

For Joanna Tomlinson and Farnham Youth Choir

ON YESTERNIGHT I SAW A SIGHT

Rt Rev CHARLES W STUBBS
(1845–1912)

GARETH TRESEDER
(b 1985)

Lively ♩ = 96

SOPRANO

p

On yes - ter - night I saw a sight, A star as bright as day, And

ALTO

p

On yes - ter - night I saw a sight, A star as bright as day, And

PIANO
(for rehearsal only)

Lively ♩ = 96

3

mf *f*

heard a - mong The heav'ns a song, The Christ is born to - day. O

mf *f*

heard a - mong The heav'ns a song, The Christ is born to - day. O

5

(f)

S joy and bliss! 'Tis true, I wis, This word, this word the an-gels

(f)

joy and bliss! 'Tis true, I wis, This word, this word the an-gels

(f)

A joy and bliss! 'Tis true, I wis, This word, this word the an-gels

(f)

joy and bliss! 'Tis true, I wis, This word, this word the an-gels

8

(f) *sub pp*

say: He comes, my dear, To bring us cheer, For

(f)

say, the an-gels say: He comes, my dear, To bring us cheer,

(f)

say, the an-gels say: He comes, my dear, To bring us cheer,

(f)

say: He comes, He comes, my dear, To bring us cheer,

11

f

e - ver, for e - ver, for e - ver and for aye. Good

sub pp *f*

For e - ver, for e - ver, for e - ver and for aye. Good

sub pp *f*

For - ev - er, for e - ver, for e - ver and for aye.

sub pp *f*

For e - ver, for e - ver, for e - ver and for aye.

13

S will and peace, They ne'er shall cease In men of love to live; For

f

A Good will and peace, They ne'er shall cease In men of love to

15

p

this Child-king- O won-drous thing! To earth God's Hope doth give.

live; For this Child-king- O won-drous thing! To earth God's Hope doth

17

f *sub mp*

S *f* *sub mp*

p *f* *sub mp*

A *p* *f* *sub mp*

No-e! And it shall be That good kings three Shall

give. No-e! And it shall be That good kings three Shall

give. No-e! And it shall be That good kings three

20

bring, shall bring on His Twelfth Night. *f* A

bring, shall bring on His Twelfth Night, on His Twelfth Night *f* A

bring, shall bring on His Twelfth Night, on His Twelfth Night *f* A

Shall bring, shall bring on His Twelfth Night *f* A crown, a

22

crown of gold And gifts fore - told *pp* With

crown of gold And gifts fore - told *pp*

crown of gold And gifts fore - told *pp*

crown of gold And gifts fore - told *pp*

24

f

jew'ls, with jew'ls, with je - wels all en - dight. And

pp *f*

With jew'ls, with jew'ls, with je - wels all en - dight.

pp *f*

With jew'ls, with jew'ls, with je - wels all en - dight.

pp *f*

With jew'ls, with jew'ls, with je - wels all en - dight.

26

f (*f*)

spice and myrrh, A - las! for her (Sweet Ma - ry, bless thy boy!); For

f

And spice and myrrh, A - las! for her (Sweet Ma - ry, bless thy

f

And spice and myrrh, A - las! for her (Sweet

f

And spice and myrrh, A -

28

here is laid The great world's aid, Her sor - row and its joy.

(f)

boy!); For here is laid The great world's aid, Her sor - row and its

(f)

Ma - ry, bless thy boy!); For here is laid The great world's aid, Her

(f)

-las! for her (Sweet Ma - ry, bless thy boy!); For here is laid The

30

p *p*

No - e! No - e! No -

p *mp*

joy. No - e! No -

p *mf* <

sor - row and its joy. No -

p *f*

great world's aid, Her sor - row and its joy.

