

Once in Royal David's City

(SSAATB, piano, optional organ)

Text by Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

Music by Henry J. Gauntlett (1805-1876)

Arranged by Katherine Wright

Peacefully ♩ = 72

mp
with pedal

The piano introduction consists of six measures in 4/4 time. The right hand plays a series of chords and dyads, while the left hand plays a simple bass line. The tempo is marked as 'Peacefully' with a quarter note equal to 72 beats per minute.

7 **rit.** **A tempo, freely**
sopranos or solo

S. *mp* Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,

rit. **A tempo, freely**

p

The first vocal line (Soprano) begins at measure 7. It features a melodic line with lyrics: "Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed,". The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line. Dynamics include *mp* and *p*. The tempo changes from a ritardando to "A tempo, freely".

13 **rit.** **A tempo**

S. *p* Where a moth - er laid her ba - by In a man - ger for his bed: *mp* Ma - ry was that

rit. **A tempo**

pp *p*

The second vocal line (Soprano) begins at measure 13. It features a melodic line with lyrics: "Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for his bed: Mary was that". The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line. Dynamics include *p*, *pp*, and *mp*. The tempo changes from a ritardando to "A tempo".

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18 **molto rit. A tempo**

S. moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle_ child.

T.B. *mp* men, gently

He came down to

molto rit. A tempo

mp

24

T.B. earth from heav-en, Who is God and Lord of_ all, And his shel - ter was a__ sta - ble,

29 *mf*

T.B. And his cra - dle was_ a__ stall; With the poor, and mean, and low - ly, Lived on earth our

34 *poco accel.*

T.B. Sav - ior ho - ly.

poco cresc.

38 *poco rit.* **Steadily, a bit faster**
altos only, warmly

A. *mf* Je - sus is our child hood's pat - tern; Day by day, like

T.B. *mp*
tenors only, lightly

poco rit. **Steadily, a bit faster**

mf

sim.

42

A. us he grew; He was lit - tle, weak and help - less, Tears and smiles like

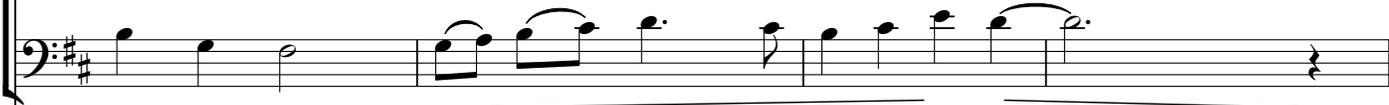
T.B.

mp delicately

46

A. 

us__ he__knew; And he feel - eth for our sad-ness,

T.B. 



50

A. *cresc.* 

And he shar - eth in__ our_ glad-ness. _____

T.B. 

cresc.



rit.

rit.

54 **A tempo**
mf

S. And our eyes at last shall see him, Through his own re - deem - ing love;

A. And our eyes at last shall see him, Through his own re - deem - ing love;

T.B. And our eyes at last shall see him, Through his own re - deem - ing love;

A tempo
mf

let chords ring! *sim.*

58 *cresc.* **rit.**

S. For that child so dear and gen - tle Is our Lord in heav - en a - bove,

A. For that child so dear and gen - tle Is our Lord in heav - en a - bove,

T.B. For that child so dear and gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove

cresc. **rit.** *f*

Moving forward

62 *f*

S. *f*
And he leads his chil - dren on To the place where he is

A. *f*
And he leads his chil - dren on To the place where he is

T.B. *f*
And he leads his chil - dren on To the place where he is

Moving forward

mf smoothly

66 *poco a poco cresc.* **molto rit.**

S. *poco a poco cresc.*
gone.

A. *poco a poco cresc.*
gone.

T.B. *poco a poco cresc.*
gone.

poco a poco cresc. **molto rit.** 8^{va}

Broadly
70 *f*

S. Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, With the ox - en

A. Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, With the ox - en

T.B. Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, With the ox - en

Broadly
(8) *f* *sim.*

73

S. stand - ing by, But in heav - en we shall see him,

A. stand - ing by, But in heav - en we shall see him,

T.B. stand - ing by, But in heav - en we shall see him,

(8) *f* *sim.*

poco rit. . . . Moving Forward

76

S. Set at God's right hand on high; When like stars his

A. Set at God's right hand on high; When like stars his

T.B. Set at God's right hand on high; When like stars his

poco rit. . . . Moving Forward

(8)

smoothly

79

S. child - ren crowned All in white shall wait a -

A. child - ren crowned All in white shall wait a

T.B. child - ren crowned All in white shall wait a

rit. . . .

rit. . . .

82 **A tempo, Broader**

S. round. A - - - - men! *ff*

A. round. A - - - - men! *ff*

T.B. round. A - - - - men! *ff*

A tempo, Broader

8va

85 **molto rit.**

S.

A.

T.B.

molto rit.

ff

8vb