

# The Carol of the Birds

(Traditional Catalonian Carol)

for SATB Chorus with Soprano Soloist  
and Orchestra

Gary Fry

Commissioned for the  
Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church Sanctuary Choir  
and  
Terry Price, Director of Music  
by  
Milton Strong  
In memory of his mother, Josephine Strong

2010

## The Carol of the Birds

(Traditional, with additional lyrics by Gary Fry)

When in the eastern skies the wondrous star did rise  
And fill the air with splendor  
Came birds in joyful throng to sound their dainty song  
In a carol sweet and tender  
Hosanna to the Child and to His Mother mild  
Full reverently to render

The nightingale sang sweet the Holy Babe to greet  
In Mary's arms a-lying  
The cuckoo and the quail flew over hill and dale  
In admiration vying  
The barn owl's eyes were dim; such radiance blinded him  
But onward he went flying

The white dove made a sigh: "To Bethlehem I'll fly,  
To find that lowly stable  
Then I can see the Child, and watch whene'er He smiles  
Within that holy gable  
I'll build my nest above, show my undying love  
And sing as I am able.

The noble eagle came to praise His holy name  
In mighty proclamation  
The sparrow then replied, "Tonight is Christmastide,  
A night of jubilation."  
Then did the robin sing, "Now death has lost its sting;  
In Christ is our salvation."

### Instrumentation

1 Flute  
1 Flute (Piccolo)  
2 Oboes  
2 Clarinets in Bb  
2 Bassoons

4 Horns in F  
3 Trumpets  
3 Trombones  
1 Tuba

Timpani  
2 Percussion  
1: Finger Cymbal, Piatti, Orchestra Bells, Tubular Bells  
2: Suspended Cymbal, Mark Tree

Harp

Soprano solo  
SATB Chorus, divisi

Strings

Duration: approximately 5:00

Commissioned for the Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church Sanctuary Choir and Terry Price, Director of Music  
by Milton Strong, in memory of his mother, Josephine Strong

Transposed Score

# The Carol of the Birds

Gary Fry

*Adagio, poco rubato* ♩ = 48

(Traditional Catalonian Carol)

Musical score for woodwinds, brass, and percussion. The score is in 6/8 time and G major. The woodwind section includes Flute (1 and 2/Piccolo), Oboe (1 and 2), Clarinet in Bb (1 and 2), Bassoon (1 and 2), Horn in F (1 and 2), Trumpet in Bb (1, 2, and 3), Trombone (1, 2, and 3), and Tuba. The percussion section includes Percussion 1 and Percussion 2 (with Suspended Cymbal and brushes), and Harp. The vocal section includes Soprano Solo, Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The flute part features a solo with the instruction 'Solo freely' and dynamics 'mp' and 'espr.'. The piccolo part has a melodic line with dynamics 'mp' and 'espr.', and includes a quintuplet (5) and two triplets (3). The harp part has dynamics 'pp' and 'mp'. The percussion parts have dynamics 'pp' and 'p'.

Musical score for strings. The score is in 6/8 time and G major. The string section includes Violin I and II, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The strings play a sustained accompaniment with dynamics 'ppp' and 'pp'. The score includes the instruction 'Con sord.' (con sordina) and 'div.' (divisi). The strings are divided into four groups (1, 2, 3, 4) and then into two groups (5, 6) and (7). The score includes the instruction 'Adagio, poco rubato' and the tempo marking '♩ = 48'.

(A)

1  
Fl.

2 (Picc.)

1  
Ob.

2

1  
B $\flat$  Cl.

2

1  
Bsn.

2

1  
Hn.

2

3  
4

1  
B $\flat$  Tpt.

2  
3

1  
Tbn.

2  
3

Tuba

Timp.

Perc. 1

Susp. Cym.  
(with soft mallets)

Perc. 2

Hp.

Solo

S

A

T

B

(A)

I  
Vln.

II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

8

9

10

11

12

13

**B**

1  
Fl.

2 (Picc.)

1  
2  
Ob.

1  
2  
B♭ Cl.

1  
2  
Bsn.

1  
2  
Hn.  
*mp*

1  
2  
3  
B♭ Tpt.

1  
2  
3  
Tbn.

Tuba  
*mp*

Timp.

