for Stephen Cleobury and
the choir of King's College, Cambridge

What sweeter music

*Words by
Robert Herrick
(1591–1674)

JOHN RUTTER

Andante tranquillo (♩ = 66)

SOPRANOS *p dolce e legato*

What sweet-er

ORGAN

Sw. *p legato sempre*

Man.

5

mu - sic can we bring Than_a ca - rol, for to sing The birth_of

Ped.

9

mp *mf*

this our heav'n-ly King? A-wake the voice! A-wake the string! Dark and dull

TENORS & BASSES *mp* unis.

mp *mf* *mp*

*slightly abridged and altered

This carol has been recorded on Collegium COLCD 111 by The Cambridge Singers and The City of London Sinfonia, conducted by the composer.

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13

poco meno mosso

T.

B.

night, fly hence a - way, And give the ho - nour to this day That sees De -

17

a tempo

pp poco rit.

(♩ = 66)

S.
A.

That sees De - cem - ber turn'd to May.

T.
B.

-cem - ber turn'd to May,

Why does the

dim.

p pp

mp cantabile

a tempo

poco rit.

(♩ = 66)

dim.

p

mp

21

unis.

3

3

chill - ing win-ter's morn Smile, like a field be - set with corn? Or smell like a

Ped.

25

mf *f dolce* *mp*

mea-dow new-ly shorn Thus on the sud - den? Come and see The cause, why

mf *mp*

29

mp *mf*

S. 1

S. 2

S. A.

'Tis he is born, whose quick-'ning birth Gives life and

A. *mp* *mf*

T. B.

things thus fra-grant be: 'Tis he is born, whose quick-'ning birth Gives life and

Fl.

Man.

33

S. *mp*

p molto legato

lu - stre, pub-lic mirth, To hea-ven and the un-der-earth. We see him

A. *mp*

T.

B. *p molto legato*

lu - stre, pub-lic mirth, To hea-ven and the un-der-earth.

p

(Organ tacet)

(Man.)

What sweeter music

37

S. A.

Turns all the

come,_ and know him ours,__ Who, with his sun-shine and his show'rs, Turns the

T. B.

41

mp mf p

pa - tient ground to flow'rs, turns all the pa - tient ground to flow'rs. The

mp mp mf T. pp

turns all the ground to__ flow'rs. The

45

S. div.

dar-ling of the world is come, And fit it is, we find a room To__

(pp)

dar - ling of the world is come, we__ find__ a

49

wel-come him, to wel-come him. The no-bler part of all the house here, is the

room__ to__ wel-come him. mp cresc.

pp mp cresc.

Man. Ped.

What sweeter music

53

S. A. T. B.

mp

heart, Which we will give_ him; and be - queath_ This_ hol - ly, and this

mf mp

p

57

S. A.

i - vy wreath,

mf

And Lord of

T.

i - vy wreath, To do_ him ho - nour; who's our King, And Lord of

B.

div.

mf

i - vy wreath, To do him ho - nour;_ who's our King,_ And Lord of

mp

Ped.

What sweeter music

60

S. A. poco f mf p pp molto dolce

all this re - vel - ling. What sweet - er

T. poco f mf p pp molto dolce

all ___ this re - vel - ling. What sweet - er

B. poco f mf p pp molto dolce

all ___ this re - vel - ling. ___ What sweet - er

(Ped.)

64

mu - sic can we bring Than_ a ca - rol, for to

What sweeter music

67

S. A. T. B.

mp poco rit. poco meno mosso

sing The birth_ of this our heav'n- ly King, the birth of

mp p

sing The birth of this our heav'n-ly King. (Hum)

mp p

sing The birth_ of this our heav'n- ly King.— (Hum)

mp p

sing The birth of this our heav'n- ly King. (Hum)

poco rit. poco meno mosso

mp dim.

70

dim. pp rit. a tempo

this our hea - ven - ly King.

dim. pp

dim. pp

div. dim. pp

rit. a tempo rit.

pp

(Ped.)

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