





A Christmas Cantata

For flexible choir and piano

By Samantha Jellett

Grandad's Story

Spoken parts: Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Tim, Grandad. Tim's/Grandad's sung solos can be allocated to larger groups of performers if preferred.

Prelude

(Narrator 1 speaks over music as indicated in score)

Narrator 1: Bethlehem, 50 AD. Over 80 years later, in 137 AD, the birthday of the Christ child, Jesus, would be declared to be a solemn feast. This was the beginning of Christmas as we know it. What, though, did the people of 50 AD have?

We've Only Got a Story

We haven't got a Christmas tree With lots of pretty lights, No Santa Claus, no Rudolph, Flying through the night, We haven't got a calendar To open every day, But what we've got is special And will never fade away!

We've only got a story,
A story true,
Of things that really happened:
So listen, do!
Of how the Son of God came down,
A tiny baby new,
We've only got a story
And this story is for you!

We haven't got a turkey stuffed With lots of sausage meat, No brussels sprouts, no bread sauce, Good enough to eat, We haven't got a Christmas pud With silver coins inside, But what we've got is special And will last longer than time!

CHORUS

We don't have any Christmas cards Complete with snowy scenes, No stockings full of presents, Bursting at the seams, We won't be eating mince pies As we drink our cups of tea, But what we've got is special, As you very soon will see!

CHORUS

Tell me a story, story! I don't want to be bored So it better had be good! Tell me a story, story!

PART 1: A story of adventure and exciting things that happen, (repeat twice)

PART 2: Yes, a story full of angels and three wise men riding camels, (repeat once)

PART 3Yes, a story of a bright star and a baby in a stable

ALL: Exciting things that happen/ Three wise men riding camels/ A baby in a stable. Exciting things that happen/ Three wise men riding camels/ A baby in a stable.

ALL (SING): We've only got a story, and this story is for you! (SHOUT): We've only got a story, and this story is for you!

Narrator 2: Yes, they only had a story- a story of something amazing that had happened 50 years earlier, and that had begun to be passed down to new generations, changing many people's lives along the way. There was one person who was particularly qualified to tell this story- meet Tim's Grandad (Point at Tim's Grandad). He was just a shepherd boy when he saw the angels of heaven telling of Jesus' birth. Tim never tired of hearing his Grandad's amazing story.

(**Tim** and **Grandad** step forwards)

Tim: Tell me your story again, Grandad.

Grandad: Haven't you heard it enough times?

[Tim shakes his head.]

Tell me, Grandad

Tim: Tell me, Grandad, all about it,

Tell me everything you saw,

Oh, I know you've told me many times,

But please tell me once more; Did you really see the angel, Was it frightening, Were you scared?

Did you really see the Saviour

Lying in a manger bed?

Grandad: I remember it was winter,

I remember it was cold,

We were out upon the hillside And the night was growing old; I remember I was young then, Not much bigger than you now, Just a shepherd boy from Bethlehem

And frightened of the dark:

All: When suddenly the shadows disappeared:

The sky was filled with light so bright and clear! An angel stood before us, saying, 'Do not be afraid!

I bring you news, such joyful news, today! When suddenly the shadows disappeared:

The sky was filled with light so bright and clear! An angel stood before us, saying, 'Do not be afraid! I bring you news, such joyful news, today! Today!'

(All) 'Go and find him,' said the angel,

'Baby Jesus, Christ the Lord, He is with his mother Mary,

All wrapped up in swaddling cloths.

In a manger he is lying, The creator of the world,

Come to earth to save his people, Bring your praises to him now!'

Grandad: I remember thinking surely

This must all just be a dream Could the God of Heaven's angel

Really be speaking to me?

And the others, they were trembling,

So unsure, yet so amazed,

They could hardly lift their faces From the ground on which they lay!

All: When suddenly a thousand angels more,

The light was even brighter than before, Their praises rang to God most high

As loud as thunder in the sky:

'Glory to God and peace for evermore!'
When suddenly a thousand angels more
The light was even brighter than before!
Their praises rang to God most high
As loud as thunder in the sky:
'Glory to God and peace for evermore! Evermore!'

Tim: Did you really just leave your sheep on the hillside, Grandad? What about keeping them safe from the wolves, bears and thieves?

Grandad: We knew that if God could send angels to us then he was certainly able to keep our sheep safe. We jumped up and said to one another, 'What are we waiting for? Let's go!'

Get Up, Get Up!

Get up! Get up! Get out of bed, For this is what the angel said: Get up! Get up! Get out of bed, We're going to see the baby!

Leave your sheep, your ewes, your lambs, We're going to see a greater Lamb, Hurry now, time's ticking on, We're going to see the Lamb of God.

Get up! Get up! Get out of bed, For this is what the angel said: Get up! Get up! Get out of bed, We're going to see the baby!

> Leave your shepherd's crooks and things, We're going to see the newborn King, Hurry now, have you not heard, We're going to see the Good Shepherd.

Get up! Get up! Get out of bed, For this is what the angel said: Get up! Get up! Get out of bed, We're going to see the baby!

> A lamb he is, a sacrifice, For in his people's place he'll die, A shepherd too, so kind and strong, He'll lead his people gently on.

(very quietly)

Get up! Get up! Get out of bed, For this is what the angel said: Get up! Get up! Get out of bed, We're going to see the baby! (very loud) Get up! Get up! Get out of bed, For this is what the angel said: Get up! Get up! Get out of bed, We're going to see the baby! We're going to see the baby!

