

What Songs Were Sung



149

By John Jacob Niles

Tenderly ♩ = c. 66 (in a story-telling manner)

We can - not tell, we

do not know What stars shone down so long a - go, When

Mar - y birthed her own sweet Son And peace and love be -

came as one. The Son of God, as scrip - tures said, Was



The first system of music features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The vocal line begins with the lyrics 'came as one.' followed by 'The Son of God, as scrip - tures said, Was'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands, supporting the vocal melody.

Vir - gin born in a ti - ny shed, Where sim - ple shep - herds



The second system continues the vocal line with the lyrics 'Vir - gin born in a ti - ny shed, Where sim - ple shep - herds'. The piano accompaniment features a prominent arpeggiated pattern in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand.

stood hard by While heav'n - ly sound filled up the sky.



The third system continues the vocal line with the lyrics 'stood hard by While heav'n - ly sound filled up the sky.'. The piano accompaniment includes a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, with some chordal textures.

Now let us stand, un -



The fourth system begins the vocal line with the lyrics 'Now let us stand, un -'. The piano accompaniment features a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

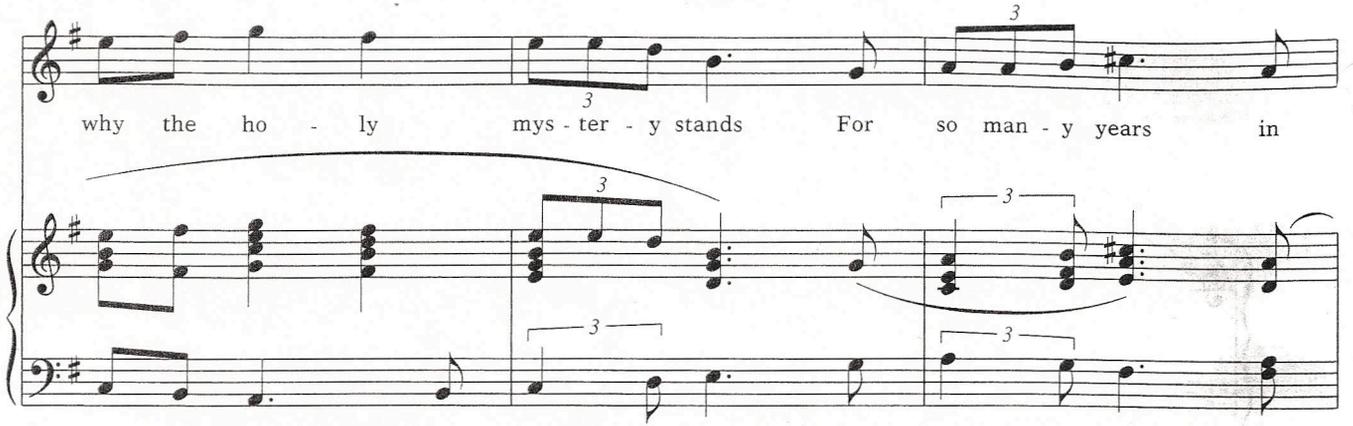
cov - ered all, Be - fore this crèche in — low - ly stall, Where

kings and an - gels dig - ni - fy God's — gift, His Son, in hu -

mil - i - ty. We do not know, we

can - not tell What songs were sung, what — star - light fell, Or

why the ho - ly mys - ter - y stands For so man - y years in



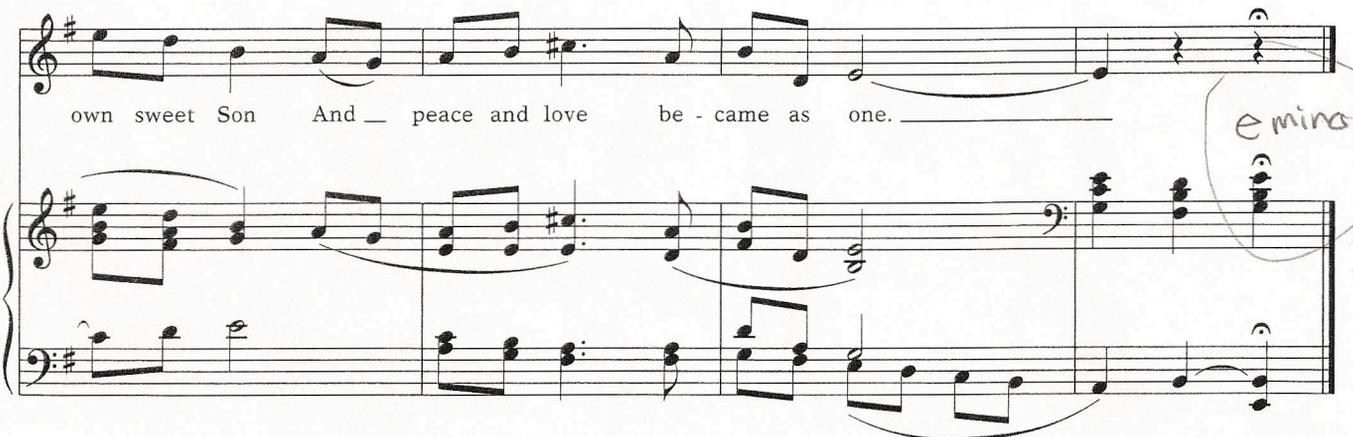
so man - y lands. We can - not tell, we



do not know What stars shone down so — long a - go, When Mar - y birthed her



own sweet Son And — peace and love be - came as one.



eminar!