

**THE LIVING CRÈCHE**  
**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**  
**The Christmas Story in Scripture, Legend, and Song**  
**OVERTURE**

(♩ = ca. 88)

ACCOMP. *p*

5 *mp*

10

15 *mf*

20 *mp* *rit.*

\* **STILLE NACHT (Silent Night! Holy Night!)**. Melody by Franz Gruber (1787-1863).

## CEREMONY: The Hanging of the Greens

(As the Storyteller begins, a family or small group of people enters. They hang a spray of evergreen and holly in a prominent place. Next, they light each of the four Advent candles, leaving the Christ Candle unlit. Then they position themselves downstage, where they remain for the duration of the pageant.)

### The Legend of the Evergreens

STORYTELLER: The Christ Child comes! Hail the triumph of Light over Darkness!  
In preparation for His coming, we hang these evergreen boughs, symbols since ancient times of victory over winter's darkness. We offer these holly branches, with their thorny leaves and blood-red berries, as symbols of Christ's crown of thorns, solemn reminders of the sacrifice of the Child yet born. *(Music starts)*

### 3. THE HOLLY AND THE IVY

(♩ = ca. 100-104)

ACCOMP. *p* *(Speaking stops)*

5 UNISON VOICES *mf* ⑧

The hol-ly and the i - vy, when

10 they are both full grown, of \_\_\_ all the trees that are in the wood, the \_\_\_

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three systems. The first system shows the piano accompaniment (ACCOMP.) starting with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a tempo marking of approximately 100-104 beats per minute. The piano part includes a marking for '(Speaking stops)'. The second system begins with the unison voices (UNISON VOICES) at measure 5, marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and a circled 8. The lyrics 'The hol-ly and the i - vy, when' are written below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment continues with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The third system starts at measure 10 with the lyrics 'they are both full grown, of \_\_\_ all the trees that are in the wood, the \_\_\_'. The piano accompaniment continues with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic.

\* THE HOLLY AND THE IVY. Traditional English carol and words.

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West - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us

157

*rit.* (Wise men move to positions in crèche.)

to thy per - fect light.

*rit.* (Music stops)

## VII. SPREAD THE NEWS: JESUS CHRIST IS BORN!

### THE WORD OF THE LORD: Matthew 2: 12 and Luke 2: 20 — Spreading the News

NARRATOR: After they had worshipped the Christ Child,  
the wise men returned to their countries,  
and the shepherds returned to their fields,  
glorifying and praising God for all  
the things that they had seen and heard. (*Music starts*)

## 12. HE IS BORN, GLORIA!

(♩ = ca. 132)

\* STORYTELLER: So, like the wise men and

ACCOMP. *p* (*Speaking stops*) (*Speaking starts*)

\* **IL EST NÉ (He Is Born).** Traditional French carol and words.