Perc. 1  
*Finger Cym.*

Perc. 2  
*Mark Tree*

Hp.  
*p*

Solo

S  
*mp*  
When in the east - ern skies \_\_\_\_\_ the won - drous star did rise \_\_\_\_\_ and fill the air \_\_\_\_\_ *mf*

A  
*mp*  
When in the east, the east - ern skies the won - drous star did rise \_\_\_\_\_ and fill the air, *mf*

T  
*mp*  
When in the east - ern skies \_\_\_\_\_ the won - drous star did rise \_\_\_\_\_ and fill the air, *mf*

B  
*mp*  
When in the east - ern skies \_\_\_\_\_ the won - drous star did rise \_\_\_\_\_ and fill the air, *mf*

**B**

I  
Vln.  
*p*

II  
Vln.  
*p*

Vla.  
*p*

Vc.  
*p*

Cb.  
*p pizz.*

14 15 *mp* 16 17 18 19 20 *mf*



(♩ = ♩)

1 FL. *mp* Flute

2 (Picc.) *mp*

1 Ob. *mp*

2 *mp*

1 B♭ Cl. *mp*

2 *mp*

1 Bsn. *mp*

2

1 Hn. *mf* a2

2 *p*

3 *mf*

4 *mp*

1 B♭ Tpt. *f*

2 *f*

3

1 Tbn. *mp*

2 *mf*

3 *mf*

Tuba *mp*

*mf*

Timp.

Perc. 1 *f* Piatti *p* Orch. Bells

Perc. 2 *p* *mf* *p* *mp* Susp. Cym. (with soft mallets)

Hp. *mf*

Solo

S *f* *mf*

A *f* *mf*

T *f* *mf*

B *f* *mf*

with splen - dor, came birds in joy - ful throng, to

fill the air with splen - dor, came birds in joy - ful throng, to

fill the air with splen - dor, came birds in joy - ful throng, to

fill the air with splen - dor, came birds in joy - ful throng, to

I Vln. *f* *mf* pizz.

II *f* *mf* pizz.

Vla. *f* *mf* pizz.

Vc. *f* *mf* pizz.

Cb. *f* *mf* arco pizz.

21

22

23

24

25

26

**D**

This page of the musical score covers measures 27 through 32. It features a variety of instruments including woodwinds (Flute, Piccolo, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon), brass (Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba), percussion (Tympani, Percussion 1 & 2), strings (Violin I & II, Viola, Cello, Double Bass), and solo voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass). The vocal parts have lyrics: "sound their dain - ty song in a car - ol sweet and ten - der, ho - - -", "sound their dain - ty song in a car - ol sweet and ten - der, ho - - -", "sound their song in a car - ol sweet, so sweet and ten - der, ho - san - na, ho -", and "sound their song in a car - ol sweet, so sweet and ten - der, ho - san - na, ho -". The score includes dynamic markings such as *p*, *mp*, and *mf*, and performance instructions like *arco*, *pizz.*, and *[CUE Hn 1-2; play only if directed]*. A rehearsal mark **D** is placed above measure 32.

*rit.* (E) *Più mosso* ♩ = 64

1 Fl.  
2 (Picc.)  
1 Ob.  
2  
1 B♭ Cl.  
2  
1 Bsn.  
2  
1 Hn.  
2  
3  
4  
1 B♭ Tpt.  
2  
3  
1 Tbn.  
2  
3  
Tuba  
Timp.  
Perc. 1  
Perc. 2  
Hp.  
Solo  
S  
A  
T  
B  
I Vln.  
II  
Vla.  
Vc.  
Cb.

san - na to the Child and to His Moth-er mild full rev-  
rent - ly to ren - der.  
san - na to the Child and to His Moth-er mild full rev-  
rent - ly to ren - der.  
san - na to the Child and to His Moth-er mild rev-  
rent - ly to ren - der.  
san - na to the Child and to His Moth-er mild rev-  
rent - ly to ren - der.

arco  
*p*  
*mp*  
*p*  
*pp*  
*p*  
*mp*  
*p*  
*pp*  
*p*  
*pp*

*rit.* (E) *Più mosso* ♩ = 64



**F** *Poco meno mosso* ♩ = 60  
[CUE: Flute 2, play only if directed]

*rit.*

1 Fl. *mf* *p*

2 (Picc.) *p*

1 Ob. *mf*

2

1 B♭ Cl. *mf*

2

1 Bsn. *mp* *mf* *p*

2 [CUE: Bsn. 2, play only if directed] *p*

1 Hn. 2 3 4

1 B♭ Tpt. 2 3

1 Tbn. 2 3

Tuba

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Hp.

Solo

S *p* *mf* *grazioso*  
Oo, the

A *mf* *grazioso*  
The night - in - gale sang sweet,

T

B

*rit.*

**F** *Poco meno mosso* ♩ = 60

I Vln.

II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

G

1 FL.

2 (Picc.)

