

Upon the snowclad earth

The musical score is arranged for Soprano (S.), Alto (A.), Men's voices, and Piano. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system (measures 1-6) includes vocal parts and piano accompaniment. The second system (measures 7-11) continues the vocal and piano parts. The third system (measures 12-15) concludes the piece with a final piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C).

1. Upon the snowclad earth without
the stars are shining bright,
as heaven had hung out all her lamps
to hail the festal night;
For on the night long years ago
The blessed babe was born.
The saints of old were wont to keep
their vigil until morn

2. 'Twas in the days when far and wide
Men owned the Caesar's sway,
That his decree went forth that all
A certain tax should pay.
Then from their home in Nazareth
obedient to the same,
with Mary his espoused wife,
The saintly Joseph came.

3. A stable and a manger where
the oxen lowed around
Was all the shelter Bethlehem gave,
The welcome that they found.
Yet blessed among women was
That holy mother mild
Who on that night her first-born son
There in the manger laid.

4. The king of kings and Lord of Lords
E'en from his very birth,
Had not a place to lay his head -
an outcast on the earth:
And yet we know that little babe
was tender to the touch,
and weak as other infants are
he felt the cold as much

5. In swadling bands she wrapped him round
and smoothed his couch of straw,
while unseen angels watched beside
In mute, adoring awe.
How softly did they fold their wings
beneath that starlit shed
while Eastern sages from afar
the new-born radiance led.

6. And thus it is, from age to age,
That, as this night comes round,
So sweetly, underneath the moon,
the Christmas carols sound.
Because to us a child is born
our brother and our king,
angels in heaven and we on earth
our joyful anthems sing.