

CGE371

SSAB

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SING!

edited by

Victor C. Johnson

DISTINCTIVE CHORAL MUSIC FOR CLASSROOM, CONCERT AND FESTIVAL



choristersguild

What Child?

Ruth Morris Gray

Words by
William C. Dix



www.choristersguild.org

What Child?

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SSAB *a cappella* with Opt. Percussion*

Words by
William C. Dix (1837–1898), alt.

Music by
Ruth Morris Gray
Quoting the Traditional English Carol,
What Child Is This?

Musical notation for Soprano I, Soprano II, Alto, and Baritone parts. The notation shows a sequence of notes on a staff, with Soprano I and Soprano II in treble clef and Alto and Baritone in bass clef. The notes are: Soprano I (G4, A4, B4), Soprano II (G4, A4, B4), Alto (G3, A3, B3), Baritone (G3, A3, B3).

Joyously (♩ = 88)

SI, SII

Musical score for the first system. It includes vocal parts for Soprano I (SI), Soprano II (SII), Alto (A), and Baritone (B), and a Djembe part. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The tempo is Joyously (♩ = 88). The first system consists of four measures. The vocal parts have lyrics: "Bum bum bum bum. Bum bum bum bum bum bum". The Djembe part has a pattern of notes and rests, with a dynamic marking of *p* and a double asterisk (**).

Musical score for the second system. It includes vocal parts for Soprano I (SI), Soprano II (SII), Alto (A), and Baritone (B), and a Djembe part. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The tempo is Joyously (♩ = 88). The second system consists of four measures. The vocal parts have lyrics: "What child is this, who, laid to rest on bum bum bum. Bum bum bum bum." The Djembe part has a pattern of notes and rests, with a dynamic marking of *mp*.

Performance time: ca. 2:20

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**Continue djembe throughout piece. Add additional body percussion beginning on pages 4, 7, and 9.

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8

Mar - y's lap, is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels

Bum bum bum bum bum bum bum bum bum.

Bum bum bum bum bum bum bum bum bum.

11

greet with an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are

Bum bum bum bum. Bum bum bum

Bum bum bum bum. Bum bum bum

14

keep - ing? Oh, this, — this is

bum bum bum bum bum bum bum. This, this is

bum bum bum bum bum bum bum. This, this is

mf *mf* *mf*

**slap thighs*

mf

*Optional: On chorus – meas. 16-28, 40-50, 62-79 – singers clap eighth notes and slap hands on thighs (brushing outwards) on quarter notes. Continue djembe with singers.

17

Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing:

Christ, whom shep - herds and an - gels

Christ, whom shep - herds and an - gels

*clap

20

Oh, haste, - haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son -

sing: haste to bring laud, babe, the son.

sing: Haste to bring laud, babe. babe, the

24

mp
of Mar - y.

p
Bum bum bum bum. Bum bum bum

p
son. Bum bum bum bum. Bum bum bum

p

28

So bring him in - cense,

bum bum bum bum bum bum bum. Bum bum bum

bum bum bum bum bum bum bum. Bum bum bum

31

gold, and myrrh, come peas - ant, king to own him.

bum. Bum bum bum bum bum bum bum bum

bum. Bum bum bum bum bum bum bum bum

34

The king of kings, sal - va - tion brings, let

bum bum bum. Bum bum bum bum.

bum bum bum. Bum bum bum bum.

37

lov - ing hearts en - throne him. So raise, —

Bum bum bum bum bum bum bum bum bum.

Bum bum bum bum bum bum bum bum bum.

40

f

raise the song on high while Mar - y sings her lull - a - by.

Raise, raise the song high, Mar - y sings lull - a -

Raise, raise the song high, Mar - y sings lull - a -

**slap thigh* **clap* *sim.*

f

44

Sing joy, — joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son —

by. Joy, for Christ is born, babe, the son.

by. Joy, for Christ is born, babe. babe, the

48 *mf* *rit. e decresc.*

of Mar - y.

mp *rit. e decresc.*

Bum bum bum bum. Bum bum bum

mp *rit. e decresc.*

son. Bum bum bum bum. Bum bum bum

mp *rit. e decresc.*

52 *p* *mp* Sweetly (♩ = 50)

What child, who, laid to

p *mp*

bum. What child is this, who, laid to rest on

p *mp*

bum. What child is this, who, laid to rest on

55

rest, is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels

Mar - y's lap, is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with

Mar - y's lap, is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with

58

greet with an - thems, shep - herds watch are
 an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are
 an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are

60 *accel.* **Tempo I** *mf*

keep - ing? Oh, this, this is
 keep - ing? This, this is
 keep - ing? This, this is

mf *mf~f* *mf~f*

mf *mf~f* *slap thighs

63

Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing.
 Christ, whom shep - herds and an - gels
 Christ, whom shep - herds and an - gels

mf *sim.*

*clap *sim.*

66

Oh, haste, haste to bring him laud, the
sing. Haste to bring laud,
sing. Haste to bring laud,

69

1. *cresc.*
babe, the son of Mar - y. Oh, this,
cresc. babe, the son. *f* Bum bum bum bum.
cresc. babe, the son. *f* Bum bum bum bum.

1. *cresc.* *f*

73

2. *decresc.* *mp*
babe, the son of Mar - y. Babe, the son. *p* Bum bum bum
decresc. *p*
babe, babe, the son. *p* Bum bum bum
decresc. *p*

2. *decresc.* *mp*

76

bum. Bum bum bum bum bum bum bum bum

bum. Bum bum bum bum bum bum bum bum

79

decresc. What child?

decresc. bum bum bum. Bum bum bum bum.

decresc. bum bum bum. Bum bum bum bum.

body percussion out

decresc.

82

rit. Bum bum bum bum bum bum bum. *pp*

rit. Bum bum bum bum bum bum bum. *pp*

rit. Bum bum bum bum bum bum bum. *pp*

rit. *pp*

SING!

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