

They Brought a Joyful Song
GP-L002
SATB (div) a cappella

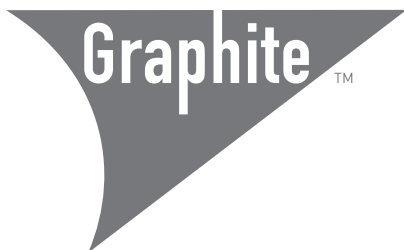
Isaac Lovdahl

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Isaac Lovdahl

They Brought a Joyful Song

for a cappella SATB (div) choir



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Text:

The kings they came from out the south,
All dressed in ermine fine;
They bore Him gold and chrysopease,
And gifts of precious wine.

The shepherds came from out the north,
Their coats were brown and old;
They brought Him little new-born lambs
They had not any gold.

The wise men came from out the east,
And they were wrapped in white;
The star that led them all the way
Did glorify the night.

The angels came from heaven high,
And they were clad with wings;
And lo, they brought a joyful song
The host of heaven sings.

The kings they knocked upon the door,
The wise men entered in,
The shepherds followed after them
To hear the song begin.

The angels sang through all the night
Until the rising sun,
But little Jesus fell asleep
Before the song was done.

- Sara Teasdale

From the Composer:

“They Brought a Joyful Song” is propelled by a simple pentatonic melody which frames each of the six verses. Every voice part gets an opportunity to take the melodic lead at some point while the others explore myriad musical possibilities through their supporting material; though the melody remains steadfast, the musical content varies drastically between verses. The piece chronicles a number of different guests visiting Jesus on the night of his birth: Kings, Shepherds, Wise-Men, and Angels. The music changes with the introduction of each new character. A burst of harmonic intensity signals the song that the Angels have brought for the newborn king, after which the music gradually settles into a more intimate scene. It concludes with the child slowly drifting off to sleep as the song whirls around him and fades away.

- Isaac Lovdahl, 2021

They Brought a Joyful Song

for SATB div choir

Sara Teasdale

Isaac Lovdahl

With wonder and reverence

$\text{♩} = c. 72$

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Soprano

mf legato

The kings they came from out the south, all dressed in er - mine [mln]

Alto

p

Mm...

Tenor

p

Mm...

Bass

Piano
(for rehearsal only)

$\text{♩} = c. 72$

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4

S fine; they bore Him gold and chry - so - prase, and gifts of pre - cious

A

T

B Mm... div.

mp

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8

S wine, and gifts of pre - cious wine.

A Oo...

T Oo...

B Oo...

mp

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12

S *p* Oo...

A *p* Oo...

T *unis. mf legato* The shep-herds came from out the north, their coats were brown and

B *mp* Oo...

12

16

S *mp*

A *mp*

T *leggiero* old; they brought Him lit-tle newborn lambs, they had not a - ny gold, they

B *unis.*

16

22

p ————— *mf* ————— *p*

S *For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.*

Oo...

A *p* ————— *mf* ————— *p*

Oo...

T *p* ————— *mf* ————— *p*

had not a - ny gold. — Oo...

B *p* ————— *mf* ————— *p* *mf legato*

Oo... The

22

28

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S

A

T

B *Graphite* *notable. elevated.*

wise men came from out the east, and they were wrapped in

28

31

S For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

A

T

B

white; the star that led them all the way did glor - i - fy the —

31

35

S *mf* did glor - i - fy the night.

A *mf* did glor - i - fy the night.

T *mf* did glor - i - fy the night.

B *mf* night, did glor - i - fy the night.

35

38

ff con brio

S1
Glor - i - fy. The an - gels came from heav - en high, and

f sostenuto

S2
Glor - i - fy. an - gels came from

f sostenuto

A1
Glor - i - fy. an - gels came from

f sostenuto

A2
Glor - i - fy. an - gels came from

ff con brio

T1
Glor - i - fy. The an - gels came from heav - en high, and

f sostenuto

T2
Glor - i - fy. an - gels came from

f sostenuto

B1
Glor - i - fy. an - gels came from

f sostenuto

B2
Glor - i - fy. an - gels came from

38

TM

Allargando

42

f

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S1 they were clad with wings; and lo, they brought a joy - ful