Grandad: So off we set, leaving our fields and sheep and making our way towards the town, not quite sure what we would find. It was the strangest feeling.

On a Midnight Journey

On a midnight journey,
Wonder what we'll find?
Shepherds marching quickly,
leaving Sheep and hills behind.
Darkness all around us,
I can't see at all!
Ground is rough and stony
So be careful not to fall!

What an adventure, Stranger than a dream, Who could have imagined What tonight would bring? Here, now, forever, History's being changed, And even lowly shepherds Have a part to play.

Coming through the town now,
I can see my house;
Shall I stop and tell the Missus
What it's all about?
Shall I change my clothing?
I could use a wash,
Comb my hair and brush my teeth- NO!
There's no time to stop!

What an adventure, Stranger than a dream, Who could have imagined What tonight would bring? Here, now, forever, History's being changed, And even lowly shepherds Have a part to play.

Streets are all deserted,
Everyone's in bed;
Bethlehem is fast asleep,
Except a cattle shed.
Wonder how we'll find it?
Wish we had a map!
Ah, this seems to be the place;
I think we're here now, chaps!

What an adventure, Stranger than a dream, Who could have imagined What tonight would bring? Here, now, forever, History's being changed, And even lowly shepherds Have a part to play. And even lowly shepherds Have a part to play!

Tim: What did you see when you got to the stable, Grandad? Tell me, tell me!

Grandad: Even though the angels had told us what to expect, we were still amazed. The Son of God himself had come to earth, yet he was lying in a manger with just the stable animals and a young couple called Mary and Joseph for company. We couldn't help but wonder if all this was good enough for him.

Just Me

(Opt. solo)
Just me, a girl called Mary,
Just me, why me?
Just me, so ordinary,
How can I be good enough to welcome such a king?

(Chorus: all)

God chooses the weak to shame the strong,
The poor to shame the rich,
He takes pots of earthen clay,
And places His finest treasure there.
God chooses the weak to shame the strong,
The poor to shame the rich,
He takes pots of earthen clay,
And places His finest treasure there.

(Opt. small group)
Just us, some lowly shepherds,
Just us, why us?
Just us, dirty and tired,
How can we be good enough to welcome such a king?

(Chorus: all)

(All)
Just here, a humble stable,
Just here, why here?
Just here, a wooden cradle,

How can it be good enough to welcome such a King?

(Chorus: all, repeating last 2 lines)

Grandad: We may not have been dressed in fine clothes but we had some visitors who were.

Tim: Who- the three Wise Men from the East? What did they look like?

Grandad: Like treasure chests on legs! They had brought the finest gifts imaginable for the baby; gold, frankincense and myrhh. Definitely good enough for a King.

Tim: Did they really follow a star to find the stable? (*Pause as Grandad nods*) It's easy for you, Grandad- you were there. But it still seems like just a story to me. Can it really all be true? I've got so many questions.

Grandad: Seeing isn't always believing, Tim. But go on, ask me your questions.

Questions, Questions

Tim: Grandad?
Grandad: Yes, Tim?
Tim: I've got a question.
Grandad: Ready, aim, fire!

(all click fingers to one side and then the other)

Tim: How could a brand new star appear, Shining out so bright and clear,

Over the stable hanging low, Showing wise men where to go?

All: Questions, questions,

So many questions,

Who, what, why, where, how?

Questions, questions, So many questions,

Tell me the answer now!

Grandad: The answer's true, though not very long:

Nothing's impossible for God!

Tim: Grandad? Grandad: Yes, Tim?

Tim: I've got a question. **Grandad:** Ready, aim, fire!

Tim: How could a tiny baby be

Lord and King eternally?

How could God be made so small,

Who created one and all?

All: Questions, questions,

So many questions,

Who, what, why, where, how?

Questions, questions, So many questions,

Tell me the answer now!

Grandad: The answer's true, though not very long:

Nothing's impossible for God!

Tim: Grandad?
Grandad: Yes, Tim?
Tim: I've got a question.
Grandad: Ready, aim, fire!

Tim: How could it be that on the cross,

Jesus died for sinners lost, Opening up Heaven's door, Bringing peace forevermore?

All: Questions, questions,

So many questions,

Who, what, why, where, how?

Questions, questions, So many questions, Tell me the answer now!

Grandad: The answer's true, though not very long: Nothing's impossible for God!

All: The answer's true, though not very long:
Nothing's impossible for God!
Nothing's impossible for God!

Tim: I think I understand now. So what did you do after you'd seen the baby Jesus, Grandad? Did you go back to your sheep?

Grandad: Not likely! We couldn't keep what we had seen to ourselves- we had to tell the world! And that's what you can do, too.

