The Shepherds sing; 
and shall I silent be?

Alistair Brown

For 3-part choir, with optional solos:
Soprano, Alto and Baritone/All Men
or
Soprano, Tenor and Bass

Text from *Christmas* by George Herbert
The first verse and chorus may be sung by either 3 soloists (1 per part), or by the full choir.

The remaining verses and choruses should be sung by the full choir.

Verse 1

The shepherds sing; and shall I silent be?
My God, no hymne for thee?
My soul's a shepherd too: a flock it feeds
Of thoughts, and words, and deeds.
The pasture is thy word; the streams, thy grace
Enriching all this place.

Chorus

His beams shall cheer my breast, and both so twine,
Till ev'n his beams sing, and my musick shine.

Verse 2

Shepherd and flock shall sing, and all my powers
Out-sing the day-light houres.
Then we will chide the sunne for letting night
Take up his place and right:
We sing one common Lord; wherefore he should
Himself the candle hold.

Chorus

(His beams...)

Verse 3

I will go searching, till I finde a sunne
Shall stay, till we have done;
A willing shiner, that shall shine as gladly,
As frost-nipt sunnes look sadly.
Then we will sing, and shine all our own day,
And one another pay:

Chorus

(His beams...)


The shepherds sing; and shall I silent be?

(An excerpt from Christmas)

Music by Alistair Brown

Text by George Herbert

(Molto Rubato; \( \frac{5}{4} \)-c.100)

Soprano

1. The shepherds sing; and shall I silent be?
2. Shep - herd and flock shall sing, and all my pow'rs
3. I will go search ing, till I finde a sunne

Alto

1. The shepherds sing; shall I silent be?
2. Shep - herd and flock sing, and all my pow'rs
3. I will go search ing, till I finde sunne

Baritone

1. The shepherds sing and shall I silent be, silent
2. Shep - herd and flock shall sing, and all my pow'rs
3. I will go search ing, till I finde a sunne, finde a

Piano (optional)

My God, no hymne for thee? For thee? My soul's a
out - sing the day - light hours, the hours, Then we will
shall stay till we have done, have done, A will ing

My God, no hymne for thee? For thee? My soul's a
out - sing the day - light hours, the hours, Then we will
shall stay till we have done, have done, A will ing

be? (My) God, no hymne for thee? No hymne for thee? My soul's a
out - sing the day - light hours, the day - light hours, Then we will
sunne (shall) stay till we have done, till we have done, A will ing
shepherd too: a flock it feeds of thoughts, and chide the sunne for letting night take up his shiner, that will shine as gladly, as frost-nipt

words, of words, and deeds, The place, his place and right: we sunnés look sadly. Then

words, of words, and deeds; words and deeds. The place, his place and right; place and right: we sunnés look sadly look sadly. Then
pas-ture is thy word; the streams thy grace enriching all the
sing one com-mon Lord; where fore he should him-self the can-dle
we will sing, and shine all our own day, and one ano-ther

poco rit.       A tempo

place. hold, pay:
His beams shall cheer my

place, the place. hold, candle hold.
His beams shall cheer my

place, all the place.
His beams shall cheer my

place, hold, can-dle hold.
pay, we shall pay:

place, hold, pay, we shall pay:
breast, and both so twine, till even his beams

sing, and my musick shine.

* On the final chorus, the Altos and Baritones may split to include the bracketed notes if desired.