

John Webber

THE NATIVITY

liturgical music drama in five scenes from the Chester Mystery Play of the same name

WEBBER MUSIC
198111

Characters:

Gabriel
An Angel
Mary
Joseph
Salome, Tabella - two midwives
SATB Chorus

Orchestra:

2 Flutes
2 B♭ Clarinets
Organ
Strings

the score is transposed

This work was commissioned by St. James' Episcopal Church, Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.

The first performance was on Christmas Eve 1980, St. James' Church. Rembert Herbert, Choir Director and John Webber, Conductor.

Hymns are to be sung between each scene. With hymns the whole should last about 30 minutes.

SCENE 1

GABRIEL:

Hail be thou Mary Mai den free
full of grace God is with thee
A mong all women blessed thou be,
and the child of thy body

CHORUS:

In a time fore told by Saint and Seer
Unto Earth so dark with fear
Did God's blessed messengers draw near
Our gladness to restore.

MARY:

My God that reigns in majesty
Who wondrously a mazes me
A simple maiden of my degree
To be greeted thus graciously.

GABRIEL:

Mary fear thou not this case,
a mong all women special grace
thou hast found before God's face;
By thee this shall be done:
Conceive and bear,
I tell thee, a child.
So great shall no be
as he; his name
Jesu shall be.

MARY:

How may this be? Thou art so bright,
Oh! Tell me how this may be right.

GABRIEL:

The Holy Ghost shall in thee light from God in
majesty
for God's own son shall come to Earth
And thou Mary shallt give him birth.
For nothing in God's might
and worth impossible is.

CHORUS:

To Mary gracious in God's sight
And to Josef dreaming in the night
Angels whispered of coming light
And bade them fear no more

In a time fore told by Saint and Seer
Unto the Earth so dark with fear
Did God's blesst messengers draw near
our gladness to restore.

SCENE 2

JOSEPH:

Alas and woe is me
Who hath made her with child?
Mine it is not I make so bold
For I am both old and cold.

There fore will I sleep a while
now will my wife me be guile
I will go from her myself I am loath to de file.
Alas and woe is me

AN ANGEL:

Joseph thou must wife believe
this thing is God's own will
the child that she shall bear I wis
of the Holy Ghost begotten is
to save mankind that did amiss
and prophecy to fullfill.

JOSEPH:

Ah! now I know Lord it is so
of understand ing I was slow
and while on Earth I may go
for Ma ry I shall care.

Now Christ shall come with us to dwell
as the pro phets did fore tell
O Lord God eternal Thee I worship here.

CHORUS:

So mortal love did undertake
To bear the consequence and weight.
Of sheltering for salvations sake
The Holy Fa thers Son.

AN ANGEL:

Goog man I warn thee verily,
To Bethlhem to take thy way
Lest thou in danger fall today
If that thou be too long.

CHORUS:

In Bethlehem it did begin
to mend the crack of mannes sin.
That to this pair God did commend
The care of His great Son.

SCENE 3

JOSEPH:

Marry spouse sooth to say
Shelter I hope we may
For great Lords of stout array occupy this city

Therefore we must no other way
sleep in this stable till it be day.

MARY:

Help me down then my dear
for I hope my hour is near

MARY:

Christ in this stable that is here

JOSEPH:

It will make men meek believe
I may to show him here will we

JOSEPH:

Mary sweetheart I will try
to fetch two women from nearby
For though in thee be God from high
coming as mankind
Yet a woman should help thee
For a custom's sake as thinks me.

MARY:

Christ in this stable that is here
I hope born will be

JOSEPH:

It will make men meek believe
I may to show him here will we

CHORUS:

In Bethlehem did God command
to this blessd pair His Son's care
so mortal love did undertake
to gaurd the Christ for our sakes.

JOSEPH:

Mary sweetheart I will try
to fetch two women from nearby
two will I fetch anon to thee if I may find any.

SCENE 4

JOSEPH:

Women God you save and see
Is it your will to come with me?
My wife has come to this city with child
Her time is near help her now for charity.

SALOME:

Already good man lead the way
We will do whatever we may
For two other such midwives
That we can do well thy wife shall say
and that thou shall well see

TABELLA:

Come good man show us the way
With God's help e're it be day
That we can do well
For two other such midwives
I dare well say are not in this city.

SCENE 5

MARY:

Joseph! Tidings of great joy!
I have a son a sweet boy.
Lord, thanked be thou nougnt
can destroy thy power and grace!
Pain none at all I felt this night.
But even so did Christ alight,
and come is here in my sight
God's Son as you may see!