Off to Tell the World

We're off to tell the world, we're off to tell the world,
We'll be the first but not the last;
Rejoice for Christ is born, Rejoice for Christ is born!
The promised Saviour, God with us,
Some things you just can't keep inside, can't put away for another day,
Sometimes a story really must be told!
Stamp and shout the good news out,
Tell the people all around,
Christ has come, His glory now behold!
(repeat x 2)

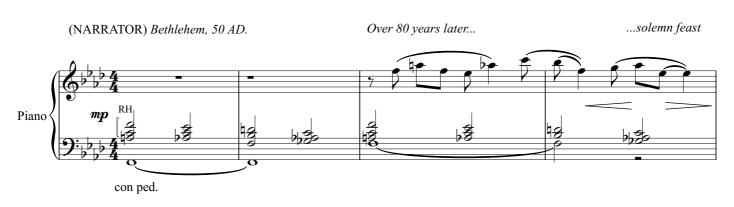
We're off to tell the world, We're off to tell the world, The evening's coming, But we are humming Our song to tell the world, (repeat, humming)

We're off to tell the world, we're off to tell the world, We'll be the first but not the last; Rejoice for Christ is born, Rejoice for Christ is born! The promised Saviour, God with us: Let's tell the world! Let's tell the world! Let's tell the world!

Grandad's Story

Prelude

Lento, J=c. 54



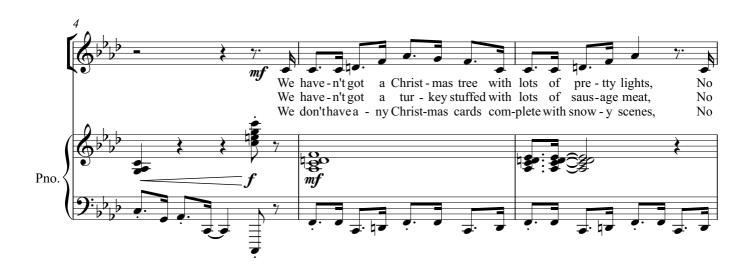
...What, though, did the people of 50 AD have?

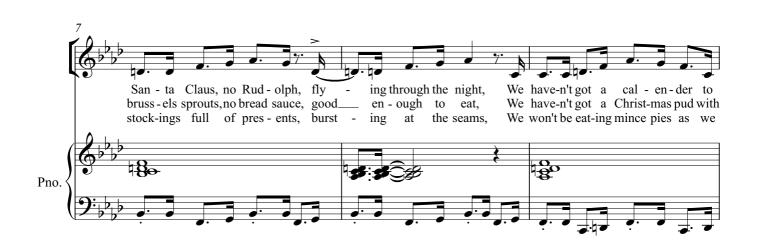


We've Only Got a Story

Samantha Jellett















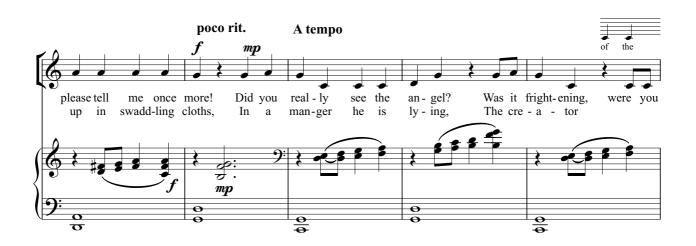


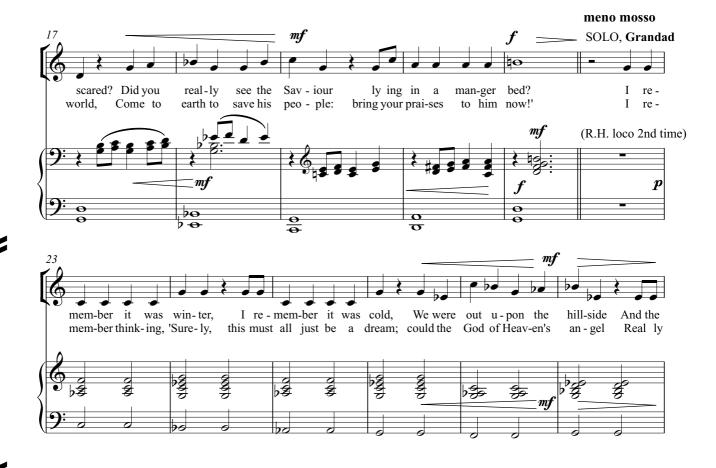
Tell Me, Grandad

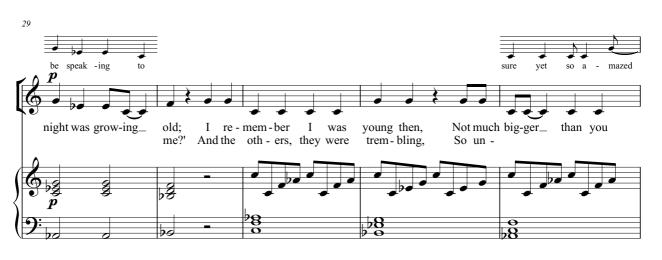
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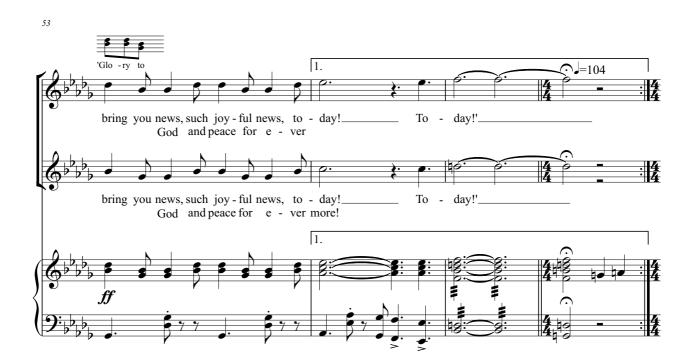