1 Ob.

2 Ob.

1 B♭ Cl.

2 B♭ Cl.

1 Bsn.

2 Bsn.

1 Hn.

2 Hn.

3 Hn.

4 Hn.

1 B♭ Tpt.

2 B♭ Tpt.

3 B♭ Tpt.

1 Tbn.

2 Tbn.

3 Tbn.

Tuba

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Hp.

Solo

S

A

T

B

I Vln.

II Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

[CUE: Oboe 2; play only if directed]

[CUE: Clar. 2; play only if directed]

[CUE: Hn. 3-4; play only if directed]

*p* *mp* *mf* *pp*

Ho - ly Babe to greet, in Mar - y's arms a - ly - ing; the cuck-oo and the quail flew

oo, the Babe to greet, in Mar - y's arms a - ly - ing; the cuck - oo and the quail flew

Oo, oo,

Oo, oo,

G



rit.

1 FL.

2 (Picc.)

1 Ob.

2

1 B. Cl.

2

1 Bsn.

2

1 Hn.

2

3

4

1 B. Tpt.

2

3

1 Tbn.

2

3

Tuba

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Hp.

Solo

S

A

T

B

I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

o - ver hill and dale in ad-mi-ra-tion vy - ing.

o - ver hill and dale in ad-mi-ra-tion vy - ing.

oo, The barn owl's eyes were dim; such ra-diance blind - ed

oo, The barn owl's eyes were dim; such ra-diance blind - ed

1° Con sord.

3° Con sord.

Str. Mutes

Str. Mute

Mute

*p*

*mp*

*p*

*mp*

*p*

*mp*

*p*

*mp*

*p*

*mp*

*p*

*mp*

*p*

*mp*

*p*

*mp*

*p*

*mp*

*p*

*mp*

*mf*

*mf*

*pesante*

*pesante*

*H*

*rit.*

*a tempo* *accel.*

1 FL. *f* *ff*

2 (Picc.) *f* *ff*

1 Ob. *mf* *ff*

2 Ob. *mf* *ff*

1 B♭ Cl. *p cresc.* *mp* *mf* *ff*

2 B♭ Cl. *p cresc.* *mp* *mf* *ff*

1 Bsn. *p cresc.* *mf* *f* *ff*

2 Bsn. *p cresc.* *mf* *f* *ff*

1 Hn. *Open a2*

2 Hn. *Open a2 ff*

3 Hn. *ff*

1 B♭ Tpt. *f*

2 B♭ Tpt. *f*

3 B♭ Tpt. *f*

1 Tbn. *Open*

2 Tbn. *Open p*

3 Tbn. *Open f*

Tuba *Open f*

Timp. *pp* *cresc. poco a poco* *ff*

Perc. 1 *pp* *cresc. poco a poco* *ff*

Perc. 2 *Susp. Cym.*

Hp. *f* *ff*

Solo S. *f* *ff*

A. *mf* *cresc.* *ff*

T. *mp* *cresc.* *f* *ff*

B. *mp* *cresc.* *f* *ff*

him, but on-ward he went fly - ing.

him, but on-ward he went fly - ing, on-ward he went fly - ing.

him, but on-ward he went fly - ing.

*a tempo* *accel.*

I Vln. *Senza sord. tr* *mp* *cresc.* *mf* *f* *ff*

II Vln. *Senza sord. tr* *p* *cresc.* *mp* *mf* *f* *ff*

Vla. *Senza sord.* *p* *cresc.* *mp* *mf* *f* *ff*

Vc. *Senza sord.* *p* *cresc.* *mf* *f* *ff*

Cb. *Senza sord. arco* *p* *cresc.* *mf* *f* *ff*

64 *p* *cresc.* 65 *mf* 66 *mf* 67 *ff* 68 *ff* 69

This page of the musical score, page 13, contains measures 70 through 73. The instrumentation includes:

- Flute (Fl.)
- Piccolo (Picc.)
- Oboe (Ob.)
- Bassoon (Bsn.)
- Horn (Hn.)
- Bass Trombone (B> Tpt.)
- Trombone (Tbn.)
- Tuba
- Timpani (Timp.)
- Percussion 1 (Perc. 1)
- Percussion 2 (Perc. 2)
- Harp (Hp.)
- Solo
- Soprano (S)
- Alto (A)
- Tenor (T)
- Bass (B)
- Violin I (Vln. I)
- Violin II (Vln. II)
- Viola (Vla.)
- Violoncello (Vc.)
- Double Bass (Cb.)

