

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

for two-part mixed voices, accompanied,*
with optional two-octave handbells**

Words by
WILLIAM CHATTERTON DIX, c. 1865

Traditional English Melody
Arranged by
PHILIP KERN

Adagio (♩ = ca. 46–50)

Women

Handbells *mp*

Accomp. † *mp*

4 *mp* 5

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap, is

8

sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet, with an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch, are

* Also available for S.S.A. voices (7783).

† When handbells are used, the keyboard should begin playing at m. 12.

14

12

mf

keep - ing? _____

Why lies He in ___such mean es - tate_ where

Men

mp

Oo _____

cresc.

mf

cresc.

mf

16

ox and ass ___ are feed ing? Good Chris - tians fear; ___ for sin - ners here ___ the

Oo _____

20 *decresc.* *mf*

si - lent Word — is keep - ing. This, this — is

keep - ing. This, this — is

decresc. *mel. f*



mf



24

Christ whom an - gels sing: haste, haste — to

Christ the King, — whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing: haste, haste — to



28

decresc.

bring Him laud, Son of Mar - y, Mar - y,

decresc.

bring Him laud, the babe, the Son of Mar - y,

decresc.

decresc.

32

rit.

a tempo
mf

Mar y. So

mp

Mar y. So

rit.

mp

a tempo

rit.

a tempo

36

rall. *a tempo*

bring Him in - cense, gold and myrrh, come peas-ant, king, to own Him; the King of kings sal -

bring Him in - cense, gold, myrrh, own Him; the King of kings sal -

rall. *a tempo*

mp *rall.* *a tempo*

41

43

decesc.

va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne Him, en -

va - tion, hearts en - throne Him, en - throne Him, en -

mf *decesc.*

decesc.

45

throne _____ Him. _____

throne _____ Him. _____

p *rit.*

p *rit.*

p *rit.*

What Child Is This? is a gentle carol arrangement for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Christmastide (the visit of the Magi). Appropriate related lectionary readings include Luke 2: 1-20 and Matthew 2: 1-12. The carol's basic homiletical theme is the adoration and praise inspired by God's gift of love.

This anthem should be sung with a feeling of two rather than six beats per measure. Be careful to differentiate between the lowered and the raised sixth scale degrees. Special attention in rehearsal to the development of good breath control will aid in sustaining the beautiful phrases in this cherished Christmas carol.

Philip Kern is a composer, arranger, and pianist living in New York City. Frequently involved in professional musical theatre productions, he earned a B.A. in music education from Marian College in Indianapolis and a master's degree in fine arts (musical theatre) from New York University.

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

HANDBELLS

Traditional English Melody
Arranged by PHILIP KERN

Bells used: 15 (16)



Adagio (♩ = ca. 46-50)

1 2 3 4

mp

5 6 7 8

9 10 11 12 *cresc.*

13 14 15 16 17 18

p. *mf*

19 20 21 22 23 24

p. *mf*

25 26 27 28 29 30

31 32 33 34 35 36

p. *decresc.* *rit.* *mp a tempo*

7

43 44 45 46 47 48

mf decresc. *p.* *p rit.*

7782

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