

CCM405

Craig Carnahan



*Carol of
the Birds*

S.S.A. and handbells



Craig Carnahan Music
craigcarnahan.com

Carol of the Birds

Upon this holy night,
When God's great star appears,
And floods the earth with brightness
Birds' voices rise in song
And sounding all night long
Express their glad heart's lightness.

The nightingale is first
To bring its song of cheer,
And tell us of His gladness:
Jesus, our Lord, is born
To free us from all sin
And banish ev'ry sadness!

The answ'ring Sparrow cries:
"God comes to earth this day
Amid the angels flying."
Singing in sweetest tones,
The Finch its Lord now owns:
"To Him be all thanksgiving."

The Partridge adds its note:
"To Bethlehem I'll fly,
Where in the stall He's lying.
There, near the manger blest,
I'll build myself a nest,
And sing my love undying."

El Cant Dels Ocells

traditional Catalonian carol
translator unknown

Carol of the Birds

Craig Carnahan (b. 1951)

Handbells (B.C.)



Handbell introduction in bass clef, key of D major, 3/4 time. It consists of a whole note D4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note F#4, and a whole note G4.

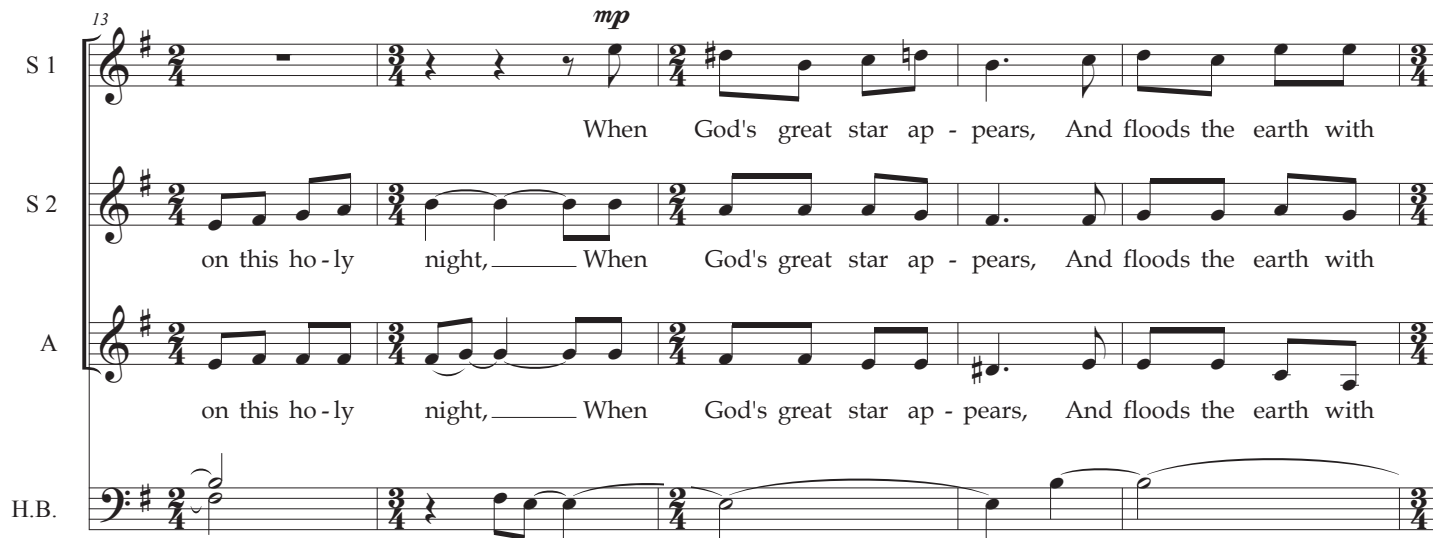
Sustained, with a sense of mystery ♩ = 66

5



Musical score for measures 5-12. It features four staves: S1 (Soprano 1), S2 (Soprano 2), A (Alto), and H.B. (Handbells). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked 'Sustained, with a sense of mystery' with a quarter note equal to 66. The dynamics are marked 'mp' (mezzo-piano). The S1, S2, and A staves have whole rests for most of the passage. The H.B. staff has a melodic line with slurs. At the end of measure 12, S2 and A have a quarter rest followed by a quarter note G4, marked 'Up-mp'.

13



Musical score for measures 13-16. It features four staves: S1 (Soprano 1), S2 (Soprano 2), A (Alto), and H.B. (Handbells). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The dynamics are marked 'mp'. The lyrics are: "When God's great star ap - pears, And floods the earth with on this ho - ly night, ——— When God's great star ap - pears, And floods the earth with". The S1 staff has a melodic line starting in measure 13. The S2 and A staves have a similar melodic line. The H.B. staff has a melodic line with slurs.

c. 4 minutes

Tune: *El Cant Dels Ocells* (trad. Catalonian carol)
Translator unknown

18 *mf*

S 1 bright - ness_ Birds' voic-es rise in song And sound-ing all night long Ex -

S 2 bright-ness_ Birds' voic-es rise in song And sound - ing all night long Ex -

A bright-ness_ Birds' voic-es rise in song And sound-ing all night long Ex -

H.B. *mf*

24 *mp*

S 1 press their glad heart's light - ness. _____

S 2 press their glad heart's light - ness. _____ The night - in -

A press their glad heart's light - ness. _____ The night-in-gale is

H.B. *mp*

34 *mp* *mf*

S 1 To bring its song of cheer, And tell us of His glad - ness: _____

S 2 gale is first _____ And tell us of His glad - ness: _____ "Je - sus _____ is

A first To bring its song of cheer, And tell us of His glad - ness: _____ "Je - sus, our Lord, is

H.B. *mf*

41

S1 *mp*
"To free us from all sin And ban-ish ev'-ry sad - ness!"

S2 *mp*
born To free us from all sin And ban-ish ev'-ry sad - ness!"

A *mp*
born_ To free us from all sing And ban-ish ev'-ry sad - ness!"

H.B. *mp*

48

S1 *p*
Je-sus, our Lord, is born To free us from all sin And ban-ish ev'-ry sad - ness! —

S2 *p*
Je-sus, our Lord, is born To free us from all sin_ And ban-ish ev'-ry sad - ness! —

A *p*
Je-sus, our Lord, is born To free us from all sin And ban-ish ev'-ry sad - ness! —

H.B. *p*

56

S1 *mp* *mf*
The answ'-ring spar - row cries: "God

S2 *mp* *mf*
The answ'-ring spar - row cries: "God

A *mf*
"God

H.B. *mp*

62

S 1 comes to earth this day A - mid the an-gels fly - ing." The

S 2 comes to earth this day A - mid the an-gels fly - ing." Sing - ing in tones, The

A comes to earth this day A - mid the an-gels fly - ing." Sing - ing in sweet-est tones, The

H.B. *mf*

68

S 1 finch its Lord now owns: "To Him be all thanks - giv - ing." *mp*

S 2 finch its Lord now owns: "To Him be all thanks - giv - ing." *mp*

A finch its Lord now owns: "To Him be all thanks - giv - ing." *mp*

H.B. *mp*

75

S 1 "To Beth-le-hem I'll fly, Where in the stall He's *mp*

S 2 The part-ridge adds its note: "To Beth-le-hem I'll fly, Where in the stall He's *mp*

A The part-ridge adds its note: "To Beth-le-hem I'll fly, Where in the stall He's *mp*

H.B. *mp*