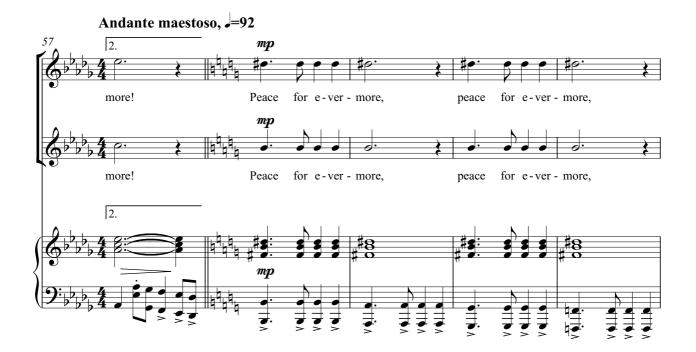












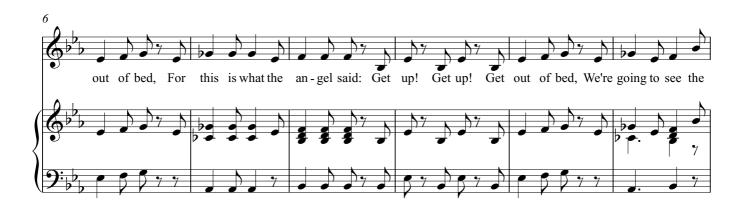


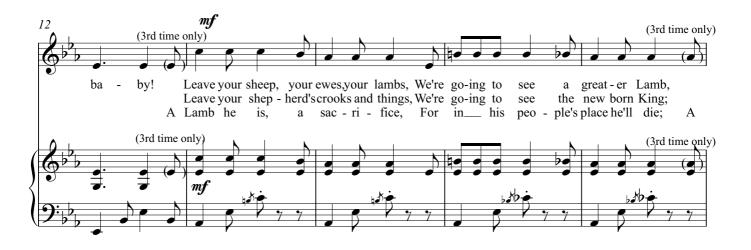
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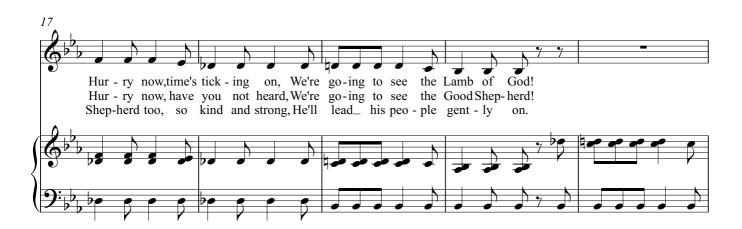
Get Up, Get Up!

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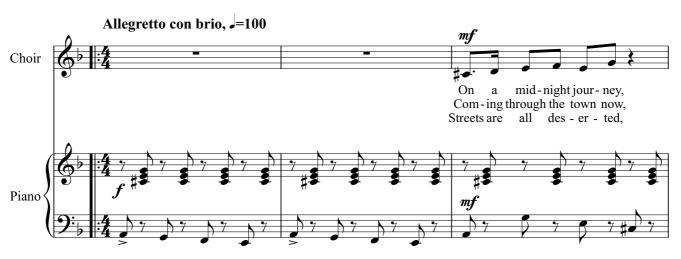


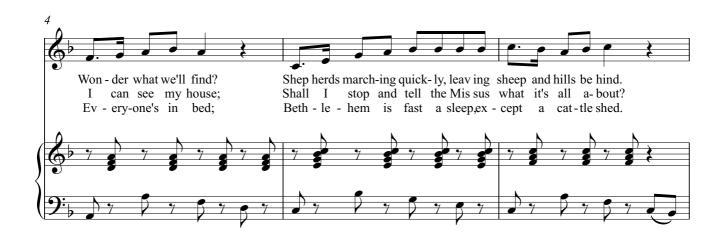


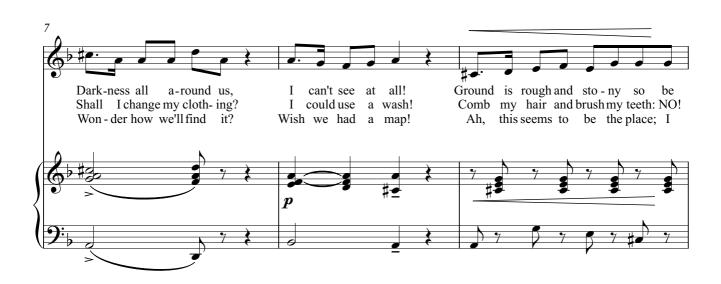


On a Midnight Journey

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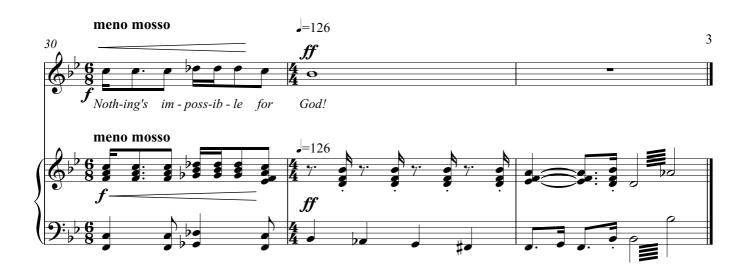










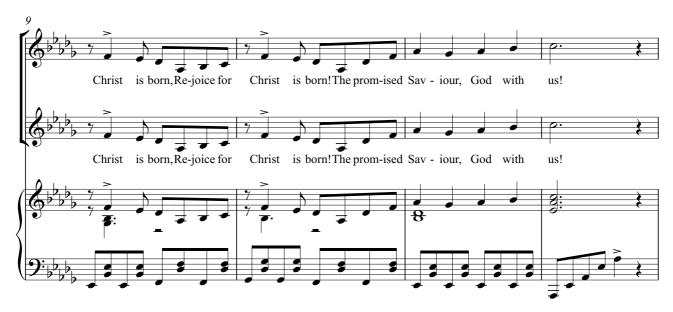


We're Off To Tell The World





























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Grandad's Story

Spoken parts: Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Tim, Grandad. Tim's/Grandad's sung solos can be allocated to larger groups of performers if preferred.

