

AND
GLORY SHONE
AROUND

Jordan Sramek, Series Editor

Star in the East

*Brightest and Best of the Stars
of the Morning*

STAR IN THE EAST

arr. Jordan Sramek

ROSE PUBLICATIONS

From the archives of *The ROSE ENSEMBLE*

Daniel Mahraun & Jordan Sramek, General Editors

Source: William Walker, *The Southern Harmony*. Philadelphia: E. W. Miller, 1854.

About the source / general notes on genre:

The Southern Harmony, and Musical Companion is a hymn book compiled by William "Singin' Billy" Walker, first printed in Philadelphia in 1835, and is part of the larger tradition of shape-note singing. It contained 335 songs, went through several editions (with songs being added and removed periodically), and became possibly the most popular Southern tune book in the 19th century. Walker claimed his 1867 edition sold over 600,000 copies.

The roots of *Southern* (and *Christian*) *Harmony* singing (like *The Sacred Harp*) are found in the American colonial era. Schools were created to provide instruction in choral singing, especially to the benefit of churches. In 1801, a book called *The Easy Instructor* by William Smith and William Little was published for the use of this movement; its distinguishing feature was the employment of four separate shapes that indicated the notes according to the rules of *solfege* (Do – Re – Mi – Fa – Sol – La – Ti – Do). A triangle indicated *fa*, a circle *sol*, a square *la* and a diamond, *mi*. To avoid proliferating shapes excessively, each shape (and its associated syllable) except for *mi* was assigned to two notes of the musical scale. A major scale in the system would be sung Fa – Sol – La – Fa – Sol – La – Mi – Fa, and a minor scale would be La – Mi – Fa – Sol – La – Fa – Sol – La.

It should be noted that the traditional methods of this rich heritage (still practiced by thousands today) dictate that the choir begin singing a piece with the appropriate *solfege* syllable for each pitch, using the shapes to guide them. For those in the group not yet familiar with the song (and/or to assist those unable to read musical notation), the shapes help with the task of sight-reading, while the process of reading through the song with the shapes also helps to fix the notes in the singers' memories. Once the shapes have been sung, the group then sings the actual text of the song.

The traditional practice of shape-note singing calls for the hymns to be sung without instruments, allowing the voice alone to carry the melody. Indeed, even the word "harp" in the title of the afore-mentioned collection, *The Sacred Harp*, refers to the voice, not the actual instrument. However, many melodies in these collections were originally folk tunes, which were then harmonized and given new religious texts. Similarly, the tunes and texts in such collections surely were not "protected" from then being utilized by other musical traditions.

The Southern Harmony cites the publication *Baptist Harmony* as the source of this tune. Staunton S. Burdett first published *Baptist Harmony* in 1834, and he traces the tune's origin to *Christian Lyre*. The first volume of *The Christian Lyre* was published by Jonathan Leavitt in New York in 1830; the tune, set for melody and bass, appears there without attribution.

Text: Reginald Heber (1783–1826)

Music: STAR IN THE EAST, Anonymous

Editorial method / notes:

Spelling, punctuation, and usage have been modernized.

Performance suggestions:

The first two refrains may also be sung by *tutti* tenors and basses.

In the third verse, the Tenor 1 line may be sung by an alto.

Duration: 4m 15s

The Rose Ensemble's recording, *And Glory Shone Around: Early American Carols, Country Dances, Southern Harmony Hymns, and Shaker Spiritual Songs*, is available on most download and streaming platforms.

16

STAR IN THE EAST 10, 11.

Baptist Harmony, p. 35

Hail the blest morn, see the great Mediator, Down from the regions of glory descend! Lo, for his guard the bright angels attend. } Chorus. Brightest and best of the sons of the morning!

Dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid; Star in the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing, Guide where our infant Re - deemer was had.

2 Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining; Low lies his bed, with the beasts of the stall; Angels adore him, in slumbers reclining, Woe men and shepherds before him do fall. Brightest and best, &c.

3 Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion, Odours of Eden, and offerings divine, Gems from the mountain, and pearls from the ocean, Myrrh from the forest, and gold from the mine? Brightest and best, &c.

4 Vainly we offer each ample oblation, Vainly with gold we his favour secure, Richer by far is the heart's adoration: Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor Brightest and best, &c.

Star in the East

Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning
SSATTB

Reginald Heber (1783–1826)

Anonymous
arr. Jordan Sramek
ed. Daniel Mahraun

Strictly (♩ = c. 74)

Soprano 1

Soprano 2

Alto

Tenor 1

mf solo (*ad lib.*)

Tenor 2

Bass

1. Hail the blest morn-ing, the great Me-di-a - tor, Down from the re-gions of glo-ry de-scend!

9

T 2

Shep-herd wor-ship the babe in the man-ger, Lo, for his guard the bright an-gels at-tend.

17 *f*

T 2

Bright-est and best of the sons of the morn-ing Dawn on our dark-ness and lend us thine aid;

25

T 2

Star in the east, the ho-ri-zon a-dorn-ing, Guide where our in-fant Re-deem-er was laid.

34 *mf*

T 2

2. Cold on his cra - dle the dew-drops are shin - ing, Low lies his bed with the beasts of the stall;

mf solo (*ad lib.*)

B

2. Cold on his cra - dle the dew-drops are shin - ing, Low lies his bed with the beasts of the stall;

42

T 2

An - gels a - dore him, in slum - ber re - clin - ing; Wise men and shep - herds be - fore him do fall.

