

What sweeter music

*Words by
Robert Herrick
(1591-1674)

JOHN RUTTER

Andante tranquillo (♩ = 66) **SOPRANOS** *p dolce e legato*

The score is in 3/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It consists of three systems of music. The first system shows the Soprano line and the Organ accompaniment. The organ part is marked 'Sw. p legato sempre' and 'Man.'. The second system continues the organ part and includes the lyrics 'mu - sic can we bring Than a ca - rol, for to sing The birth_ of'. The third system features Tenors and Basses with lyrics 'this our heav'n-ly King? A-wake the voice! A-wake the string! Dark and dull' and continues the organ part. Dynamics include *mp*, *mf*, and *mp unis.*. Performance markings include 'Ped.' and '3' (triplets).

ORGAN *Sw. p legato sempre* Man.

5

mu - sic can we bring Than a ca - rol, for to sing The birth_ of

Ped.

9 *mp* *mf* *mp unis.*

tenors & basses

this our heav'n-ly King? A-wake the voice! A-wake the string! Dark and dull

mp *mf* *mp*

*slightly abridged and altered

This carol has been recorded on Collegium COLCD 111 by The Cambridge Singers and The City of London Sinfonia, conducted by the composer.

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poco meno
mosso

13

night, fly hence a - way, And give the ho - nour to this day That sees De -

p.

17

S. A. -cem - ber turn'd to May, That sees De - cem - ber turn'd to May. Why does the

T. B. *dim.* *p* — *pp* *mp cantabile*

pp poco rit. *a tempo* (♩ = 66)

dim. *p* — *pp* *mp* *a tempo* (♩ = 66)

21

chill - ing win - ter's morn Smile, like a field be - set with corn? Or smell like a

unis. *Ped.*

25 *mf* *f dolce* *mp*

mea-dow new-ly shorn Thus on the sud - den? Come and see The cause, why

29 S. 1 *mp* *mf*
S. 2
T. A. *mp* *mf*
B. Fl.

'Tis he is born, whose quick'ning birth Gives life and things thus fra-grant be: 'Tis he is born, whose quick'ning birth Gives life and

Man.

33 S. *mp* *p molto legato*
A. *mp* *p molto legato*
T. B. *p molto legato*

lu - stre, pub-lic mirth, To hea-ven and the un-der-earth. We see him
lu - stre, pub-lic mirth, To hea-ven and the un-der-earth. *p molto legato*

(Man.)

(Organ tacet)

Turns all the

37

S. A. come, and know him ours, — Who, with his sun-shine and his show'rs, Turns the

T. B.

41

pa - tient ground to flow'rs, turns all the pa - tient ground to flow'rs. The

turns all the ground to flow'rs. The

mp *mf* *p*

mp *mf* *pp*

45

S. div.

dar-ling of the world is come, And fit it is, we find a room To —

dar - ling of the world is come we find a

pp

49

wel-come him, to wel-come him. The no-bler part of all the house here, is the

room to wel-come him. *mp* *cresc.*

pp *mp* *cresc.*

Man. Ped.

53

S. A. *mp*

heart, Which we will give him; and be-queath This hol-ly, and this

T. B. *mf* \rightarrow *mp*

p

57

S. A. *mf*

i - vy wreath, And Lord of

T. *mf*

i - vy wreath, To do him ho - nour; who's our King, And Lord of

B. *mf*

i - vy wreath, To do him ho - nour; who's our King, And Lord of

mf

Ped.

60

poco f *mf* *p* *pp molto dolce*

S. A. all this re-vel-ling. What sweet-er

T. all this re-vel-ling. What sweet-er

B. all this re-vel-ling. What sweet-er

pp molto dolce

(Ped.)

64

mu - sic can we bring Than a ca - rol, for to

pp molto dolce

67

mp poco rit. *p* poco meno mosso

S. sing The birth of this our heav'n-ly King, the birth of

A. sing The birth of this our heav'n-ly King. (Hum)

T. sing The birth of this our heav'n-ly King. (Hum)

B. sing The birth of this our heav'n-ly King. (Hum)

mp *p* *p* *p*

poco rit. poco meno mosso

70

dim. rit. *pp* a tempo

this our hea - ven - ly King. —

dim. *pp*

dim. *pp*

dim. *pp*

div. *dim.* *pp*

rit. a tempo rit.

pp

(Ped.)