Shepherds and Angels Shepherds in Judea by Pamela J. Marshall CATD chorus & piano





# **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

### Supported by

Spindrift Commissioning Guild, with much thanks to Nancy Burdine and Carson Cooman

### **Shepherds in Judea**

- As shepherds in darkness were guarding their sheep, Promisc'ously seated, estranged from sleep, An angel from heaven presented to view, And thus he accosted the trembling few; Dispel all your sorrows and banish your fears, For Jesus your Lord in Judea appears.
- Though Adam the first in rebellion was found, Forbidden to tarry in hallowed ground; Yet Adam the second appears to retrieve The loss you sustain'd by the Devil and Eve.
  - The loss you sustain a by the Devin and Eve. Then shepherds, be tranquil, this instant arise, Go visit your Savior and see where He lies.
- 3. A token I leave you, whereby you may find This heavenly stranger, this friend to mankind: A manger His cradle, a stall His abode, The oxen are near him and blow on your God. Then shepherds, be humble, be meek and lie low, For Jesus your Savior's abundantly so.
- 4. This wonderous story scarce cool'd on the ear, When thousands of angels in glory appear, They join in the concert, and this was the theme:
  - All glory to God, and good will towards men. Then shepherds, strike in, join your voice to the choir, And catch a few sparks of celestial fire.

"Emanuel" by William Billings (1746-1800), published in Billings' *The Psalm-Singer's Amusement*, 1781. Dur: 2:50 min.

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

781-862-0884 info@spindrift.com www.spindrift.com

### **Shepherds in Judea**

Source: "Emanuel" by William Billings (1746-1800), published in Billings' The Psalm-Singer's Amusement, 1781.

Mvt. 6 of Shepherds and Angels for chorus, violin, harp & tambourine by Marshall



Shepherds in Judea - Marshall





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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 Visit www.spindrift.com for complete list. Demos available for many titles