

Mary Had a Baby is a charming arrangement of a traditional Christmas spiritual that incorporates both new music by the composer and, near the end, a second traditional spiritual, *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*. Appropriate for both school and church choirs, it is available in a flexible edition for S.A.T.B. or S.A.B. voices with solo for any voice, male or female, and in a 2-part edition for treble voices.

The opening section (mm. 1-8) should be performed slowly and freely with straight eighth notes. At m. 9, a gentle "swing" feeling begins with triplet eighth notes, evoking a captivating "rocking" feeling.

Perfect for school seasonal concerts, **Mary Had a Baby** is also wonderful for Christmas worship and may be paired with standard lectionary readings, including Psalm 97, Isaiah 62: 11-12, Titus 3: 4-7 and Luke 2: 15-20. One basic homiletical theme is the message of love that comes to us from heaven in the birth of Mary's little Child in Bethlehem.

Don Besig is Director of Music at Perinton Presbyterian Church in Fairport, New York. He has over thirty years of experience teaching vocal music in the public schools of western New York. **Nancy Price** holds B.M. and M.M. degrees in music from Ithaca College. She began singing in elementary school choirs directed by Don Besig and in her senior year of college first worked with him as a lyricist. Since 1980 they have collaborated on over two hundred fifty compositions for school and church. Both Besig and Price have received several ASCAP Special awards.

Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase

MARY HAD A BABY

for S.A.T.B. or S.A.B. voices, accompanied,
with soloist*

New words by **DON BESIG**
and **NANCY PRICE** (ASCAP)

TRADITIONAL SPIRITUALS
Arranged with new music by
DON BESIG (ASCAP)

Slowly (♩ = ca. 84)

mp

SOLO

Ma - ry had a ba - by, — Ma - ry had a ba - by, —

SOPRANO
ALTO

mp

O Lord, Oo,

TENOR
BASS

Slowly (♩ = ca. 84)

ACCOMP.

mp
(play accompaniment mm. 2-6 only if necessary)

4

O Lord. Ma - ry had a ba - by, ti - ny lit - tle ba - by,

unis.

O Lord. Oo

4

*For performance by S.A.B. voices, omit the bass part. The solo may be performed by any voice, male or female.

Slightly faster (♩ = ca. 88-92)

9 (♩ = $\overset{\frown}{\underset{\frown}{\text{♩}}}$ $\overset{\frown}{\underset{\frown}{\text{♩}}}$)

(tacet)

7

Ma - ry had a ba - by, He's our Lord.

He's our Lord.

Slightly faster (♩ = ca. 88-92)

9 (♩ = $\overset{\frown}{\underset{\frown}{\text{♩}}}$ $\overset{\frown}{\underset{\frown}{\text{♩}}}$)

mp

7

10

13

S. *mp unis.*

A. Ma-ry had a ba - by, O Lord. Ma-ry had a ba - by,

T. *mp unis.*

B.

16

O Lord. Ma-ry had a ba - by, ti-ny lit-tle ba - by, *unis.*

3

3

Oo, doo,

Piano accompaniment for measures 16-18, featuring a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

19

Ma-ry had a ba - by, He's our Lord *unis.*

unis.

Piano accompaniment for measures 19-21, including a *mf* dynamic marking in the right hand.

22

A lit-tle ba - by came to earth one night, a *mf* 23

p

Oo

Piano accompaniment for measures 22-24, featuring triplets and a *mp* dynamic marking.

6
25

lit- tle ba- by filled with love and light. Ma- ry held Him close and

Oo

28

safe from harm, rock- ing Him gen- tly in her arms.

mf

31

32

O — Lord.

mf

Laid Him in a man - ger, ———

mp

34

3

p

O Lord. Oo, doo,

(mf)

Laid Him in a man - ger,

Laid Him in a man - ger,

37

Ma-ry had a ba - by, He's our Lord.

just a low-ly man - ger,

Ma-ry had a ba - by,

He's our Lord.

mf

40

42

p

Oo

mf

A lit-tle ba - by came from

mf

3

3

3

The first system of music features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The vocal line consists of a series of eighth notes: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The piano accompaniment has a bass line with eighth notes and a treble line with triplets of eighth notes.

heav'n a - bove; A lit-tle ba - by came to show us love.

The second system of music shows the piano accompaniment for the first system. The bass line continues with eighth notes, and the treble line features triplets of eighth notes.

The third system of music includes a vocal line with a long note 'Oo' and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a long note 'Oo' spanning the first two measures. The piano accompaniment continues with eighth notes in the bass and triplets in the treble.

Born to fill the world with peace and joy, What did she call her ba-by

The fourth system of music shows the piano accompaniment for the third system. The bass line continues with eighth notes, and the treble line features triplets of eighth notes.

51 *mf*

The fifth system of music includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a long note 'boy?' and then 'Called Him King Je - sus, (mf)'. The piano accompaniment continues with eighth notes in the bass and triplets in the treble.

boy?

Called Him King Je - sus,
(*mf*)

The sixth system of music shows the piano accompaniment for the fifth system. The bass line continues with eighth notes, and the treble line features triplets of eighth notes.

52

O Lord. Called Him King Je - sus, O Lord.

The first system of music features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a whole note 'O' followed by a half note 'Lord.' and then a quarter note 'Called' followed by a quarter note 'Him', an eighth note 'King', a quarter note 'Je', an eighth note 'sus,', a whole note 'O', and another whole note 'Lord.'. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

The piano accompaniment for the first system continues with the same eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

55

Called Him King - Je - sus, sent to earth to lead us; Ma-ry had a ba - by,

The second system of music features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line continues with 'Called Him King - Je - sus, sent to earth to lead us; Ma-ry had a ba - by,'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

The piano accompaniment for the second system continues with the same eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

58

unis.
He's our - Lord. - He's got the

The third system of music features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with 'He's our - Lord. - He's got the'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

The piano accompaniment for the third system continues with the same eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

61

whole world— in His hands.— He's got the whole wide world—

64

in His hands.— He's got the whole world— in His hands. He's got the hands.

67

68

whole world in His hands.
unis.
Ma-ry had a ba - by,

70 *mp unis.* *p*

laid Him in a man - ger, ——— called Him King Je - sus, ———

mp *p*

73

— He's our — Lord. —

Preview Only
Legal use Requires Purchase

Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase



alfred.com