

Noë words & music JAClingan 76

A simple musical pageant suitable for children aged approximately 5-7 years. Each tune can be played on descant recorders with simple percussion ad lib. (parts for trebles and tenors are included for older children). Most of the singing is unison, with optional second parts. Some solo singing is required (Gabriel, Mary, Joseph) and some group singing for three voices (shepherds, wise men). Three speakers are also required.

To begin, no child should be visible — a Christmas tree stands alone in the centre of the acting area, with decorations including a star (easily removable) and an angel (at the top of the tree). A crèche with figures of Mary, Joseph, shepherds and wise men is at the foot of the tree.

Most of the children wear contemporary dress; Mary, Joseph, Gabriel, the shepherds and the wise men wear simple pseudo-medieval garments eg kaftans, cloaks, tunics, hoods.

Recorders (off stage) play "Christmas Day" as many times as necessary for all the children to skip in, holding hands in pairs, and seat themselves around the Christmas tree. Recorder players enter last, at which point everyone sings "Christmas Day" (verse 1).

descant recorders, voices // percussion: o = tambourine * = finger cymbals

1. Christmas Day will soon be here, time for friendship and good cheer,

trebles, tenors

[last 2 bars played between verses]

come a-long, join our song, Let's be glad to-ge-ther.

Child 1: Look, an angel. (pointing to top of tree).

Child 2: That's God's messenger.

Child 3: God sent an angel to Mary,
to tell her that she was going to have a baby.

All sing verses 2 and 3:

2. Long ago an angel came, Gabriel was his name
Come along, join our song, let's be glad together.

3. Mary was a maiden pure, Gabriel saluted her
Come along, join our song, let's be glad together.

4. (Gabriel sings):

You shall have a baby boy; he will bring the world great joy.

all: Come along, join our song, let's be glad together.

5. (Mary sings):

Lord, my God, I give you praise, I will serve you all my days.

all: Come along, join our song, let's be glad together.

6. (All):

Now rejoice with us today, Mary's son is here to stay.
Come along, join our song, let's be glad together.

(repeat last 2 bars): Let's be glad together.

Child 1: Here's Mary (picking up figure from crèche).

Child 2: Here's her husband Joseph (picking up figure).

Child 3: Just before the baby was born,

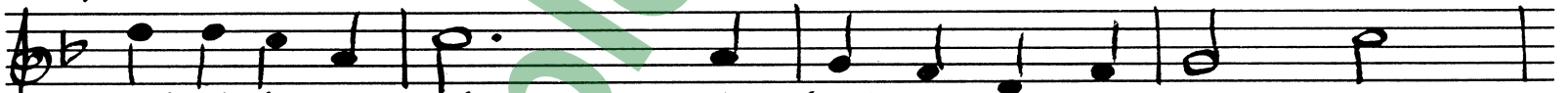
Mary and Joseph had to go on a long journey,
to Bethlehem.

(Mary and Joseph walk to front, sing one verse each,
with recorder)

(Introduction = last 4 bars on recorder)



Mary: Jo - seph, dear Jo - seph, the way is long and drear — , my
Joseph: Mary , dear Ma - ry, I'll find a place of rest, where



child within me stirs — , I feel his time is near, O
you (♩) with your little one (♩) may be an honoured guest, the



help me find a resting place, a roof not far from here, my
house (♩) that will take (♩) you will be for e - ver blessed. (O)



child and I are weary, Jo - seph mine
All - will be well, O Ma - ry mine

NOTE
differing rhythm in v. 2;
bar 10 v. 2 notes: C, A, F
♩ ♩ ♩

Child 1: But Bethlehem was crowded,
And Joseph couldn't find anywhere to stay.

(Mary and Joseph walk from group to group)