S2 heav - en high, and lo, they brought a joy - ful

A1 heav - en high, and lo, they brought a joy - ful

A2 heav - en high, and lo, they brought a joy - ful

T1 *f* they were clad with wings; and lo, they brought a joy - ful

T2 heav - en high, and lo, they brought a joy - ful

B1 heav - en high, and lo, they brought a joy - ful

B2 heav - en high, and lo, they brought a joy - ful

42

f

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Allargando

47

S1
song, _____ song, _____

S2
song, _____ song, _____

A1
song, _____ song, _____ song, _____ song, _____

A2
song, _____ song, _____ song, _____ song, _____

T1
marcato
the host of heav - en sings. _____

T2
marcato
the host of heav - en sings. _____

B1
marcato
the host of heav - en sings. _____

B2
marcato
the host of heav - en sings. _____

47

Tempo I

49

S *mf* *legato*
 song, The kings they knocked up - on the door, the wise men en - tered

A *p* *mp*
 song, Oo...

T *p*
 song,

B *p*
 song,

49

Tempo I

54

S *p*
 in the shep-herds fol-lowed af - ter them to hear the song be - gin.

A *p*
 To

T *mp*
 To

B *mp*
 To

54

59

S2 *mp dolce*

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S The _____

A

T1 *cresc.* hear the song *espress.* **f** be - gin.

T2 *cresc.* hear the song *espress.* **f** be - gin.

B1 *cresc.* hear the song *espress.* **f** be - gin.

B2 *cresc.* hear the song *espress.* **f** be - gin.

59

65

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S2 an - gels sang through all the night un -

A2 *A2 mp dolce* The an - gels sang through all the night un -

T2 *T2 mp dolce* The an - gels sang through all the night un -

B2 *B2 mp dolce* The an - gels sang through all the night un -

65

68

S2
A2
T2
B2

til the ri - sing sun, but lit - tle Je - sus fell a - sleep be -

til the ri - sing sun, but lit - tle Je - sus fell a - sleep be -

til the ri - sing sun, but lit - tle Je - sus fell a - sleep be -

til the ri - sing sun, but lit - tle Je - sus fell a - sleep be -

68

72

S2
A2
T2
B2

fore the song was done, be -

fore the song was done, be -

fore the song was done, be -

fore the song was done, be -

72

tutti

tutti

tutti

tutti

Molto Rit.

A Tempo

75 *mp* fore the song *f* was done. *p* *distantly mp*

A fore the song was done. Oo... *gradually closing*

T fore the song was done. *gradually closing*

B fore the song was done. *gradually closing*

75 *Molto Rit.* *A Tempo*

79 *distantly mp* Oo... *distantly mp* Oo... Mm... Mm...

S1

S2

A

T

B

79

83

S1

S2

A

T

B

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83

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 83 through 86. It features five vocal staves (Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a grand staff for piano accompaniment. The music is in a key with three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature. The vocal parts have melodic lines with some slurs, while the piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving bass lines. A large watermark 'Graphite™' is overlaid across the center of the page.

Rit.

p

87

S1

S2

A

T

B

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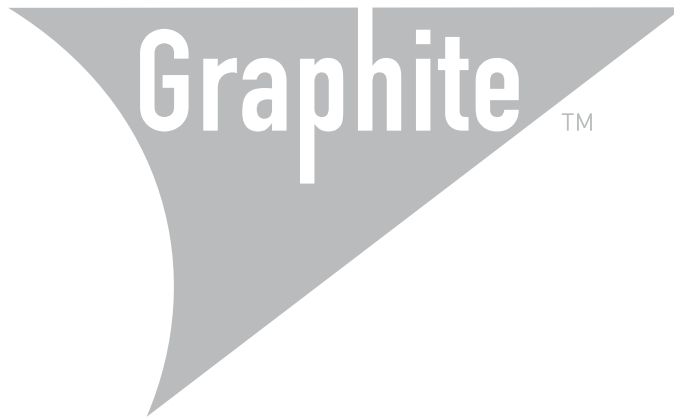
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87

