

The thoughtful text of **Be Not Afraid! The Messiah Is Born!** is shaped by a study in contrasts. On a long, cold, dark night when all weary shepherds had to do was watch and wait, God pulled out all of the stops to deliver with power and pageantry the greatest announcement the world could ever hear. However, this news of great joy was heard not by the world, but by a handful of lowly shepherds. The composer paints a beautiful picture of this contrast from the restrained description of the shepherds and their waiting to the full majestic angel chorus singing the news of great joy! This piece is suitable for Christmas Eve or Christmas Morning.

Susan Bentall Boersma was born and educated in Michigan and began her study of music with her parents, both of whom were performing artists. Her piano/organ/voice studies continued while attending Hope College. She has served as accompanist for college choirs and touring groups as well as for various solo artists and community choirs. She has led workshops on Music and Worship and has held positions as Pianist, Choral Director and Director of Music Ministries at churches in Michigan, Wisconsin, Vermont, and Ohio. Susan collaborates primarily with Craig Courtney, Mark Hayes, David Lantz III, and Lloyd Larson on both sacred and school repertoire. She lives in Holland, Michigan, with her husband, Dr. James A. Boersma.

David Lantz III is a full-time high school vocal music teacher and choir director in a public school system in Pennsylvania. He is also a prolific composer of sacred and secular choral music, with approximately six hundred published compositions with many major publishers across the United States. He has written for orchestra, symphonic band, jazz ensemble, and chamber groups. In addition, he is an accomplished music editor and typesetter, church choir director, and a regularly performing pianist/bassist/vocalist in the pop and jazz idioms. His degrees include a B.S. in Music Education from Susquehanna University, and a M.M. in Composition from West Chester University. He resides in northeastern Pennsylvania with his wife, composer and musician Marti Lunn Lantz, and is the father of five musical children, ages 16 to 29.

BE NOT AFRAID! THE MESSIAH IS BORN!

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied*

Words by
SUSAN BENTALL BOERSMA (ASCAP)

Music by
DAVID LANTZ III (ASCAP)

Majestically (♩ = ca. 72) 3 *mp*

SOPRANO
ALTO

TENOR
BASS

ACCOMP.

mf mp

Pedal harmonically

4

wait - ing, at a time when hope was al - most

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6

gone, sleep-y shep - herds rest - ed in the

8

shad - ows, si - lent watch - men wait - ing for the

10

dawn. *poco rit.* 12 *a tempo* In the long - est hour _ of the *mp*

a tempo



13

wait - ing, in the dark - est hour of the

15

night, from the sky a - bove them came an

17

an - gel, speak - ing in a burst of glo - ry

molto cresc.

molto cresc.

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20

19

bright. "Be not a - fraid! We bring

f

21

news of great joy! The Mes - si - ah is born.

f

23

Be not a - fraid! The Mes - si - ah, the Mes -

f

26 *poco rit.* *a tempo*

si - ah is born!"

The first system of music features a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The vocal line has a melodic line with lyrics 'si - ah is born!'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and a bass line. The tempo markings 'poco rit.' and 'a tempo' are positioned above the system.

a tempo

poco rit.

The second system of music is a piano accompaniment on a grand staff. It features a complex texture with many sixteenth notes in the right hand and a more rhythmic bass line. The tempo marking 'poco rit.' is placed above the first few measures, and 'a tempo' is placed above the later measures.

29

ff

Sud - den - ly the sky ex - plodes with sing - ing!

ff

The third system of music includes a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a grand staff. The vocal line has a melodic line with lyrics 'Sud - den - ly the sky ex - plodes with sing - ing!'. The piano accompaniment is marked 'ff' and features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The tempo marking 'ff' is placed above the first few measures.

ff

The fourth system of music is a piano accompaniment on a grand staff. It features a complex texture with many sixteenth notes in the right hand and a more rhythmic bass line. The tempo marking 'ff' is placed above the first few measures.

31

Le - gions of the heav - n'ly hosts ap - pear,

The fifth system of music includes a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a grand staff. The vocal line has a melodic line with lyrics 'Le - gions of the heav - n'ly hosts ap - pear,'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and a bass line.

The sixth system of music is a piano accompaniment on a grand staff. It features a complex texture with many sixteenth notes in the right hand and a more rhythmic bass line.

33

mak - ing morn - ing out of black - est mid - night,

35

bring - ing news that on - ly shep - herds hear.

poco dim.

37 *f* **Still strong!**

"Be not a - fraid! We bring news of great joy! The Mes -

f **Still strong!**

39

si - ah is born!

41

mf Be not a - fraid! The Mes - si - ah, the Mes -

mf

43

cresc. poco a poco al fine si - ah is born. The Mes -

cresc. poco a poco al fine

cresc. poco a poco al fine

45

si - ah is born. The Mes -

Musical notation for measures 45-46. The vocal line (treble clef) has lyrics "si - ah is born. The Mes -". The piano accompaniment (grand staff) features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

47

si ah is

Musical notation for measures 47-48. The vocal line (treble clef) has lyrics "si ah is". The piano accompaniment (grand staff) continues with the eighth-note accompaniment. A *rit.* (ritardando) marking is present above the vocal line in measure 48.

49

born!

Musical notation for measures 49-50. The vocal line (treble clef) has lyrics "born!". The piano accompaniment (grand staff) features a *ff* (fortissimo) dynamic. A *rit.* (ritardando) marking is present above the vocal line in measure 50.

a tempo

Musical notation for measures 51-52. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) features a *ff* (fortissimo) dynamic and a *rit.* (ritardando) marking. Below the grand staff, there are two separate staves labeled "R.H." and "L.H." with vertical lines and a *V* marking, indicating the end of the piece.

