sing Bles-sing us!
 For crea-tures both great and small. Sing No-el Sing No-el
 For crea-tures both great and small. Sing No-el Sing No-el

14

Verse two (a capella)

Guide me gen-tly to fol-low your call. Guide us gen-tly to fol-low your call. No-el No-el, Glad tid-ings to tell. A
 Guide us gen-tly to fol-low your call. Guide us gen-tly to fol-low your-call. A
 Guide us gen-tly to fol-low your call. Guide us gen-tly to fol-low your call. A

(optional bass support)

17

child is born on this star - lit night, to bring a mes-sage of truth so bright, a pro-phet, ex-em-plar of loves' de-light. A

child is born on this star - lit night, to bring a mes-sage of truth so bright, a pro-phet, ex-em-plar of loves' de-light.

child is born on this star - lit night, to bring a mes-sage of truth so bright, a pro-phet, ex-em-plar of loves' de-light.

20

soprano(s) or tenor(s) solo

man of love, prea-ching non vi - o-lence, spea-king new truths, dis - re - gar-ding - all con - se-quence,

22

tutti

Make your ex - am - ple our fer - vent creed. Be strong, our souls that our com - mit - ment will

Be strong, our souls, Be strong, our souls.

Be strong, our souls, Be strong, our souls.

24

soon suc - ceed. With vio - lence pro - tes - ting, hun - ger ar - res - ting Bles - sing us!

com - mit - ment will soon suc - ceed. *piano* Sing No - el Sing No - el.

com - mit - ment will soon - su - ceed. *piano* Sing No - el Sing No - el.

26 Interlude in canon

Urge us for-ward your will to pro-ceed. Urge us for-ward your will to pro-ceed. No

Urge us for-ward your will to pro-ceed. Urge us for-ward your will to pro-ceed. No

Urge us for-ward your will to pro-ceed. Urge us for-ward your will to pro-ceed.

accompaniment optional
mp

Ped

29

el No-el! Glad ti dings to tell, No - el! No-el! Glad ti dings to tell, No - el! No-el! Glad ti-dings to tell, No

el No-el! Glad ti dings to tell, No - el! No-el! Glad ti dings to tell, No - el! No-el! Glad ti-dings to tell, No

No-el! No-el! Glad ti dings to tell, No-el! No-el! Glad ti-dings to tell, No-el! No-el! Glad

No-el! No-el! Glad ti dings to tell, No-el! No-el! Glad ti-dings to tell, No-el! No-el! Glad

Ped

32

Verse three

el! No - el! Glad ti - dings to tell. No - el! No - el! Glad ti - dings to tell. A

el! No - el! No - el! Glad ti - dings to tell. No - el! No - el! No - el! A

ti - dings to tell. No - el! No - el! Glad ti - dings to tell. No - el! No - el! A

ti - dings to tell. No - el! No - el! Glad ti - dings to tell. No - el! A

simile

34

child is born on this star - lit night, to bring a mes - sage of truth so bright, a pro - phet, ex - em - plar of loves' de - light. We

child is born on this star - lit night, to bring a mes - sage of truth so bright, a pro - phet, ex - em - plar of loves' de - light. We

child is born on this star - lit night, to bring a mes - sage of truth so bright, a pro - phet, ex - em - plar of loves' de - light. We

child is born on this star - lit night, to bring a mes - sage of truth so bright, a pro - phet, ex - em - plar of loves' de - light. We

simile

37

take your lead, put on hu-mil - i - ty, trans-send-ing dif-fer-ences end-ing hos-til - i - ty,
 take your lead, put on - hu - mil - i - ty, trans - scend dif-feren-ces, end hos - til - i - ty,
 take your lead, put on hu - mil - i - ty, trans - scend dif - fer-ences, end hos - til - i - ty,

39

joined as one peo-ple in pure de-light, with peace e - ter - nal, love and wis-dom that
 joined as one peo-ple in pure de-light, with peace e - ter - nal, love and wis-dom.
 joined as one peo-ple in pure de-light, with peace e - ter - nal, love and wis-dom.

41

shines so bright. Oh Spi-rit trans-cen-ding, all souls de-fend-ing, men-ding us,
and wis-dom that shines so bright. Sing No-el! Sing No-el!

and wis-dom that shines - so-bright. Sing No-el! Sing No-el!

43

rall.

Still my soul on this ho-ly night. Calm our souls on this ho-ly night.
piano *pianissimo*

Still my soul on this ho-ly night. Calm our souls on this ho-ly night.
piano *pianissimo*

Still my soul on this ho-ly night. Calm our souls on this ho-ly night.
piano *pianissimo*

Still my soul on this ho-ly night. Calm our souls on this ho-ly night.
piano *pianissimo*

rall.

piano *pianissimo*

45

45

46

47

48

49