

THAT FIRST NOWELL

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied,*
with optional flute**

Words by DON BESIG
and NANCY PRICE (ASCAP)

Music by
DON BESIG (ASCAP)

FLUTE (optional) *Flowing gently* (♩ = ca. 100) *mp legato*

ACCOMP. *mp*

5

10 SOPRANO & ALTO *mp unis.*

High in the heav - ens a star burn - ing bright

(*tacet to m.* 35)

*Also available for S.A.B. voices, No. 4270, 2-part voices, No. 4271 and Unison or 2-part voices, No. 20957.

**Flute part may be found on pages 11 and 12.

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15 S. 19

A. brought the good news that first Christ-mas night.

T. *mp unis.*

B. The an - gels were

20 *mp*

they told of a Sav - ior, a

sing - ing of peace and good will:

prom - ise ful filled.

25 *mf* 27

In ex-cel - sis De - o! In ex-cel - sis

mf

mf

30

De - o! Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a De - o!

35 (FLUTE)

mp

40

S.

A.

T.

B.

44

mf unis.

That - first *No -

mp unis.

dim.

p

40

44

*Christmas, or Christmas joy.

45

well on a night long a - go was to cer - tain poor shep - herds on

45

50

hill - sides be - low. They were tend - ing their _ sheep in the cold win - ter

50

55 *f unis.*

air when the song of the an - gels rang out ev - 'ry - where: "No -

f unis.

55

60

well! _____ No - well! No - well! _____ No - well! _____

f

60

f

64 68

Come and re - joice in the news that we tell!"

64 68

mf

69 72

High in the heav - ens a

mf unis.

69 72

74

star burn-ing bright tells us a - gain it's Christ-mas to -

74

79

80

night! The an - gels are sing - ing of peace and good will; the

79

80

84

88

prom - ise of Christ-mas will _ stay with us _ still. In ex-cel - sis

84

88

89

De - o! In ex-cel - sis De - o! Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a

89

94 *f* 96 *cresc.*

De - o! No - well! No - well! No - well! No -

Detailed description: This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line starting at measure 94. It features a melodic line with lyrics 'De - o! No - well! No - well! No - well! No -'. The dynamics are marked with a forte 'f' and a crescendo 'cresc.'. A measure number '96' is enclosed in a box above the staff. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment line with chords and moving bass lines.

94 *f* 96 *cresc.*

Detailed description: This system contains the next two staves of music. The top staff continues the vocal line from the previous system. The piano accompaniment continues with harmonic support. Dynamics include 'f' and 'cresc.'. A measure number '96' is enclosed in a box above the staff.

99 *ff* 101

well! Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis

Detailed description: This system contains the third and fourth staves of music. The top staff continues the vocal line with the lyrics 'well! Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis'. The dynamics are marked with fortissimo 'ff'. A measure number '101' is enclosed in a box above the staff. The piano accompaniment features a more active bass line.

99 *ff* 101

Detailed description: This system contains the final two staves of music. The top staff continues the vocal line. The piano accompaniment provides a rhythmic and harmonic foundation. Dynamics include 'ff'. A measure number '101' is enclosed in a box above the staff.

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104 (no ritard)

De - o!

(no ritard)

104 (no ritard)

The image shows a musical score for 'That First Nowell'. It consists of four staves. The top two staves are for vocal parts, with the lyrics 'De - o!' written below the first staff. The bottom two staves are for piano accompaniment. The score includes dynamic markings such as '(no ritard)' and a measure number '104'.

That First Nowell is an anthem for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Christmastide that incorporates the beloved English carol, *The First Nowell*. It may be especially appropriate for a service of lessons and carols. Suggested corresponding scripture readings include Psalm 111, Isaiah 62: 1-11 and Luke 2: 1-20. One basic homiletical theme is praising the birth of the Redeemer King.

Don Besig is Director of Music at Perinton Presbyterian Church in Fairport, New York. He has over 30 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.

That First Nowell

FLUTE

Music by DON BESIG

Flowing gently ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 100$)

The image shows the first line of musical notation for the flute part. It is in 3/4 time and begins with a dynamic marking of *mp legato*. The notation includes a first ending bracket with a '2' and a second ending bracket with a '3'. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4.

The image shows the second line of musical notation for the flute part. It continues from the first line and includes first and second ending brackets with measure numbers 11, 8, 19, and 8. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4.

12

27 8 35

mp

40 44

dim. p

46 52

mp

53 60

f

66 68

mf

72 80

84 88

90 101

f cresc. ff

102

(no ritard)

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