

# Nativity

C 205

Rev'd Samuel Medley, 1782

Thomas Jarman  
Sacred Music ca 1803

The musical score is written for four voices: Tenor, Alto, Air, and Bass. It is in the key of D major (two sharps) and 2/4 time. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Mor-tals a - wake — with an - gels join, And  
 1 Mor-tals a - wake — with an - gels join, And chant the sol-ern lay, And  
 8 chant — the sol-ern lay; Joy, love and gra - ti - tude com - bine  
 8 chant — the sol-ern lay; Joy, love and gra - ti - tude — com - bine to  
 14 to hail th'au-spic-ious  
 16 to hail th'au-spic-ious day, to hail — th'au spic-ious day.  
 18 to hail th'au-spic-ious day, to hail — th'au - spic-ious day.  
 20 hail th'au-spic-ious day, to hail th'au-spic-ious day, to hail — th'au-spic-ious day.  
 day, to hail th'au-spic-ious day, to hail — th'au-spic-ious day.

- 2 In heav'n the rapturous song began, And sweet seraphic fire  
Through all the shining legions ran, And strung and tuned the lyre.
- 5 Wrapt in the silence of the night Lay all the eastern world,  
When bursting, glorious heav'nly light, The wondrous scene unfurled.
- 7 O for a glance of heavenly love Our hearts and songs to raise,  
Sweetly to bear our souls above, And mingle with their lays!
- 9 Hail Prince of Life! For ever hail, Redeemer, brother, friend!  
Though earth, and time, and life should fail, Thy praise shall never end.

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Duet

3 Swift thro' the vast ex - panse it flew, And loud the e - cho roll'd, and  
 loud the ec - ho roll'd; The theme, the song, the  
 joy was new, the joy was new, The theme, the song, the  
 joy was new, 'Twas more than heav'n could hold.

- 4 Down from the portals of the sky The impetuous torrent ran;  
The angels fly with eager joy To bear the news to man.
- 6 Hark! the cherubic armies shout, And glory leads the song:  
Goodwill and peace are heard throughout The harmonious heav'nly throng,
- 8 With joy the chorus we'll repeat, 'Glory to God on high!  
Goodwill and peace are now complete, Jesus was born to die!'

Jarman sets verses 1 and 3 only, and it is apparent that he was not intending to use verse 2, as the repeats in the second part of the music are not sympathetic to the words. All the words of Medley's poem have been included here, and as far as possible they fit what appears to be the original intention as to the music, leaving the first part to end the carol.

The alto line has been transposed an octave down, and the music is as set by Jarman using the order TASB. The original title in Jarman's publication 'Sacred Music' is mistakenly written 'Navitivity'. See also Sally Drage's transcription in WGMA publication 'Carols and Celebrations', 1998.