MARY:

Lord, blessed must thou be
That simple born art as I see.
To deprive the devil of his mastery,
Come thou art today I have a son a sweet boy!

SALOME:

Bless'd be God Amazed am I
Now believe I well and verily.
To save man God is come from high;
Thou Lord art God's own Son.

TABELLA:

Ah, Dear Lord! Heav'nly King!
That this is a marv'lous thing.
without pain or travailing,
Thou Lord art God's own Son

JOSEPH:

Lord, welcome! Sweet Jesu!
Thy name thou hadst e're I thee knew.
Now I believe the angel's words true
Thou hast come on earth this way.

MARY:

Fine clothes are not for thee,
therefore thy sweet body free
In this manger safe shall be,
And heaped about with hay

JOSEPH:

For thou art come man's bliss to sow,
To this end thy law will show,
Now man's joy begins to grow,
And suffring to pass away.

MARY:

I have a Son!
I have a Son, Lord!
I have a Son a sweet boy!

SALOME:

Now I believe now I believe Lord!

TABELLA:

A fair Son she has won, Lord!

JOSEPH:

Welcome, Lord, welcome Lord, Lord!
Sweet Jesu!

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liturgical music drama in five scenes from the Chester Mystery Play of the same name

*Mary is onstage,
Gabriel is heard offstage:*

John Webber 81-11

Gabriel

ORCHESTRA

Hail be thou Ma-ry!

7

A musical score for the orchestra, featuring two staves of music. The top staff uses a treble clef and the bottom staff uses a bass clef. The music consists of various notes and rests, indicating a continuous performance.

12

A musical score for the orchestra, featuring two staves of music. The top staff uses a treble clef and the bottom staff uses a bass clef. The music consists of various notes and rests, indicating a continuous performance.

16

Gabriel enters, slowly.

A musical score for the orchestra, featuring two staves of music. The top staff uses a treble clef and the bottom staff uses a bass clef. The music consists of various notes and rests, indicating a continuous performance.

21 *onstage:*

Gab.

Hail be thou Ma-ry Mai - den free full of grace __ God is with

22

Gab.

thee

24

A $\text{d} = 60$

Gab.

A-mong all wo-men bles-sed thou be, and the child of thy bo - dy

26

Soprano (S): In a time fore - told by Saint and Seer

Alto (A): In a time fore - so — dark with

Tenor (T): In a time fore - told by Saint and Seer

Bass (B): Un - to Earth so

Piano: (Accompaniment)

30

Soprano (S): Did God's bles - sed mes - sen - gers draw near

Alto (A): fear Did God's bles - sed mes - sen - gers draw near

Tenor (T): Did God's bles - sed mes - sen - gers draw near

Bass (B): dark — with — fear Did God's bles - sed mes - sen -

Piano: (Accompaniment)

33

S A T B

Our gladness to restore.
near Our gladness to restore.

gers draw near

37 B Piu mosso

Mary

My God that reigns in

41

41

Mary

me A sim - ple mai - den of my de - gree

49

Mary

To be gree - ted thus — gra - cious - ly.

53

Gab.

Ma - ry fear thou not this

57

Gab.

case,

59

Gab.

among all women special grace thou hast found before God's face; —

62

Gab.

By thee this shall be done:

Conceive and bear,
I tell thee, a child.
So great shall no be
as he; his name
Jesu shall be.

65 C $\sigma = 50$

Mary

How may this

68

Mary

be? Thou art so bright, Oh! Tell me how this may be right.

Mary

Thou art so bright, Oh! Tell me how this may be right.

Gab.

The Ho - ly

Gab.

Ghost shall in thee light from God in ma - jes - ty for

Gab.

God's own son shall come to Earth And thou Ma - ry shall give him

78

Gab.

birth. For nothing in God's might
and worth impossible is.

82

D ♩ = 72

T

And Jo-sef drea - ming in the night

B

To Ma-ry gra-cious in God's sight

mf

85

Soprano (S) -

Alto (A) -

Tenor (T) -

Bass (B) -

Musical score for measures 85-86. The vocal parts Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass are shown on four staves. The lyrics are:

An - gels whispered of co - ming light
 An - gels whis - pered of co - ming light
 Ma - ry gra - cious in God's
 Ma - ry gra - cious in God's

The bass staff has a bassoon part below it.

87

Soprano (S) -

Alto (A) -

Tenor (T) -

Bass (B) -

Musical score for measures 87-88. The vocal parts Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass are shown on four staves. The lyrics are:

To Ma - ry full of grace ____ An - gels whis - pered of
 And Jo - sef drea - ming in the night
 sight And to Jo - sef drea - ming
 sight And to Jo - sef drea - ming

The bass staff has a bassoon part below it.

