

“Richard Rodney Bennett - a chameleon composer, equally at home in the cinema, the night-club and the concert hall.”

Stephen Johnson, *The Independent*

“Music of genuinely broad appeal.”

Anthony Burton

“A composer who reaches out to as wide an audience as possible while remaining true to himself.”

Hugh Canning, *International Record Review*

There can be few more versatile musicians working today than Richard Rodney Bennett, a performer and composer of consummate skill in any genre, never less than stylish and elegant.

His growing output of choral writing falls comfortably within the range of singers of all standards. This is his first collection of choral pieces written specifically for the Christmas season. These four carols to American texts recall traditional music of the New World, the composer's home for many years, and bring a welcome fresh approach to the festive idiom: along with the well-loved *Away in a manger* and *I wonder as I wander*, Bennett gives us his interpretation of two Spirituals – *A child of God* and *Rise up, shepherd, and follow*.



The versatile and uncategorisable Richard Rodney Bennett has produced over two hundred works for the concert hall and at least fifty scores for film and television. As well as having been a writer and performer of jazz songs for fifty years, his work with Boulez in the 1950s immersed him in the techniques of the European avant-garde. Subsequently, he has applied his now highly distinctive, broadly lyrical, compositional voice to all areas of concert music. He was knighted for Services to Music in 1998.

All four carols come with piano accompaniment. Versions with string orchestral accompaniment are also available on hire from Novello.

Cover illustration: original collage by Richard Rodney Bennett



Novello Publishing Limited
part of The Music Sales Group

NOV050358

ISBN 978-1-84938-692-0



9 781849 386920

Richard Rodney Bennett

FOUR AMERICAN CAROLS

for unison high voices and piano

NOVELLO

Richard Rodney Bennett FOUR AMERICAN CAROLS

for unison high voices and piano



NOVELLO

Richard Rodney Bennett
FOUR AMERICAN CAROLS

for unison high voices and piano

DO NOT PHOTOCOPY

NOVELLO

NOV050358
ISBN: 978-1-84938-692-0

Music engraving: John Mortimer

Cover design by Liz Barrand
Cover illustration: original collage by Richard Rodney Bennett

© 2010 Novello & Company Limited
Published in Great Britain by Novello Publishing Limited
(part of The Music Sales Group)

I wonder as I wander: Words © Copyright 1934 (Renewed) by G. Schirmer, Inc. (ASCAP).
All Rights Reserved. International Copyright Secured.
Used by Permission.

HEAD OFFICE:
14-15 Berners Street
London, W1T 3LJ

Tel +44 (0)20 7612 7400
Fax +44 (0)20 7612 7546

SALES AND HIRE:
Music Sales Distribution Centre,
Newmarket Road,
Bury St. Edmunds,
Suffolk IP33 3YB

Tel +44 (0)1284 702600
Fax +44 (0)1284 768301

www.chesternovello.com
email: promotion@music-sales.co.uk

All Rights reserved

Printed in the EU

No part of this publication may be copied or reproduced
in any form or by any means without the prior permission
of Novello Publishing Limited.

A separate String Orchestra arrangement is available on hire from the publisher
www.chesternovello.com
www.musicroom.com

1. A child of God (Spiritual) page 2
2. I wonder as I wander (John Jacob Niles) page 6
3. Away in a manger (Anon.) page 10
4. Rise up, shepherd, and follow (Spiritual) page 13

Total duration c.11'00

DO NOT PHOTOCOPY

For Gill Graham, Christmas 2009

Four American Carols

for Unison High Voices and Piano

Spiritual

1. A child of God

Richard Rodney Bennett

Moderato (♩ = 69)

(Solo ad lib.)

VOICES *mf*

If a - ny - bo - dy asks me who I am, — who I am, —

Piano

4

who — I am, if a - ny - bo - dy asks me who I am, — Tell him I'm a child — of

8 (Tutti ad lib.) *mp*

God. Glo - ry, — glo - ry, — The Christ child born in

mp dolce, legato

12 *p* *mf*

glo - ry. — The lit-tle cra-dle rocks to-

p *mp* *mf*

16 *mp* *mf*

-night in glo - ry, rocks to - night, - rocks - to - night, - the lit - tle cra - dle rocks to -

20

-night in glo - ry, The Christ child born in glo - ry.

cresc.

24 *f* *mf*

Peace on Earth, Ma - ry rock the cra - dle, rock the cra - dle, rock - the cra - dle, -

28 *f* *mf*

peace on Earth, Ma - ry rock the cra - dle, The Christ child born in

31 *mp dolce*

glo - ry. _____ The

mp *dolce*

34

Christ child pas - sing, sing - ing soft - ly, sing - ing soft - ly,

37

sing - ing soft - ly, the Christ child pas - sing, sing - ing soft - ly, The

40 (Solo ad lib.)