B

An - gels a - dore him, in slum - ber re - clin - ing; wise men and shep - herds be - fore him do fall.

50 *f*

T 2

Bright - est and best of the sons of the morn - ing Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;

f

B

Bright - est and best of the sons of the morn - ing Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;

58

T 2

Star in the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing, Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er was laid.

B

Star in the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing, Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er was laid.

67 *mf* solo (*ad lib.*)

T 1

Say, shall we yield him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion, O - dors of E - den, and of - f'rings di - vine,

mf

T 2

3. Say, shall we yield him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion, O - dors of E - den, and of - f'rings di - vine,

mf

B

3. Say, shall we yield him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion, O - dors of E - den, and of - f'rings di - vine,

75

T 1
Gems from the moun-tain, and pearls from the o - cean, Myrrh from the for - est, and gold from the mine?

T 2
Gems from the moun-tain, and pearls from the o - cean, Myrrh from the for - est, and gold from the mine?

B
Gems from the moun-tain, and pearls from the o - cean, Myrrh from the for - est, and gold from the mine?

83 *mf*

S 1
mf
Bright-est and best of the sons of the morn-ing Dawn on our dark-ness and lend us thine aid;

S 2
mf
Bright-est and best of the sons of the morn-ing Dawn on our dark-ness and lend us thine aid;

A
mf
Bright-est and best of the sons of the morn-ing Dawn on our dark-ness and lend us thine aid;

T 1
tutti
Bright-est and best of the sons of the morn-ing Dawn on our dark-ness and lend us thine aid;

T 2
tutti
Bright-est and best of the sons of the morn-ing Dawn on our dark-ness and lend us thine aid;

B
tutti
Bright-est and best of the sons of the morn-ing Dawn on our dark-ness and lend us thine aid;

91

S 1 Star in the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing, Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er was laid.

S 2 Star in the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing, Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er was laid.

A Star in the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing, Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er was laid.

T 1 Star in the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing, Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er was laid.

T 2 Star in the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing, Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er was laid.

B Star in the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing, Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er was laid.

100

S 1 4. Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion, Vain - ly with gold we his fa - vor se - cure.

S 2 4. Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion, Vain - ly with gold we his fa - vor se - cure.

A 4. Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion, Vain - ly with gold we his fa - vor se - cure.

T 1 4. Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion, Vain - ly with gold we his fa - vor se - cure.

T 2 4. Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion, Vain - ly with gold we his fa - vor se - cure.

B 4. Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion, Vain - ly with gold we his fa - vor se - cure.

108

S 1 Rich - er by far is the heart's a - do - ra - tion; Dear - er to God are the pray'rs of the poor.

S 2 Rich - er by far is the heart's a - do - ra - tion; Dear - er to God are the pray'rs of the poor.

A Rich - er by far is the heart's a - do - ra - tion; Dear - er to God are the pray'rs of the poor.

T 1 Rich - er by far is the heart's a - do - ra - tion; Dear - er to God are the pray'rs of the poor.

T 2 Rich - er by far is the heart's a - do - ra - tion; Dear - er to God are the pray'rs of the poor.

B Rich - er by far is the heart's a - do - ra - tion; Dear - er to God are the pray'rs of the poor.

116 *f*

S 1 Bright-est and best of the sons of the morn-ing Dawn on our dark-ness and lend us thine aid;

S 2 *f* Bright-est and best of the sons of the morn-ing Dawn on our dark-ness and lend us thine aid;

A *f* Bright-est and best of the sons of the morn-ing Dawn on our dark-ness and lend us thine aid;

T 1 *f* Bright-est and best of the sons of the morn-ing Dawn on our dark-ness and lend us thine aid;

T 2 *f* Bright-est and best of the sons of the morn-ing Dawn on our dark-ness and lend us thine aid;

B *f* Bright-est and best of the sons of the morn-ing Dawn on our dark-ness and lend us thine aid;

124

S 1 Star in the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing, Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er was laid.

S 2 Star in the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing, Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er was laid.

A Star in the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing, Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er was laid.

T 1 Star in the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing, Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er was laid.

T 2 Star in the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing, Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er was laid. *ff* Bright -

B Star in the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing, Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er was laid.

132 *ff*

S 1 Bright-est and best of the sons of the morn-ing Dawn on our dark-ness and lend us thine aid;

S 2 *ff* Bright-est and best of the sons of the morn-ing Dawn on our dark-ness and lend us thine aid;

A *ff* Bright-est and best of the sons of the morn-ing Dawn on our dark-ness and lend us thine aid;

T 1 *ff* Bright-est and best of the sons of the morn-ing Dawn on our dark-ness and lend us thine aid;

T 2 *ff* - est and best of the sons of the morn-ing Dawn on our dark-ness and lend us thine aid; Star

B *ff* Bright-est and best of the sons of the morn-ing Dawn on our dark-ness and lend us thine aid;

140 *molto rit.*

S 1 Star in the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing, Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er was laid.

S 2 Star in the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing, Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er was laid.

A Star in the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing, Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er was laid.

T 1 Star in the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing, Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er was laid.

T 2 — in the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing, Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er was laid.

B Star in the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing, Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er was laid.