Prelude

(Narrator 1 speaks over music as indicated in score)

Narrator 1: Bethlehem, 50 AD. Over 80 years later, in 137 AD, the birthday of the Christ child, Jesus, would be declared to be a solemn feast. This was the beginning of Christmas as we know it. What, though, did the people of 50 AD have?

We've Only Got a Story

We haven't got a Christmas tree With lots of pretty lights, No Santa Claus, no Rudolph, Flying through the night, We haven't got a calendar To open every day, But what we've got is special And will never fade away!

We've only got a story,
A story true,
Of things that really happened:
So listen, do!
Of how the Son of God came down,
A tiny baby new,
We've only got a story
And this story is for you!

We haven't got a turkey stuffed With lots of sausage meat, No brussels sprouts, no bread sauce, Good enough to eat, We haven't got a Christmas pud With silver coins inside, But what we've got is special And will last longer than time!

CHORUS

We don't have any Christmas cards Complete with snowy scenes, No stockings full of presents, Bursting at the seams, We won't be eating mince pies As we drink our cups of tea, But what we've got is special, As you very soon will see!

CHORUS

Tell me a story, story! I don't want to be bored So it better had be good! Tell me a story, story!

PART 1: A story of adventure and exciting things that happen, (repeat twice)

PART 2: Yes, a story full of angels and three wise men riding camels, (repeat once)

PART 3Yes, a story of a bright star and a baby in a stable

ALL: Exciting things that happen/ Three wise men riding camels/ A baby in a stable. Exciting things that happen/ Three wise men riding camels/ A baby in a stable.

ALL (SING): We've only got a story, and this story is for you! (SHOUT): We've only got a story, and this story is for you!

Narrator 2: Yes, they only had a story- a story of something amazing that had happened 50 years earlier, and that had begun to be passed down to new generations, changing many people's lives along the way. There was one person who was particularly qualified to tell this story- meet Tim's Grandad (Point at Tim's Grandad). He was just a shepherd boy when he saw the angels of heaven telling of Jesus' birth. Tim never tired of hearing his Grandad's amazing story.

(**Tim** and **Grandad** step forwards)

Tim: Tell me your story again, Grandad.

Grandad: Haven't you heard it enough times?

[Tim shakes his head.]

Tell me, Grandad

Tim: Tell me, Grandad, all about it,

Tell me everything you saw,

Oh, I know you've told me many times,

But please tell me once more; Did you really see the angel, Was it frightening, Were you scared?

Did you really see the Saviour

Lying in a manger bed?

Grandad: I remember it was winter,

I remember it was cold,

We were out upon the hillside And the night was growing old; I remember I was young then, Not much bigger than you now, Just a shepherd boy from Bethlehem

And frightened of the dark:

All: When suddenly the shadows disappeared:

The sky was filled with light so bright and clear! An angel stood before us, saying, 'Do not be afraid!

I bring you news, such joyful news, today! When suddenly the shadows disappeared:

The sky was filled with light so bright and clear! An angel stood before us, saying, 'Do not be afraid! I bring you news, such joyful news, today! Today!'

(All) 'Go and find him,' said the angel,

'Baby Jesus, Christ the Lord, He is with his mother Mary,

All wrapped up in swaddling cloths.

In a manger he is lying, The creator of the world,

Come to earth to save his people, Bring your praises to him now!'

Grandad: I remember thinking surely

This must all just be a dream Could the God of Heaven's angel

Really be speaking to me?

And the others, they were trembling,

So unsure, yet so amazed,

They could hardly lift their faces From the ground on which they lay!

All: When suddenly a thousand angels more,

The light was even brighter than before, Their praises rang to God most high

As loud as thunder in the sky:

'Glory to God and peace for evermore!'
When suddenly a thousand angels more
The light was even brighter than before!
Their praises rang to God most high
As loud as thunder in the sky:
'Glory to God and peace for evermore! Evermore!'

Tim: Did you really just leave your sheep on the hillside, Grandad? What about keeping them safe from the wolves, bears and thieves?

Grandad: We knew that if God could send angels to us then he was certainly able to keep our sheep safe. We jumped up and said to one another, 'What are we waiting for? Let's go!'

Get Up, Get Up!

Get up! Get up! Get out of bed, For this is what the angel said: Get up! Get up! Get out of bed, We're going to see the baby!

Leave your sheep, your ewes, your lambs, We're going to see a greater Lamb, Hurry now, time's ticking on, We're going to see the Lamb of God.

Get up! Get up! Get out of bed, For this is what the angel said: Get up! Get up! Get out of bed, We're going to see the baby!