The score features various musical notations such as dynamics (dim., f, mf, pp), articulation (accents), and performance instructions like 'decresc.' and '6' (sextuplets). The woodwinds and strings play complex rhythmic patterns, while the brass instruments provide harmonic support. The vocal parts (S, A, T, B) are mostly silent on this page. The percussion includes a harp and various rhythmic patterns. The page is numbered 70, 71, 72, and 73 at the bottom.

*rit. molto*

**J** Moderato, cantabile espressivo e rubato  $\text{♩} = 104$

1 Fl.

2 (Picc.)

1 Ob.

2 Ob.

1 B> Cl.

2 B> Cl.

1 Bsn.

2 Bsn.

1 Hn.

2 Hn.

3 Hn.

4 Hn.

1 B> Tpt.

2 B> Tpt.

3 B> Tpt.

1 Tbn.

2 Tbn.

3 Tbn.

Tuba

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Hp.

Soprano Solo *mp espr.*

The white dove made a sigh: "To Beth - le-hem I'll fly, to

S.

A. *pp*

T. *pp*

B.

*rit. molto*

**J** Moderato, cantabile espressivo e rubato  $\text{♩} = 104$

I Vln.

II Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

sul tasto

*pp* sul tasto

*pp* sul tasto

*pp* sul tasto

sul tasto

*pp* sul tasto

K

**FL.**  
1  
2 (Picc.)

**Ob.**  
1  
2

**B♭ Cl.**  
1  
2

**Bsn.**  
1  
2

**Hn.**  
1  
2  
3  
4

**B♭ Tpt.**  
1  
2  
3

**Tbn.**  
1  
2  
3

**Tuba**

**Timp.**

**Perc. 1** Orch. Bells  
*mp*

**Perc. 2**

**Hp.**  
*pp* *p* *mp*

**Solo**  
find that low - ly sta - ble; then, I can see the Child, and watch when-e'er He smiles, with -

**S.**

**A.**  
*ppp*  
oo.

**T.**  
*ppp*  
oo.

**B.**

**K**

**Vln. I** *nat.*  
*ppp* *pp* *pp* *p*

**Vln. II**  
*ppp* *p*

**Vla.**  
*ppp* *p*

**Vc.**  
*ppp* *p*

**Cb.**  
*ppp* *p*

81 82 83 84 85 86 87

**L**

*rit.*

1  
Fl.

2 (Picc.)

1  
Ob.

2

1  
B<sup>b</sup> Cl.

2

1  
Bsn.

2

1  
Hn.

2  
3  
4

1  
B<sup>b</sup> Tpt.

2  
3

1  
Tbn.

2  
3

Tuba

Timp.

Perc. 1  
Tub. Bells  
*p*

Perc. 2

Hp.

Solo  
in that ho-ly ga - ble. I'll build my nest a - bove, show my un-dy - ing love, and

S

A  
*p*  
I'll build my nest a - bove, show my un-dy - ing love,

T  
*p*  
I'll build my nest a - bove, show my un-dy - ing love,

B  
*p*  
I'll build my nest a - bove, show my un-dy - ing love,

I  
Vln. *pp* *p* *mp*

II

Vla.  
*pp* *mp*

Vc.  
*pp* *mp*

Cb.  
*pp* *mp*

88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95



**(M)** *Maestoso* ♩ = 52

(with soprano solo)

1 Fl. *p*

2 (Picc.)

1 Ob. 2

1 B♭ Cl. *p*

2 *p*

1 Bsn. *p*

2 *p*

1 Hn. *p marc. cresc. mf*

2 *a2*

3 *a2*

4 *p marc. cresc. mf*

1 B♭ Tpt. *mf*

2 *mf*

3 *mf*

1 Tbn. *mp*

2 *mf*

3 *mf*

Tuba *p cresc. mf*

Timp. *p cresc. mf*

Perc. 1 *p cresc. mf*

Perc. 2 *Susp. Cym. (with soft mallets) mp*

Hp.

Solo *leggiere* *mp*  
sing as I am a - ble.

S

A

T

B

**(M)** *Maestoso* ♩ = 52

I Vln. *p*

II *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

Cb.

(♩ = ♩)

1 Fl.  
2 (Picc.)  
1 Ob.  
2  
1 B♭ Cl.  
2  
1 Bsn.  
2

1 Hn.  
2  
3  
4  
1 B♭ Tpt.  
2  
3  
1 Tbn.  
2  
3  
Tuba  
Timp.  
Perc. 1  
Perc. 2  
Hp.  
Solo

S Tenor 1  
A Tenor 2  
T Bass 1  
B Bass 2

The ea-gle came to praise His ho-ly name in might-y proc-la - ma - tion.  
The no-ble ea-gle came to praise His ho-ly name in might-y proc-la - ma - tion.  
The no-ble ea-gle came to praise His ho-ly, ho-ly name in might-y proc-la - ma - tion.