90

Soprano (S) vocal line:

co - ming light And bade them fear no more

Alto (A) vocal line:

- And bade them fear no more

Tenor (T) vocal line:

8 And bade them fear no more And bade them fear no more

Bass (B) vocal line:

And And bade them fear no more

Piano accompaniment (bottom staff):

Measures 1-2: Treble clef, common time. Bass clef, common time.

Measures 3-4: Treble clef, common time. Bass clef, common time.

92

Soprano (S) vocal line:

In a time foretold by Saint and Seer

Alto (A) vocal line:

Un - to the Earth so dark with fear

Piano accompaniment (bottom staff):

Measures 1-2: Treble clef, common time. Bass clef, common time.

Measures 3-4: Treble clef, common time. Bass clef, common time.

95

Soprano (S) vocal line:

Did God's blesst mes-sen-gers draw near our glad-ness to re -

Alto (A) vocal line:

Did God's blesst mes-sen-gers draw near our glad-ness to re -

Tenor (T) vocal line:

$\frac{8}{8}$ God's blesst mes-sen-gers draw near _____ our

Bass (B) vocal line:

God's blesst mes-sen-gers draw near _____ our

Accompaniment (piano):

Key signature: $\# \# \# \# \#$

Time signature: 8

Notes: The piano accompaniment consists of a single bass line with eighth-note chords.

99

Soprano (S) vocal line:

store. _____

Alto (A) vocal line:

store. _____

Tenor (T) vocal line:

$\frac{8}{8}$ glad-ness to re - store. _____

Bass (B) vocal line:

glad-ness to re - store. _____

Accompaniment (piano):

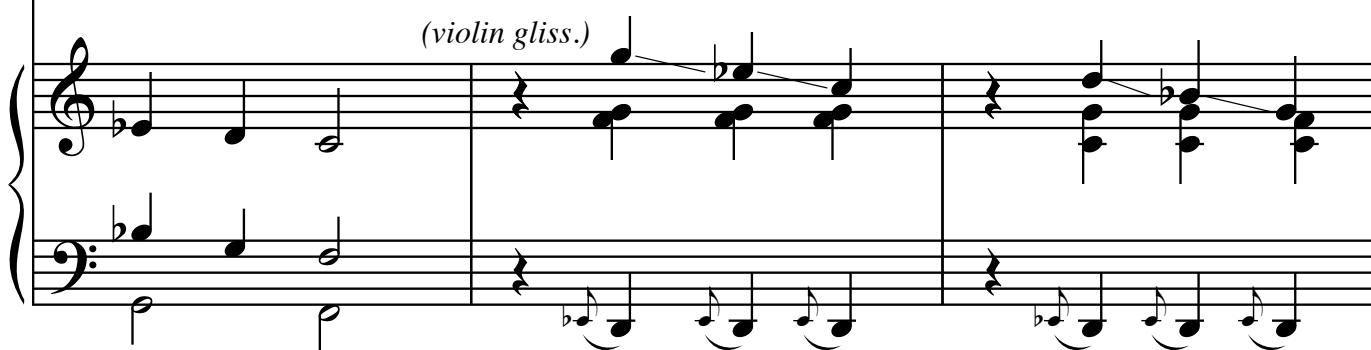
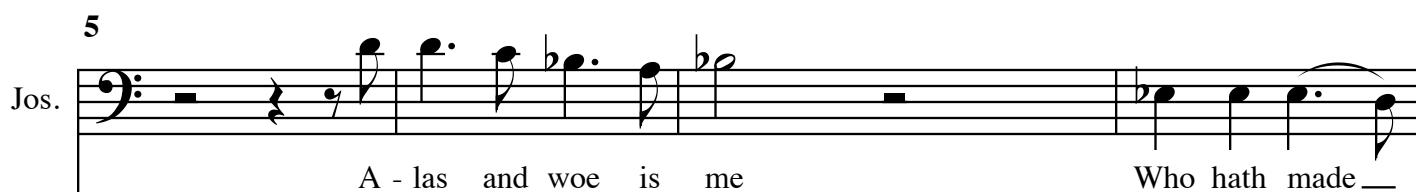
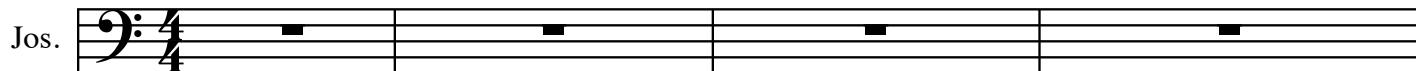
Key signature: $\# \# \# \# \#$

Time signature: 8

Notes: The piano accompaniment consists of a single bass line with eighth-note chords.

