

To my friend The Rev. HAROURT B.S. FOWLER, Elmley Castle, Worcestershire

# I sing the birth

CAROL

Ben Jonson

(AN HYMN ON THE NATIVITY OF MY SAVIOUR)

Edward Elgar

**Allegretto**  
*mf*

S. Al - - - le - lu - ia! *pp*

A. Al - - - le - lu - ia! *pp*

T. \* QUASI SOLO *legato*  
I sing the birth was

B. Al - - - le - lu - ia! *pp*

T. born to-night, the au - thor both of life and light; the an - gels so did

8 **a tempo**  
*p* Al - - - le - lu - ia! *pp*

Al - - - le - lu - ia! QUASI SOLO  
And like the rav - ish'd

sound it. *p* Al - - - le - lu - ia! *pp*

A. shep - herds said, Who saw the light, and were a - fraid, Yet search'd, and true they

16 **a tempo**  
*p* Al - - - le - lu - ia! *pp*

found it. *p* Al - - - le - lu - ia! *pp*

Al - - - le - lu - ia! The Son of God, Th'E -



\* These passages should be sung in a very free manner, without any rigid adherence to tempo. They may be taken by solo voices if desired.

B.

-ter - nal King, That did us all sal - va - tion bring, And freed the soul from

24 *a tempo*

Al le - lu - ia! He Whom the whole world  
Al le - lu - ia! He Whom the whole world  
Al le - lu - ia! He Whom the whole world  
dan - ger: He Whom the whole world

28

*dim.*

could not take, The Word, which heav'n and earth did make, Was now laid in a  
dim.  
could not take, The Word, which heav'n and earth did make, Was now laid in a  
dim.  
could not take, The Word, which heav'n and earth did make, Was now laid in a  
dim.  
could not take, The Word, which heav'n and earth did make, Was now laid in a

32

*pp*

*dim.*

man - ger. Al le - lu - ia, Al le - lu - ia!  
*pp*  
man - ger. Al le - lu - ia, Al le - lu - ia!  
*pp*  
man - ger. Al le - lu - ia, Al le - lu - ia!  
*pp*  
man - ger. Al le - lu - ia, Al le - lu - ia!

37 *mf a tempo*

Al *mf* Al *mf* Al *mf* Al - le - lu - ia! *pp*  
Al - le - lu - ia! *pp*

QUASI SOLO  
The Fa - ther's wis - dom

Al - le - lu - ia!

T. will'd it so, The Son's o - be - dience knew no No, Both wills were in one

45 *p a tempo*

*p* Al - le - lu - ia! *pp*  
Al - le - lu - ia! QUASI SOLO  
Al - le - lu - ia! And as that wis - dom

sta - ture; *p* Al - le - lu - ia! *pp*  
Al - le - lu - ia!

49 *dim.*

had de-creed, The Word was now made flesh in - deed, And took on Him our

53 *p a tempo*

*p* Al - le - lu - ia! *pp*  
Al - le - lu - ia!

na - ture. *p* Al - le - lu - ia! *pp*  
*p* Al - le - lu - ia! *pp* QUASI SOLO

Al - le - lu - ia! What com - fort by Him

*cresc.*

B. A musical score for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano. The vocal parts are in soprano, alto, tenor, and bass clef. The piano part is in bass clef. The music consists of three systems of staves. System 1 (measures 60-64) starts with a piano introduction followed by the vocal entries. The lyrics are: "do we win, Who made Him - self the price of sin, To make us heirs of Al - le - lu - ia! To see this babe, all". System 2 (measures 65-71) continues with the vocal entries. The lyrics are: "Al - le - lu - ia! To see this Babe, all Al - le - lu - ia! To see this Babe, all Al - le - lu - ia! To see this Babe, all glo - ry! To see this Babe, all". System 3 (measures 72-78) continues with the vocal entries. The lyrics are: "in - no - cence; A mar - tyr born in our de-fence; Can man for-get this in - no - cence; A mar - tyr born in our de-fence; Can man for-get this in - no - cence; A mar - tyr born in our de-fence; Can man for-get this in - no - cence, A mar - tyr born in our de-fence; Can man for-get this". System 4 (measures 79-85) continues with the vocal entries. The lyrics are: "sto - ry? Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! sto - ry? Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! sto - ry? Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! sto - ry? Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!". The piano part provides harmonic support throughout the score.