> Leave your shepherd's crooks and things, We're going to see the newborn King, Hurry now, have you not heard, We're going to see the Good Shepherd.

Get up! Get up! Get out of bed, For this is what the angel said: Get up! Get up! Get out of bed, We're going to see the baby!

> A lamb he is, a sacrifice, For in his people's place he'll die, A shepherd too, so kind and strong, He'll lead his people gently on.

(very quietly)

Get up! Get up! Get out of bed, For this is what the angel said: Get up! Get up! Get out of bed, We're going to see the baby! (very loud) Get up! Get up! Get out of bed, For this is what the angel said: Get up! Get up! Get out of bed, We're going to see the baby! We're going to see the baby!

Grandad: So off we set, leaving our fields and sheep and making our way towards the town, not quite sure what we would find. It was the strangest feeling.

On a Midnight Journey

On a midnight journey,
Wonder what we'll find?
Shepherds marching quickly,
leaving Sheep and hills behind.
Darkness all around us,
I can't see at all!
Ground is rough and stony
So be careful not to fall!

What an adventure, Stranger than a dream, Who could have imagined What tonight would bring? Here, now, forever, History's being changed, And even lowly shepherds Have a part to play.

Coming through the town now,
I can see my house;
Shall I stop and tell the Missus
What it's all about?
Shall I change my clothing?
I could use a wash,
Comb my hair and brush my teeth- NO!
There's no time to stop!

What an adventure, Stranger than a dream, Who could have imagined What tonight would bring? Here, now, forever, History's being changed, And even lowly shepherds Have a part to play.

Streets are all deserted,
Everyone's in bed;
Bethlehem is fast asleep,
Except a cattle shed.
Wonder how we'll find it?
Wish we had a map!
Ah, this seems to be the place;
I think we're here now, chaps!

What an adventure, Stranger than a dream, Who could have imagined What tonight would bring? Here, now, forever, History's being changed, And even lowly shepherds Have a part to play. And even lowly shepherds Have a part to play!

Tim: What did you see when you got to the stable, Grandad? Tell me, tell me!

Grandad: Even though the angels had told us what to expect, we were still amazed. The Son of God himself had come to earth, yet he was lying in a manger with just the stable animals and a young couple called Mary and Joseph for company. We couldn't help but wonder if all this was good enough for him.

Just Me

(Opt. solo)
Just me, a girl called Mary,
Just me, why me?
Just me, so ordinary,
How can I be good enough to welcome such a king?

(Chorus: all)

God chooses the weak to shame the strong,
The poor to shame the rich,
He takes pots of earthen clay,
And places His finest treasure there.
God chooses the weak to shame the strong,
The poor to shame the rich,
He takes pots of earthen clay,
And places His finest treasure there.

(Opt. small group)
Just us, some lowly shepherds,
Just us, why us?
Just us, dirty and tired,
How can we be good enough to welcome such a king?

(Chorus: all)

(All)
Just here, a humble stable,
Just here, why here?
Just here, a wooden cradle,

How can it be good enough to welcome such a King?

(Chorus: all, repeating last 2 lines)

Grandad: We may not have been dressed in fine clothes but we had some visitors who were.

Tim: Who- the three Wise Men from the East? What did they look like?

Grandad: Like treasure chests on legs! They had brought the finest gifts imaginable for the baby; gold, frankincense and myrhh. Definitely good enough for a King.

Tim: Did they really follow a star to find the stable? (*Pause as Grandad nods*) It's easy for you, Grandad- you were there. But it still seems like just a story to me. Can it really all be true? I've got so many questions.

Grandad: Seeing isn't always believing, Tim. But go on, ask me your questions.

Questions, Questions

Tim: Grandad?
Grandad: Yes, Tim?
Tim: I've got a question.
Grandad: Ready, aim, fire!

(all click fingers to one side and then the other)

Tim: How could a brand new star appear, Shining out so bright and clear,

Over the stable hanging low, Showing wise men where to go?

All: Questions, questions,

So many questions,

Who, what, why, where, how?

Questions, questions, So many questions,

Tell me the answer now!

Grandad: The answer's true, though not very long:

Nothing's impossible for God!

Tim: Grandad? Grandad: Yes, Tim?

Tim: I've got a question. **Grandad:** Ready, aim, fire!

Tim: How could a tiny baby be

Lord and King eternally?

How could God be made so small,

Who created one and all?

All: Questions, questions,

So many questions,

Who, what, why, where, how?

Questions, questions, So many questions,

Tell me the answer now!

Grandad: The answer's true, though not very long:

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Tim: Grandad?
Grandad: Yes, Tim?
Tim: I've got a question.
Grandad: Ready, aim, fire!

Tim: How could it be that on the cross,

Jesus died for sinners lost, Opening up Heaven's door, Bringing peace forevermore?

All: Questions, questions,

So many questions,

Who, what, why, where, how?

Questions, questions, So many questions, Tell me the answer now!

Grandad: The answer's true, though not very long: Nothing's impossible for God!

All: The answer's true, though not very long:
Nothing's impossible for God!
Nothing's impossible for God!

Tim: I think I understand now. So what did you do after you'd seen the baby Jesus, Grandad? Did you go back to your sheep?

Grandad: Not likely! We couldn't keep what we had seen to ourselves- we had to tell the world! And that's what you can do, too.

