

to celebrate the birth of Nicholas James Bush

# THE SHEPHERDS' NOWELL

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied,\*  
with optional flute\*\*

Incorporating *THE FIRST NOWELL*  
Words and Music by ANNA LAURA PAGE

Gently (♩ = ca. 96-100)

FLUTE

ACCOMP.

5 (tacet)

⑨ SOPRANO & ALTO Unison  
*mp*

Lit-tle lambs lay sleep - ing, shep-herds watch were keep - ing;

TENOR & BASS Unison  
*mp*

\* Also available for S.A.B. voices, No. 16091, and unison or 2-part voices, No. 16092.

\*\* Flute part may be found on page 8.

13

Sud-den-ly a star-ry host ap-peared in the sky.

17

*mf*

Al-le-lu-ias sing-ing, glad-some tid-ings bring-ing:

21

On this night the Sav-ior Je-sus is born!

25

26

Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now -

29

ell! Born is the King of Is - ra -

33

*mp*

el.

FLUTE

*mp*

33

*mp*

37 *mp unis.*  
 Oo —

*\* (tacet)*

37

41 *mf unis.*  
 Oo —  
 Have no fear, but hur - ry to the man - ger low - ly;

45 *mp*  
 There you'll find the new-born King a - sleep on the hay. Oo —

\* Flute may double melody of "The First Nowell" in mm. 40-57 (see flute part on page 8).

49 *mf*

Bow\_ down be - fore Him, wor-ship and a - dore Him;

Oo —

53

On this night the Sav - ior Je - sus is born.

Je - sus is born.

57 *f* 58 *dim.*

Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now -

*f* *dim.*

*f* *dim.*

61 *mf unis.*

ell! Shep-herds sing Now - ell, Now -

*unis. mf*

Shep - herds sing Now -

*mf*

65 *rit. e dim. poco a poco*

ell, Now - ell.

*rit. e dim. poco a poco*

ell,  
FLUTE

*mp rit. e dim. poco a poco*

65 *rit. e dim. poco a poco*

*p*

*p*

The image shows a musical score for 'The Shepherds' Nowell'. It consists of four systems of staves. The first system includes vocal staves for soprano and bass, and a piano accompaniment. The second system continues the vocal and piano parts. The third system introduces a flute part. The fourth system continues the piano accompaniment. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mf*, *mp*, and *p*, and performance instructions like *rit. e dim. poco a poco*. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

**The Shepherds' Nowell** is a Christmas anthem that incorporates the beloved traditional carol *The First Nowell*. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Psalm 97, Isaiah 62: 6-12, Luke 2: 1-20 and Titus 3: 4-7. One basic homiletical theme is that the first to see the infant Jesus were the meek and lowly, the shepherds and the animals in the manger.

This gentle Christmas anthem is best performed with flowing four-measure phrases and an overall feeling of one pulse per measure. The newly-composed melody in mm. 9-25 is repeated in mm. 41-57 in counterpoint with the beloved carol tune *The First Nowell*. Strive to achieve a beautifully focused unison choral timbre with all singers rehearsing both melodies. Randomly divide the choir and practice both melodies simultaneously until they are well-balanced (the carol tune should be sung more softly than the newly-composed melody).

**Anna Laura Page** is Handbell Editor for Alfred Publishing Company. She received her B.M.E. in vocal music education and M.M. in music theory from the University of Kentucky. Active as a composer, clinician, and organ recitalist, she has served on the Music Committee of the Southern Baptist Hymnal Committee and has received the ASCAP Standards Award annually for the past several years. Ms. Page currently resides in Sherman, Texas, where her husband Oscar is president of Austin College.

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FLUTE

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