p

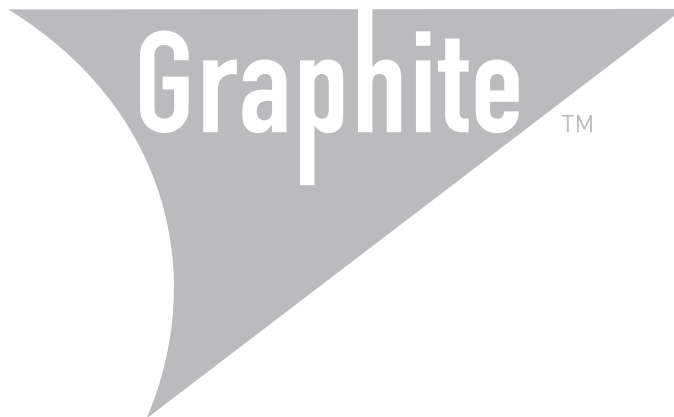
Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 87 through 90. It features the same five vocal staves and grand staff as the previous block. The tempo marking 'Rit.' (Ritardando) is placed above the vocal staves. The dynamics marking '*p*' (piano) is placed above the vocal staves and below the piano accompaniment. The music concludes with a double bar line. A large watermark 'Graphite™' is overlaid across the center of the page.

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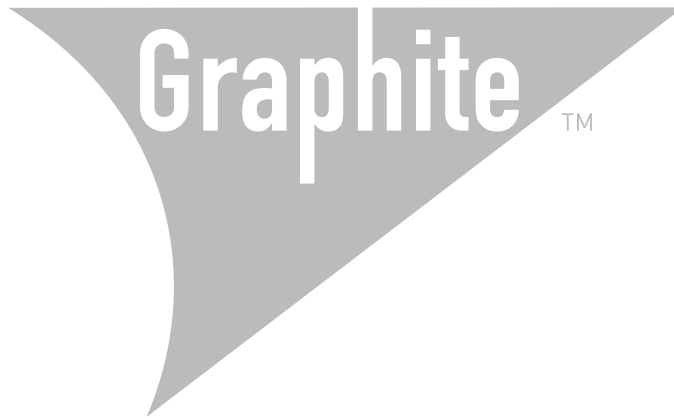
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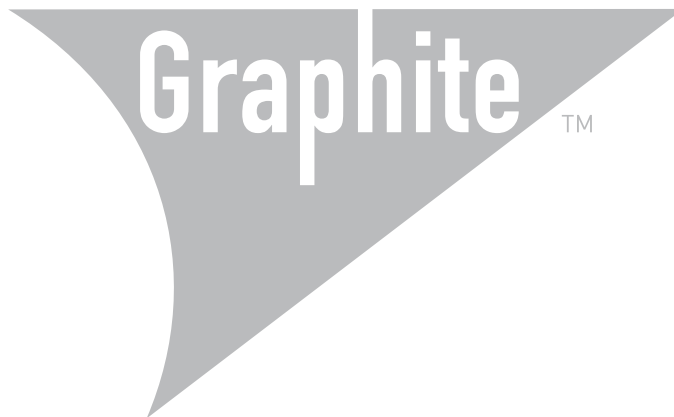
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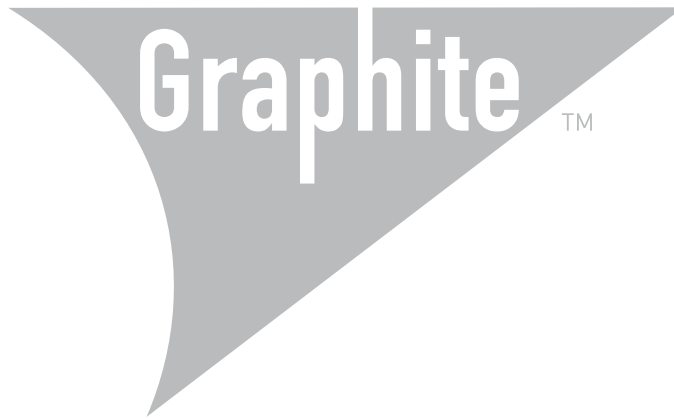
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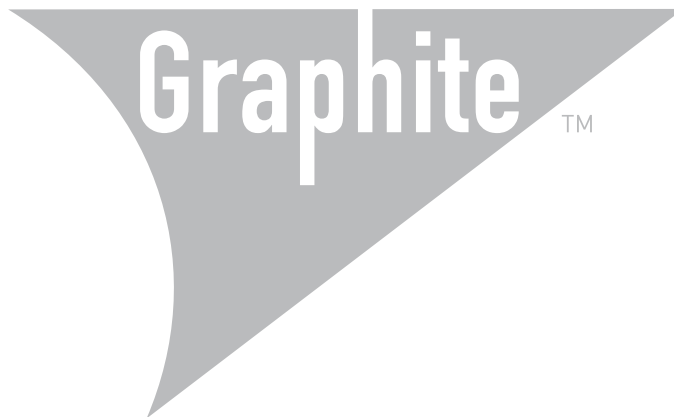
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Isaac Lovdahl