Off to Tell the World

We're off to tell the world, we're off to tell the world,
We'll be the first but not the last;
Rejoice for Christ is born, Rejoice for Christ is born!
The promised Saviour, God with us,
Some things you just can't keep inside, can't put away for another day,
Sometimes a story really must be told!
Stamp and shout the good news out,
Tell the people all around,
Christ has come, His glory now behold!
(repeat x 2)

We're off to tell the world, We're off to tell the world, The evening's coming, But we are humming Our song to tell the world, (repeat, humming)

We're off to tell the world, we're off to tell the world, We'll be the first but not the last; Rejoice for Christ is born, Rejoice for Christ is born! The promised Saviour, God with us: Let's tell the world! Let's tell the world! Let's tell the world!

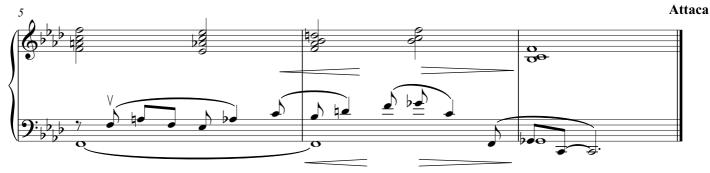
Grandad's Story

Prelude

Lento, J=c. 54



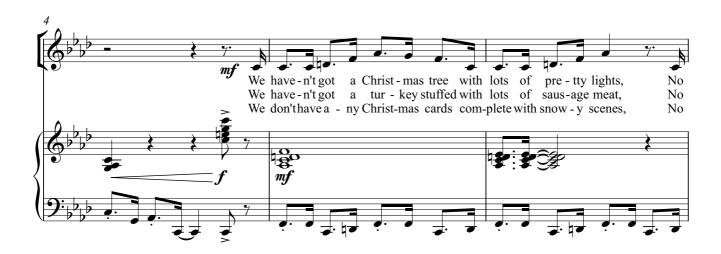
...What, though, did the people of 50 AD have?



