

Noble Magi  
Nancy Gifford

CGA1665  
Unison/two-part with piano  
and finger cymbals



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# Noble Magi



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Choristers Guild is a 501c3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to enable leaders to nurture the musical and spiritual growth of children, youth, and adults.

## Performance Notes

This piece, based on the Gospel narrative in Matthew 2:1-12, works well with intermediate or advanced treble choirs (unison or two-part) as well as mixed youth and adult choirs.

*Voicing suggestions for mixed choir:*

Measures	Suggested Part(s)
3-6	TB
8-11	SA
12-13	SATB
15-16	SA <i>div.</i>
17-18	TB <i>div.</i>
19-20	SA <i>div.</i>
20-22	SATB (Altos/Tenors sing optional notes in m. 22)
25-27	SA
28-29	SATB
31-32	TB
33-35	SATB
36-37	TB
38-39	SA
40-41	SATB

Legato singing and observing dynamic markings and articulations will add drama and meaning to this haunting story. For example, when the star ‘*stops*’ in measure 26, singers should be perfectly still on that word, gradually energizing each subsequent phrase. When the text repeats in measures 33-34, we are led to the climax of the piece and the moving resolution of this story. The Magi find Christ and worship him, and the question posed at the beginning is answered.

*And then they go*, as quietly as they entered the scene, cloaked in mystery.

*Noble Magi* would be ideal for Christmas pageants or concerts and could also be sung at the Feast of the Epiphany/Epiphany of Our Lord.

Gratefully yours,  
Nancy Gifford

# Noble Magi

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Andante con moto e misterioso (♩ = 66)

Finger Cymbals

The Finger Cymbals part begins with a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It features a single measure with a half note G4, marked *mp*. The Piano introduction follows in the same key and time, marked *mp legato*. The right hand plays a series of chords and moving lines, while the left hand provides a steady accompaniment.

Unison  
*mp legato*

3

Trav - el through the des - ert sand, jour - ney to a dis - tant land.

The Unison vocal line starts at measure 3 with a half note G4, marked *mp legato*. The lyrics are "Trav - el through the des - ert sand, jour - ney to a dis - tant land." The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines in the right hand and a steady accompaniment in the left hand.

5

*mf*

Why so long and why so far, sim - ply guid - ed by a star?

The Unison vocal line starts at measure 5 with a half note G4, marked *mf*. The lyrics are "Why so long and why so far, sim - ply guid - ed by a star?" The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines in the right hand and a steady accompaniment in the left hand.

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7

*mp*

No - ble ma - gi worn and wise,

*mp*

9

*mf*

look - ing in - to mid - night skies. Why so long and why so far,

*mf*

11

*mp*

*mp*

sim - ply guid - ed by a star? Where do they go?

*mp*

14

Part I  
*mf*

Car - a - van of cam - els cross the des - ert wild.

Part II (optional)  
*mf*

Car - a - van of cam - els cross the des - ert wild. —

*mf dolce*

17

*f*

East - ern sag - es lead them on, search - ing for the child.

*f*

East - ern sag - es lead them on, search - ing for the child.

*f*

19 *mf* *dolce*

Bear - ing pre - cious treas - ure, in - cense, myrrh and gold;

*mf* *dolce*

Bear - ing pre - cious treas - ure, in - cense, myrrh and gold;—

21 *f*

hon-or-ing the new-born King, proph-e-cy fore-told.

*f*

hon-or-ing the new-born King, proph-e-cy fore-told.

24

*rit.* *mp* *a tempo*

*rit.* *mp* *a tempo*

*rit.* *mp* *a tempo*

*rit.* *p* *a tempo*

Guid-ing star, it moves no more, stops be-side an

Guid-ing star, it moves no more, stops be-side an

27

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

o - pen door; wel - com - ing the wise men three, who

o - pen door; wel - com - ing the wise men three, who

29

I  
II

wor - ship Christ on bend - ed knee.

wor - ship Christ on bend - ed knee.

31 *mf*

I  
II

*mf*

Guid - ing star, it moves no more, stops be - side an o - pen door;

*mf*

Guid - ing star, it moves no more, stops be - side an o - pen door;

*mf*



33 *f*

wel-com-ing the wise men three, who\_ wor - ship Christ on bend-ed knee, who\_

wel-com-ing the wise men three, who wor - ship Christ on bend-ed knee, who

*f*

35

*rit.* *a tempo* *mp*

wor-ship Christ on bend-ed knee. And then they go,

wor-ship Christ on bend-ed knee. And then they go,

*rit.* *a tempo* *mp*

*rit.* *a tempo* *mp*

38

*poco rit.*

I  
and then they go,

II  
and then they go,

*poco rit.*

*poco rit.*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 38 and 39. It features three staves: two vocal staves (I and II) and a piano accompaniment staff. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal staves have lyrics "and then they go," with a fermata over the final note. The piano accompaniment consists of a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The tempo marking *poco rit.* is present at the beginning and end of the section.

40

*p*

I  
*mf* they go. *mp*

II  
*mf* they go. *mp*

*p*

*8vb*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 40 and 41. It features three staves: two vocal staves (I and II) and a piano accompaniment staff. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal staves have lyrics "they go." with a fermata over the final note. The piano accompaniment consists of a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The tempo marking *p* is present at the beginning and end of the section. The dynamic markings *mf* and *mp* are indicated for the vocal parts. An *8vb* marking is present at the bottom right of the piano staff.





Other Unison/two-part and SSA titles for Advent, Christmas,  
and Epiphany from Choristers Guild:

*Waiting!*

Toni Sullivan  
Unison/two-part with piano  
CGA1653

*Each Little Lamb*

Diane Beckstead  
Unison/two-part with piano  
CGA1664

*Light of Hope (A Trilogy for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany)*

Mark Patterson  
Unison with piano and optional handbells or handchimes  
CGA1552

*Prepare Ye the Way*

Mark Burrows  
Unison/two-part with piano and hand drum  
CGA1589

*He Is Born*

arr. Trevor Manor  
Unison/two-part with piano and optional flute, percussion,  
and three octaves handbells  
CGA1422

*Let Every Heart Prepare a Throne*

Mark Patterson  
Unison with piano  
CGA1320



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