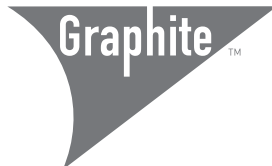
Isaac Lovdahl is an award-winning composer, conductor, educator, and vocalist based in Fargo, ND. He directed high school, church, and community choirs in Minnesota after graduating from Concordia College in 2015, and is now finishing a DMA in Choral Conducting at North Dakota State University where he was named the first ever Challey School of Music Choral Conducting Fellow. Along with his doctoral studies, Isaac directs the campus tenor-bass ensemble and teaches ear training. Additionally, he serves as the Assistant Conductor of the Fargo-Moorhead Choral Artists.

His choral compositions and art songs have been performed internationally by collegiate, community-based, and professional ensembles and soloists among others. Isaac and his team took first-place at Minneapolis SongSLAM 2020, an art song composition competition hosted by Source Song Festival in conjunction with Sparks and Wiry Cries. In 2021, he was named the winner of the Yale Glee Club Emerging Composer Competition and the Bellevue Chamber Chorus Emerging Composer Competition. Most recently, Isaac's piece "Freedom" earned second-place at the 43rd Annual Ithaca College Choral Composition Festival and he was named a finalist in the 2023 Young New Yorkers' Chorus Competition for Young Composers.

Isaac's original music can be found online through Graphite Publishing, Santa Barbara Music Publishing, NewMusicShelf, VocalEssence Music Press, MusicSpoke, and his own website.

Other choral works for mixed voices from Graphite Publishing:

Eric William Barnum	GP-B008	The White Birds	SATB, a cappella
Eric William Barnum	GP-B010	Conflagration	SATB, piano
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Christopher Harris	GP-H016	Were You There?	SATB, a cappella
Christopher Harris	GP-H018	He's Able!	SATB (div), piano
Isaac Lovdahl	GP-L002	They Brought a Joyful Song	SATB (div), piano
Isaac Lovdahl	GP-L006	Though the great Waters sleep	SATB (div), piano
Luke Mayernik	GP-M004	Emblem	SATB, S solo, piano, violin, cello
Luke Mayernik	GP-M005	IKON	SSAATTBB, a cappella
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Paul John Rudoj	GP-R014	Stillness and the Night	SATB, a cappella
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Joshua Shank	GP-S004	Daughter Ecstatic	SATB, soli quartet, a cappella
Timothy C. Takach	GP-T001	'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime	SATB, a cappella
Timothy C. Takach	GP-T010	Neither Angels, Nor Demons, Nor Powers	SSATBB, a cappella
Takach and Hagen	GP-T016	This is How You Love (multi-movement)	SATB, a cappella
Joe Twist	GP-T020	Hymn of Ancient Lands	SATB (div), S solo a cappella
Joe Twist	GP-T021	Weep, O Mine Eyes	SSAATTBB a cappella
Ellen Gilson Voth	GP-V002	Across the empty square	SATB, piano
Dale Warland	GP-W001	Always Singing	SATB (div), a cappella
Dale Warland	GP-W003	Sed Amore (But by Love)	SATB (div), piano
Reignal Wright	GP-W006	The Gift to Sing	SATB, piano
Reignal Wright	GP-W007	Tides	SATB, violin, viola, piano
Reignal Wright	GP-W008	Life's Mirror	SATB, piano



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