We've Only Got a Story

Samantha Jellett







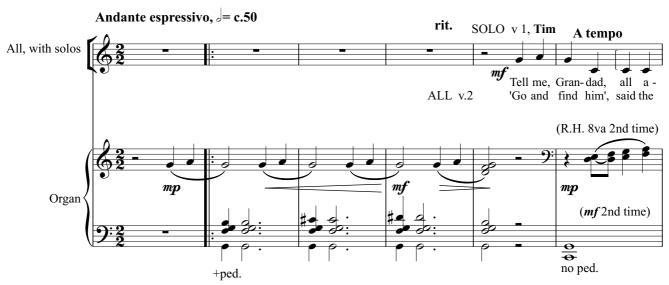




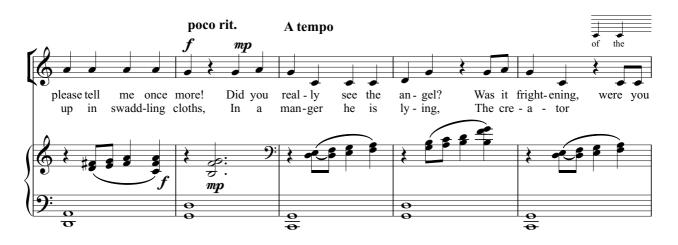


Tell Me, Grandad

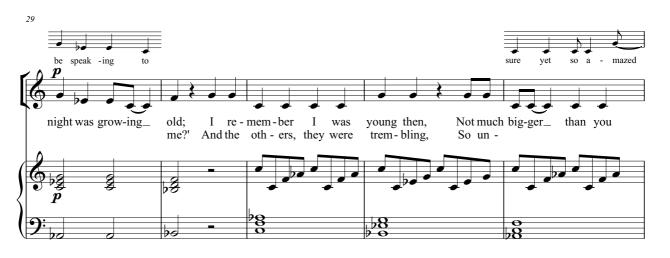
S. Jellett

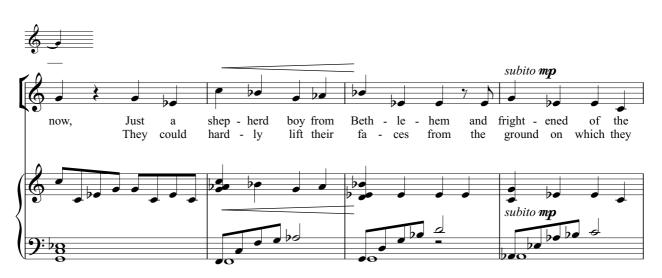






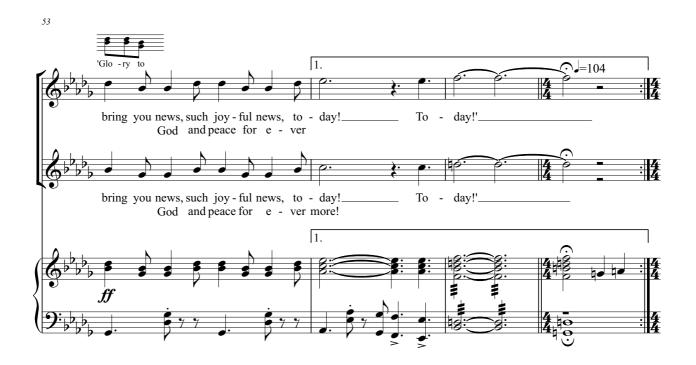


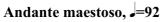




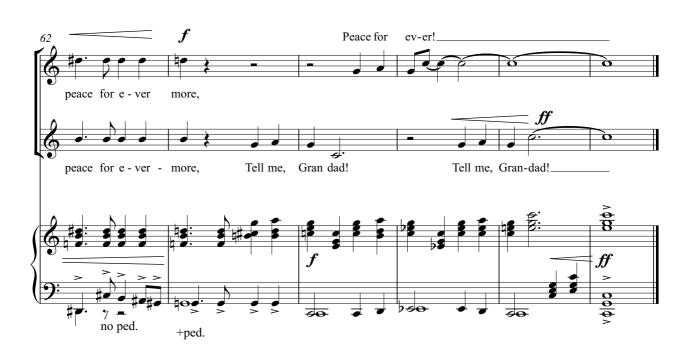










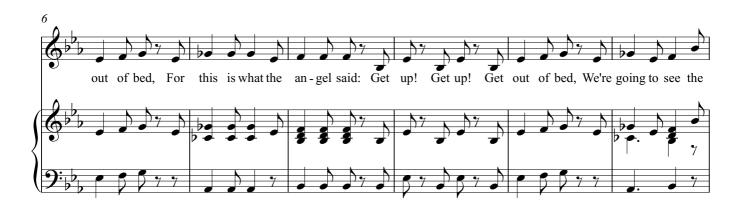


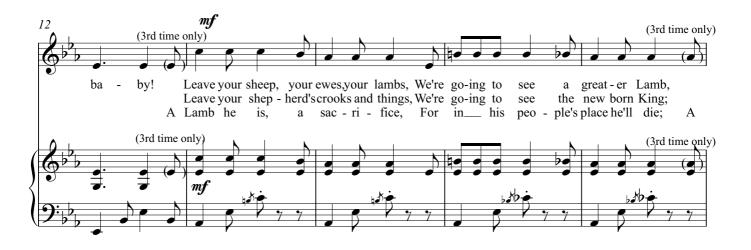
S. Jellett

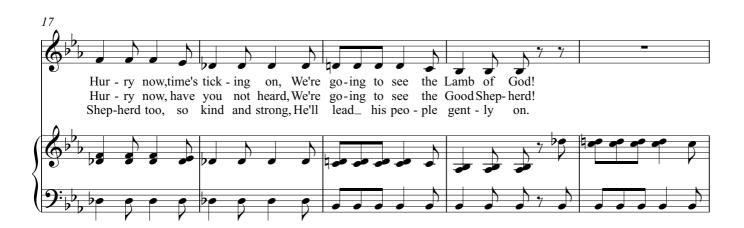
Get Up, Get Up!

S. Jellett





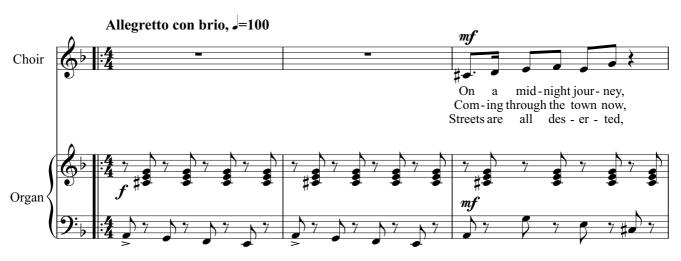


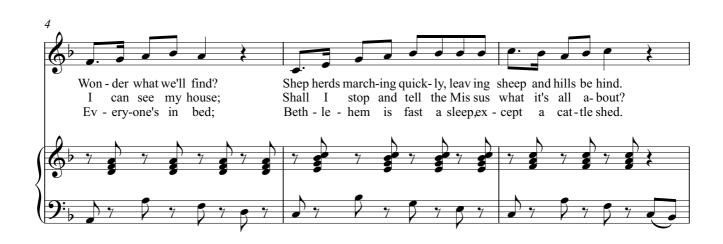


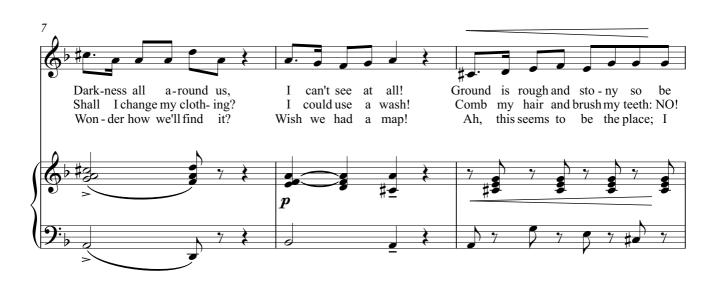


On a Midnight Journey

S. Jellett S. Jellett











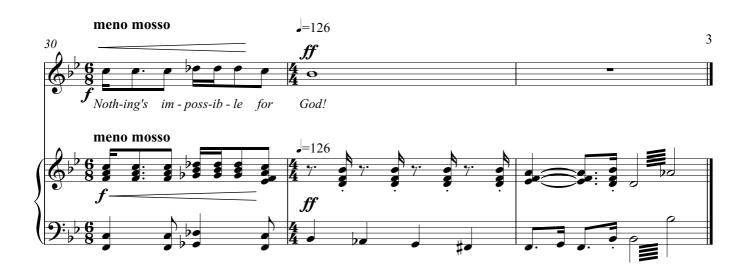












We're Off To Tell The World





