

Shepherds and Angels
Cradle Hymn

by Pamela J. Marshall
for SATB chorus & piano



Spindrift
Music Company

Notes for Shepherds and Angels

Old American Christmas songs by Pamela J. Marshall

This piece is one of the movements of Shepherds and Angels, arranged for SATB and piano, omitting the violin and harp soloists. The duration of the complete set is 25 minutes.

Sources for tunes include *Southern Harmony* compiled by William Walker, William Billings, and Ruth Crawford Seeger's *American Folk Songs for Christmas*.

Notes from the composer

"I've been intrigued with less familiar American carols for a long time. After discovering Ruth Crawford Seeger's *American Folk Songs for Christmas* when I was just out of college, I've treasured those melodies and arranged them into horn duets and solo songs for performing in the Boston subway, created an orchestral set called *Three Appalachian Carols*, and also did variations on *Star in the East* for 8 horns.

Recently I got a hankering to work with my favorite Appalachian carols again after doing recording for a local choral concert that included Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* and Susa's southwestern *Carols and Lullabies*. My friend Mary Neumann, director of the Halalisa Singers, was immediately interested. I was familiar with several old tunes, she suggested a few, and I found more as I looked at old sources like William Billings and *Southern Harmony*.

The result is *Shepherds and Angels*, approximately 25 minutes long, with a prelude and 9 songs. The instrumentation is SATB chorus, harp, and violin. The music has a strong traditional feeling, with some spicy harmonies and instrumental interludes."

Premiered by

The Genevans, directed by Robert Copeland,
Geneva College, Beaver Falls, PA, December 2 & 3, 2011

The Master Singers, directed by Adam Grossman,
Lexington, MA, December 11, 2011

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Cradle Hymn

1. Hush my babe lie still and slumber
Holy angels guard thy bed.
Heav'nly blessings without number
Gently stealing on thy head.
2. How much better art thou attended
Than the Son of God could be
When from heaven he descended
And became a child like thee.
3. Soft and easy is thy cradle,
Coarse and hard the Savior lay
When His birthplace was a stable
And His softest bed was hay.

"Cradle Hymn" (Kentucky) is in Seeger's *American Folk Songs for Christmas* and is from *Devil's Ditties: being stories of the Kentucky mountain people, told by Jean Thomas with the songs they sing* (1931). The similar tune "Restoration" is from *Southern Harmony* No. 5b. Words by hymnist Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Dur: 3:25 min.

Scores and parts available from
Spindrift Music Company
38 Dexter Road
Lexington, MA 02420

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Cradle Hymn

Pamela J. Marshall

Source: Ruth Crawford Seeger's American Folk Songs for Christmas
Seeger's source: Devil's Ditties: being stories of the Kentucky mountain people,
told by Jean Thomas with the songs they sing (1931).
Source of the similar tune "Restoration": Southern Harmony No. 5b, anonymous composer
Words by hymnist Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Mvt. 8 of Shepherds and Angels for chorus, violin, harp & tambourine by Marshall

Andante ♩ = 76

p *espressivo*

Piano

4

Pno.

6 (Tune: Cradle Hymn)

mp

S.
Hush, my babe, lie still and slum - ber, Ho - ly an - gels guard thy bed.

pp

A.
Ah...

pp

T.
Ah...

pp

B.
Ah...

Pno.

Ped.

Cradle Hymn - Marshall

10

S. Heav'n-ly bless-ings with - out_ num - ber Gen - tly steal - ing on thy head.

A. Ah...

T. Ah...

B. Ah...

Pno.

14 **A**

S.

A. Ah...

T. Ah...

B. Ah...

Pno. *mp* *p* *p* *mp*

(Tune: Restoration)

Cradle Hymn - Marshall

18 *pp*

S. Ah...

A. Ah...

T. solo (tenor or baritone) or men unison *mp*

B. *mp*

Pno. *mp*

How much bet - ter art thou at - tend - ed Than the Son of God could be When from heav - en

23 **B**

S. Ah...

A. Ah...

T. *mp*

B. *mp*

Pno. *mp*

he des - cend - ed And be - came a child like thee.

Cradle Hymn - Marshall

27

Pno.

(Tune: Cradle Hymn)
solo or section

30

S.

Soft and ea - sy is thy cra - dle, Coarse and hard the Sa - vior lay.

Pno.

p

34

S.

When His birth - place was a sta - ble And his soft - est bed was hay.

Pno.

38

C all humming
mp

S.

Ah...

mp

A.

Ah...

Pno.

mp molto espressivo

Cradle Hymn - Marshall

43

S. Ah...

A. Ah...

Pno.

47

Pno.

cresc.

dim.

50

S. *pp* Ah...

A. *pp* Ah...

T. *pp* Ah...

B. *pp* Ah...

Pno. *p*

rit. . . .



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Selected Music by Pamela J. Marshall

Orchestra

Triptoe Suite (2222-4221, 1pc, timp, strings) in 4 mvts
Through the Mist (2222-2220, harp, 3pc, timp, strings) in 3 mvts
A chill wind in autumn (solo voice, 2222-4221-3pc, strings)
Traditional Christmas (treble chorus or soloist, 2222-4221, harp, 3pc, timp, strings)
Three Appalachian Carols (2222-4231, harp, 2pc, timp, strings)

Keyboard

Suite for harpsichord or piano
For piano: Daydream, Stomp, Imagine That Time Stops
Wordless Prayer for piano or organ
Playbook (Pacem Student Composing Project) for piano

Chorus & Solo Voice

Deepest Shade for SATB chorus
The Future of Life for SATB chorus, trombone, piano
Shepherds and Angels for SATB chorus, violin, harp, tamborine
Songs from a Quaker Heart for SATB chorus, piano
Weaving the World for SATB chorus, oboe, piano
Windshine for SATB chorus and cello
Wordless Prayer for SATB chorus

The Bee Song for SSAA or SATB chorus, piano
Grand grand mother is returning for SSAA or SATB chorus, piano
How Spiders Came to Hawaii for SATB, trombone, piano

Body and Soul Vol.1 for mezzo-soprano and string trio
Body and Soul Vol.2 for soprano, flute, cello, piano
Ariel's Songs for high or medium voice and piano
Remember the Old Songs for high voice and piano
Sky's Mirror for voice and cello
A chill wind in autumn for voice and piano

Strings

Arcanum for solo violin, Soliloquy for solo cello
Elusive Sleep for cello and piano
Pascal's Theorems for cello and doublebass
Truth Becoming for string quartet
Soliloquy for cello
Rising for viola
Quinteto sobre las poemas de Carlos Pintado for violin, viola, cello, doublebass, piano
Through the Mist for flute, violin, harp or guitar

Winds & Brass

Poetry-Inspired solos for flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn
Enchanted for oboe and chamber orchestra or piano
Wanderer for brass quintet
Resonances for alto saxophone, trumpet, 2 trombones, percussion
Waves and Fountains for oboe, horn, piano
"wild horn whose voice the woodland fills" for 8 horns
Black Bear Dance for horn quartet (or choir) and drums
Zoa for flute and harp

Recordings

Through the Mist on Ravello Records: chamber music for winds, strings, harp
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