I Vln.  
II  
Vla.  
Vc.  
Cb.

nat. mf 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 f div. 109 110

(N)

1 Fl.

2 (Picc.)

1 Ob.

2 Ob.

1 B♭ Cl.

2 B♭ Cl.

1 Bsn.

2 Bsn.

1 Hn.

2 Hn.

3 Hn.

4 Hn.

1 B♭ Tpt.

2 B♭ Tpt.

3 B♭ Tpt.

1 Tbn.

2 Tbn.

3 Tbn.

Tuba

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Hp.

Solo

Orch. Bells

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

The spar-row then re-plied, "To-night is Christ-mas-tide, a night of ju-bi-

The ti-ny spar-row then re-plied, "To-night is Christ-mas-tide, a night of ju-bi-

(N)

I Vln.

II Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

**O** Slower, freely

*accel.*

1 FL. *mp*

2 (Picc.) *mp*

1 Ob. *mf*

2 Ob. *mf*

1 B♭ Cl. *mf*

2 B♭ Cl. *mf*

1 Bsn. *mp*

2 Bsn. *mp*

1 Hn. *mf*

2 Hn. *mf*

3 Hn. *mf*

4 Hn. *mf*

1 B♭ Tpt. *mf*

2 B♭ Tpt. *mf*

3 B♭ Tpt. *mf*

1 Tbn. *mf*

2 Tbn. *mf*

3 Tbn. *mf*

Tuba *mf*

Timp. *mf*

Perc. 1 *p mp f*

Perc. 2 *p mf*

Hp. *mp f*

Solo *f*

S *f* Then

A *f* Then

T *f* Then

B *f* Then

*accel.*

I Vln. *mf mp*

II Vln. *mf mp*

Vla. *mf mp*

Vc. *mp nat. div.*

Cb. *mp*

**O** Slower, freely

*rit.*

1 Fl. *fp*

2 (Picc.)

1 Ob. *fp*

2 *fp*

1 B♭ Cl. *p*

2 *fp*

1 Bsn. *fp*

2 *fp*

1 Hn. *fp* *pp*

2 *fp* niente

3 *fp* niente

4 *fp* niente

1 B♭ Tpt. *mf* Str. Mute *fp* niente

2 *fp* niente

3 *fp* niente

1 Tbn. *mf* Str. Mutes *fp* niente

2 *mf* *fp* niente

3 *mf* *fp* niente

Tuba *mf* *fp* niente

Timp. *mf* *fp* niente

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 *f* Susp. Cym. (scrape w/tri. beater)

Hp. *fp* *pp*

Solo

S *fp* *p*

A *fp* *p*

T *fp* *p*

B *fp* *p*

122 123 *rit.* 124 *f* 125 *fp* 126 *pp*

Vln. I *f* *fp* *pp*

Vln. II *f* *fp* *pp*

Vla. *f* *fp* *pp*

Vc. *f* *fp* *pp*

Cb. *f* *fp* *pp*

122

123

124

125

126

**P** *a tempo* *rit.*

1 FL. *p* Solo *freely* *mp* 5

2 (Picc.) *p* *mp* 5

1 Ob. *p*

2 Ob. *p*

1 B♭ Cl. *pp*

2 B♭ Cl. *pp*

1 Bsn. *pp* *p* *pp*

2 Bsn. *p* *pp*

1 Hn. *p*

2 Hn. *pp*

3 Hn. *pp*

4 Hn. *pp*

1 B♭ Tpt. *pp*

2 B♭ Tpt. *pp*

3 B♭ Tpt. *pp*

1 Tbn. *pp*

2 Tbn. *pp*

3 Tbn. *pp*

Tuba *pp*

Timp. *pp*

Perc. 1 Tub. Bells *p*

Perc. 2

Hp. *mp* *pp*

Solo

S Christ is our sal - va - tion." Oo *pp*

A Christ is our sal - va - tion." Oo *pp*

T Christ is our sal - va - tion." Oo *p* *pp*

B Christ is our sal - va - tion." Oo *pp*

**P** *a tempo* *rit.*

(hmc. sounding 15ma)

I Vln. *p* (hmc. sounding 15ma) *pp*

II Vln. *p* *pp*

Vla. *p* *pp*

Vc. *p* *pp*

Cb. *p* *pp*