32 *f*

- e! _____ What child or man Who will or can Not

- e! _____ No - e! What child or man Who will or can Not

- e! No - e! What child or man Who will or can Not

f

No - e! What child or man Who will or can

35 *(f)*

mer - ry, not mer - ry be to - day? _____ For

(f)

mer - ry, not mer - ry, mer - ry, mer - ry be to - day? For

(f)

mer - ry, not mer - ry, mer - ry, mer - ry be to - day? For

(f)

Not mer - ry, not mer - ry be to - day? For news, for

37 *pp giocoso*

news like this Of joy and bliss We know, we know, we

pp *pp giocoso*

news like this Of joy and bliss We know, we know, we

pp *pp giocoso*

news like this Of joy and bliss We know, we know, we

pp *pp giocoso*

news like this Of joy and bliss We know, we know, we

40 *f*

know is sad no way. No - el

ff

know is sad no way. O Ho - ly Child, Thou un - de - filed, Send

f

know is sad no way. O Ho - ly Child, Thou un - de - filed, Send

f

know is sad no way. O Ho - ly Child, Thou un - de - filed, Send

(f) No - e! _____

(ff) us God's grace, we pray! O come to us, A - bide with us, *mp*

(f) us God's grace, we pray! _____ O come to us, A - bide with us... *mp*

(f) us God's grace, we pray! _____ O come to us, A - bide with us, Be *mp*

f _____ *ff*
No - e! No - e!

mp _____ *pp* _____ *mp* _____ *ff*
Be born in us to - day! No - e! No - e! No - e!

pp _____ *p* _____ *ff*
No - e! No - e! No - e! No - e! No - e!

_____ *pp* _____ *ff*
born in us to - day! No - e! No - e! No - e! No - e! No - e!

Composer's note

On yesternight I saw a sight was set as a means of thanking Jo Tomlinson for promoting and recording my music with the excellent choristers of Farnham Youth Choir. Knowing that the group's ethos is to memorise the music, I intentionally set the text in a strophic fashion in which the odd-numbered verses act as a unison chorus that later forms a round. The text is inherently rhythmical and joyous. To my mind, it could only be a 12/8 jig reminiscent of a traditional folk dance. For the work's final exclamation, I originally added "Noel" to the text. However, singing the final letter of this word while singing a top A is unnecessarily difficult. Thus I instead set the medieval Latin term, "Noe". By happy coincidence, this rhymes with the last two words of the sixth verse. The final chorus - harmonised for the first time and accompanied by a descant - hurriedly asks for God's grace in these ever uncertain times so that he may "be born in us today".

Duration: 2 minutes

Text

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1. On yesternight
I saw a sight,
A star as bright as day,
And heard among
The heav'ns a song,
The Christ is born today. | 4. And it shall be
That good kings three
Shall bring on His Twelfth Night
A crown of gold
And gifts foretold
With jewels all endight. | 6. What child or man
Who will or can
Not merry be today?
For news like this
Of joy and bliss
We know is sad no way. |
| 2. O joy and bliss!
'Tis true, I wis,
This word the angels say:
He comes, my dear,
To bring us cheer,
For ever and for aye. | 5. And spice and myrrh,
Alas! for her
(Sweet Mary, bless thy boy!);
For here is laid
The great world's aid,
Her sorrow and its joy. | 7. O Holy Child,
Thou undefiled,
Send us God's grace, we pray!
O come to us,
Abide with us,
Be born in us today! |
| 3. Good will and peace,
They ne'er shall cease
In men of love to live;
For this Child-king –
O wondrous thing!
To earth God's Hope doth give. | | Rt Rev Charles W Stubbs
(1845–1912) |

Gareth Treseder

Welsh tenor and composer Gareth Treseder studied at the University of Bristol and Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. He has since been made an Honorary Associate of the RWCMD in recognition of his musical achievements. Alongside his singing career performing with the Monteverdi Choir, BBC Singers, Sonoro and St Margaret's Westminster Abbey Choir, Gareth composes chiefly sacred choral works, several of which have been published by Boosey & Hawkes. The 2019 Three Choirs Festival saw the world premiere of his choral and orchestral setting of Ivor Gurney's *The Songs I Had*. Temple Church Choir's commission in the same year, *Come, let us return to the Lord*, was subsequently performed as part of their Ash Wednesday Choral Evensong broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 in 2020. Gareth's *Notre Père* setting, written especially for St Margaret's Westminster Abbey Choir, received its premiere the following week. Upcoming commissions include *Jesu, joy of man's desiring* for Sonoro's Choral Inspirations 2 project in 2021 and *Righteousness and Equity* for Temple Church Choir.



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