Christ child born in glo - ry. _____ If

p *f*

p *cresc. molto*

43

a - ny - bo - dy asks me who I am, - who I am, - who - I am, if

f *mf sempre legato* *mf* *f*

47

a - ny - bo - dy asks me who I am, - Tell him I'm a child - of

mf *poco dim.*

50

God. Glo - ry, - glo - ry, - The

(Tutti) *f* *mp* *cresc. molto* *f*

54

Christ child born in glo - ry, glo - ry, -

57 *ff* Solo *mf* **senza rit.** *mp* 2'00"

glo - ry, — And tell him I'm a child_ of God. —

ff *mp* *p*

Ped.

London Dec. 19/09

2. I wonder as I wander

John Jacob Niles

Richard Rodney Bennett

Con moto, semplice (♩ = 132)

[3+2]

p

I

p molto legato *mp* *sim.*

con Ped.

5 *mp*

won-der as I wan-der — out un-der the sky, — How

mp

9 *poco cresc.* *mf*

Je - sus — the Sa - viour — did come for — to die, — For

poco cresc. *mf*

13 *f dolce* *poco dim.* *mp*

poor lone - ly peo - ple _____ like you and like I. _____ I

17 *mp*

won - der as I wan - der _____ out un - der the sky. _____

21 *p* *mp*

— When Ma - ry birth - èd Je - sus _____ 'twas in a cow's

25 *poco cresc.* *mf*

stall, _____ With wise men _____ and far - mers _____ and shep - herds _____ and

29 *f* *poco dim.*

all, But high from the hea- vens a star's light did

33 *mf*

fall, And pro - mise of a - ges it did then re -

37 *mf* *f* (♩ = ♪)

-call. If Je - sus had wan - ted for

mf *f* sempre poco arpegg.

Ped. each chord

41 *ff* optional div.

a - ny wee - thing, Or all of God's an - gels in -

45 *f* **pochiss. rit.** *mf*

hea - ven to sing, — He sure - ly would have had it, — 'cause

49 *mp* **Pochiss. meno, molto semplice**

He was — the King. — He sure - ly would have

52 *mf* *dim.*

had it, — 'cause He was — the

55 *p* **pochiss. rit.** 3'15"

King. —

3. Away in a manger

Anon.

Richard Rodney Bennett

Andante tranquillo (♩ = 40) *p*

p sempre legato
con Ped.

5
- way in a man-ger, no crib for a bed, The lit-tle Lord Je-sus lay
Ped. sim.

8 *mp*
down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked
poco cresc. *mp*
Ped.

10 *dim.*
down where he lay, The lit-tle Lord Je-sus, a-sleep in the
dim.

13 *p* *mp*

hay. The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes, But

p *mp*

ped.

17 *poco cresc.* *mf*

lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes, I love thee Lord Je - sus, look

poco cresc. *mf*

20 *dim.* *mp*

down from the sky, And stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.

dim. *mp*

24 *mf*

Be near me Lord Je - sus, I ask thee to stay, Close

poco cresc. *mf*

27 *poco cresc.* *f dolce*

by me for e - ver, and love me I pray, ——— Bless all the dear chil-dren in

poco cresc. *f dolce*

30 *poco dim.*

thy ten - der care, And fit us for hea-ven to live with — thee

poco dim.

33 *mf* *dim. poco a poco*

there. ——— Bless all the dear chil-dren in thy ten-der care, And

mf *dim. poco a poco*

36 *(p)* *dim.*

fit us for hea-ven to live with thee there. ———

p *mp*

39 **pochiss. rit.** 2'40"

dim. *pp*

London Dec.11/09

4. Rise up, shepherd, and follow

Spiritual

Richard Rodney Bennett

Grazioso e ritmico (♩ = 126)

mf legato

4 *mp*

There's a star in the East on Christ-mas morn, — Rise up, shep - herd, and

mp

8 *mf*

fol - low. — It will lead to the place where the Sa - viour's born, —

mf

11 *mp*

Rise up, shep - herd, and fol - low. _

mp

14 *mf*

Fol - low, _ fol - low, _

mf

17 *mf*

rise up, shep - herd, and fol - low. _ Fol-low the star _ of

mf

20 *mp*

Beth - le - hem, _ Rise up, shep - herd, and fol - low. _

mp

23 *mp*
You can

mf *mp*

27
leave your flocks and leave your lambs, — Rise up, shep - herd, and

30 *mf*
fol - low, — Leave your ewes — and leave your rams, —

33 *mp*
Rise up, shep - herd, and fol - low. —

36 *mf*

Fol - low, - fol - low, -

39

rise up, shep - herd, and fol - low. - Fol-low the star - of

42

Beth - le - hem, - Rise up, shep - herd, and fol - low. -

mp

45

cresc. *f sempre legato*

48 *f*

If you take good heed_ to the

51

an-gel's word,_ Rise up, shep - herd, and fol - low,_ You'll for -

54 *mf*

-get your flock,_ you'll for - get your herd,_ Rise up, shep - herd, and

57 **poco a poco più tranquillo**

fol - low._ Fol - low,_ fol - low,_

61 *mp semplice*

rise up, shep - herd, and fol - low. — Fol - low the star of

65 *dim.* *p*

Beth - le - hem, — Rise up, shep-herd, and fol -

71 *morendo* *poco rit.* *lunga* 2'45"

- low. — *lunga*