

By Candlelight is a stunning and elegant telling of the manger story, describing how beautiful that first Christmas night must have been as the events unfold in picturesque beauty “by candlelight.” The gentle and lyrical music ebbs and flows beautifully as it perfectly complements the lovely text.

In rehearsal, strive for smooth, fluid phrases that arch at the apex and connect seamlessly. Be sure to enunciate clearly so the words can be understood. Pay careful attention to the dynamic contrasts as the song begins softly, builds through the middle, and ends gently and reverently, leaving the listener with an extraordinary mental picture of the manger scene “by candlelight.”

Ruth Elaine Schram lives in Birmingham, Alabama, where she is a full-time composer and arranger. She currently has over 2,000 published works for all types of choirs, soloists, instrumentalists, and keyboard. In addition to her printed choral music, her songs appear on numerous albums and videos and have been heard on various television shows. Visit her website at www.choralmusic.com.

BY CANDLELIGHT

for 2-Part Mixed voices, with opt. descant, accompanied*

Words and Music by
RUTH ELAINE SCHRAM (ASCAP)

Tenderly (♩ = ca. 88-92)

ACCOMP.



4 PART 1 5 *mp*

There is a Ba - by tucked in a man - ger, —

PART 2 *mp*



7

sleep - ing tight and o - ver the man - ger,



* To purchase a full-length performance recording (42931) of this piece, go to alfred.com/downloads.
Also available: S.A.T.B. (SV 9943), 3-Part Mixed (SV 9944), S.S.A.A. (SVM 01001), 2-Part Treble (SV 9945).
Accompaniment CD (SV 9943 CD).

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there is a star that is shin - ing bright in the night,

Piano accompaniment for the first system.

13

mf

grad. rit.

show - ing the world the way to the place where He sleeps up - on the

Piano accompaniment for the second system.

16

mp

a tempo

hay; and we make our way by can - dle - light.

Piano accompaniment for the third system.

mp

a tempo



20

Musical notation for measures 20-22. The vocal line consists of whole rests. The piano accompaniment features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, both in a key with one sharp (F#).

23

mp

Musical notation for measures 23-24. The vocal line includes the lyrics: "An - i - mals share their hum - ble a - bode with Him will - ing - ly,". The piano accompaniment continues with a melody and bass line.

mp

Piano accompaniment for measures 23-24, showing the right and left hand parts.

26

Musical notation for measures 25-26. The vocal line includes the lyrics: "but they seem to be ask - ing, 'Why has He come, and -". The piano accompaniment continues.

Piano accompaniment for measures 25-26, showing the right and left hand parts.

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29

who is He? Is He roy - al - ty?" *mf* Gent - ly, the moth - er

Gent - ly,

32

sings to the Child lul - la - bies fit for a King and she *grad. rit.* *mp*

Ma - ry sings for a King;

35

soft - ly sings *a tempo* by can - dle - light.

38

Measures 38-40: Vocal line (treble clef) and piano accompaniment (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The vocal line is mostly rests. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

Measures 41-43: Vocal line (treble clef) and piano accompaniment (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The vocal line begins with the lyrics. The piano accompaniment continues with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present.

41

Measures 41-43: Vocal line (treble clef) and piano accompaniment (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The vocal line begins with the lyrics. The piano accompaniment continues with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present.

Flick - er - ing can - dles, twin - kling stars shine like dia - monds in mid - night

Measures 41-43: Piano accompaniment (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The piano accompaniment continues with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

44

Measures 44-46: Vocal line (treble clef) and piano accompaniment (treble and bass clefs). The key signature changes to one flat (Bb). The vocal line continues with the lyrics. The piano accompaniment continues with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present.

Shim - mer - ing snow is re - flect - ing their

blue.

Measures 44-46: Piano accompaniment (treble and bass clefs). The key signature changes to one flat (Bb). The piano accompaniment continues with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

spar - kle in ev - 'ry hue. There is a sense of

won - der, for our faith has been re - newed, as we

mp *poco rit.*

mp *poco rit.*

see His face in this sim - ple place

rit.

rit.

56

a tempo

by can - dle - light.

8va - - - - -

a tempo

cresc.

61

DESCANT (opt.)

mf

(met.)

59

O - ver the man - ger,

O ver the man - ger,

mf

mf

an - gels spread their wings;

while

62

an - gels spread their gold - en wings;

while

10 He is pre-sent - ed price - less treas - ure and love - ly things,

65

He is pre-sent - ed price - less treas - ure and love - ly things,

Musical notation for measures 65-67, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

68 gifts from kings. **69** (Descant rejoins section)

gifts from kings. What could we of - fer? What could we bring to this

Musical notation for measures 68-69, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

What could we bring

Musical notation for measures 70-71, including piano accompaniment.

71 *grad. rit.* *mp*

Ba - by from a - bove? We will bring our love.

Musical notation for measures 71-72, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

from a - bove? We will

grad. rit. *mp*

Musical notation for measures 73-74, including piano accompaniment.

74

We will bring our love by can - dle -
bring our love by can - dle -

l.h. *g^{va}*

77

a tempo

rit. e dim. al fine

light, by can - dle - light
light, by can - dle - light, by can - dle -

a tempo *rit. e dim. al fine*

80

by can - dle - light.
light, by can - dle - light.

g^{va} *pp*