

THIS IS THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Choir SATB

Words and Music by Judy Checketts Hatch

With Feeling ♩ = 125

SOPRANO
ALTO

TENOR
BASS

Piano

Rit.

8

Tenor/Bass Jo-seph, but a boy him-self would soon be-come a

A Tempo

15

man. He led the don-key care-ful-ly while hold-ing Mar-y's hand. He loved her, oh so dear-ly, wor-ry

Chorus

22

stretched a-cross his face. He must find some-where soon. He must se-cure a place. This

29

is the Christ-mas stor-y, the sweet-est ev-er told, For Je-sus Christ was born in those days of

36

old. And though I was-n't there to wit-ness of his birth In my heart I know the

43

Sav - ior came to earth, (he came to earth.) The

51

road was hard and bump-y, Mar-y tried not to com-plain, But time was grow-ing short-er and she could feel the

58

strain. No Mo-ther there to com-fort her and in a for-eign land. It must have been so hard. It

Chorus

was-n't what she'd planned. _____ This is the Christ-mas stor-y, the sweet-est ev-er told, For

The first system of the chorus features a vocal line in the upper staff and piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The vocal line begins with a half note followed by a quarter note, then a half note with a fermata. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands.

72

Je-sus Christ was born in those days of old. And though I was-n't there to wit-ness of his

The second system continues the chorus with a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a half note followed by a quarter note, then a half note with a fermata. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines.

79

Soprano & Alto Unison

birth In my heart I know the Sav - ior came to earth. (he came to earth.) "No

Tenor & Bass Unison

The third system features two vocal lines (Soprano & Alto Unison and Tenor & Bass Unison) and piano accompaniment. The vocal lines have a half note followed by a quarter note, then a half note with a fermata. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines.

86 Slower

room he'd said, "you'll have to He mo-tioned up the hill. "But you can take her there where it's

Slower

Slower

92

peace-ful and it's still." Per-haps he played his part that night much bet-ter than we know. The inn was loud and

99 Chorus

dark. There was a bet-ter place to go. This is the Christ-mas stor-y, the sweet-est ev-er

106

told, For Je-sus Christ was born in those days of old. And though I was-n't there to

113

wit-ness of his birth In my heart I know the Sav - ior came to earth.(he came to

120

mf Slower still with great feeling

earth.) A child is born in Beth-le-hem the Moth-er holds him near, While Jo-seph and the

Slower still with great feeling

126

shep-herds An-gel-ic car-ols hear. For love is ov-er flow-ing in that hol-i-est of scenes as the

133

Chorus

Sav-ior of the world is born of hum-ble means. This is the Christ-mas stor-y, the

140

sweet-est ev-er told, For Je-sus Christ was born in those days of old. And

146

Rit. f

though I was-n't there to wit-ness of his birth In my heart I know the Sav - ior

Detailed description of the musical score for measures 146-152: The score is written for voice and piano. The vocal line is in a soprano or alto clef, with lyrics: "though I was-n't there to wit-ness of his birth In my heart I know the Sav - ior". The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand part with chords and a left-hand part with a steady bass line. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo is marked "Rit." (Ritardando) and the dynamics range from "f" (forte) to "ff" (fortissimo).

153

ff mf Rit. f

came to earth that day. My Sav - ior came to earth.

Detailed description of the musical score for measures 153-159: The score is written for voice and piano. The vocal line is in a soprano or alto clef, with lyrics: "came to earth that day. My Sav - ior came to earth.". The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand part with chords and a left-hand part with a steady bass line. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo is marked "Rit." (Ritardando) and the dynamics range from "ff" (fortissimo) to "mf" (mezzo-forte).