Scene 2, spritely, $\text{♩} = 92$
Joseph enters and finds Mary

17



12

Jos.

For I am both old and cold. There - fore will I

15

Jos.

sleep a - while now will my wife ____ me be - guile

18

Jos.

I will go from her my - self I am loath to de-file.

σ

21

Jos.  A - las and woe is me!

{ 


24 E
Enter an Angel: 

Ang.  Joseph thou must thy wife believe this thing is God's own will

{ 


27 

Ang.  the child that she shall bear I wis of the Ho-ly Ghost be- got - ten is

{ 


29 Ω

Ang.

to save mankind that did a - miss and pro - phe - cy to full - fill.

31 F

Jos.

Ah! now I know Lord it __ is __ so of un-der-stand-ing I was

34

Jos.

slow and while on Earth I may go for Ma - ry I shall care. __

37

Jos.

Now Christ shall come with us to dwell

40

Jos.

as the pro - phets did fore - tell O Lord God e - ter - nal

43

Jos.

Thee I worship here.

48

Soprano (S): So mortal love did un - der-take
Alto (A): So mortal love did un - der-take To
Tenor (T): To bear the conse - quence
Bass (B): So mortal love did un - der-take

51

Soprano (S): To bear the conse - quence and weight.
Alto (A): bear the conse - quence and weight.
Tenor (T): To bear the conse - quence and weight.
Bass (B): the conse - quence and weight.

Enter an Angel:

55

S In Of shel-ter-ing for sal - va - tions sake

A Of shel-ter-ing for sal - va - tions sake Ho-ly Fa-thers Son.

T 8 The Ho-ly Fa-thers Son.

B

H Ω

58 Ang. Good man I warn thee verily, thy way
To Bethlehem to take

61 Ang. Lest thou in danger fall today If that thou be too long.

65

Soprano (S) vocal line:

In Beth - le - hem it did be - gin

Alto (A) vocal line:

In Beth - le-hem it did be - gin to mend the

Tenor (T) vocal line:

In Beth - le-hem it did be - gin

Bass (B) vocal line:

In Beth - le-hem it did be - gin

68

Soprano (S) vocal line:

To mend the crack of sin _____

Alto (A) vocal line:

crack of man - nes sin. mend the crack of sin. That

Tenor (T) vocal line:

to mend the crack of man-nes sin. _____ That

Bass (B) vocal line:

to mend the crack of man - nes sin. That to this pair God did com-

71

Soprano (S): The care of his great
to this pair God did command
to this pair God did command
mend

Alto (A): to this pair God did command
care His great

Tenor (T): to this pair God did command
The care of His great

Bass (B): mend

Bassoon (B): The care of His great

74

Soprano (S): Son.

Alto (A): Son.

Tenor (T): Son.

Bass (B): Son.

Bassoon (B): Son.

Scene 3

Mary and Joseph, same tempo as carol

1

5 $\text{♩} = 72$

9

Jos.

Mary spouse sooth to say — Shel ter I hope we

13

Jos.

may —

16

Jos.

For great Lords _____ of stout ar-ray oc - cu - py this

19

Jos.

ci - ty There - fore

24

Jos.

— we must no o-ther way sleep in this sta-ble till it be day.

K

29

Mary Help me down then my dear for I hope my hour is

Jos.

{

Mary near Christ in this sta - ble that is here

Jos. It will make men meek believe I may to

{

Mary Christ in this sta - ble

Jos. show him here will we (we) _____

{

42

Mary

here *freely*

Jos.

Ma-ry sweet-heart I will try to fetch two wo-men from near-by

44

Mary

Jos.

piu mosso

46

Mary

freely

Jos.

For though in thee be God from high co-ning as man - kind

piu mosso

47

Mary



Jos.



{

50

Mary



Jos.



Yet a wo-man should ___ help ___ thee For a cus-tom's sake as thinks me.

{

51

L $\text{d} = 50$ ($\text{d}=\text{d}$),
L'Istesso tempo

Mary



Jos.



Christ in this sta - ble that is here I ___ hope ___

It will make men meek be-lieve I may to show Him

{

M

54

Mary born will be
Jos. here will we

S In
A In
T
B

Soprano: Beth - le - hem did God com-mend to this blessd pair His
Alto: Beth - le - hem did God com-mend to this blessd pair His
Tenor: In Beth - le - hem did
Bass: In Beth - le - hem did

Organ: Bassoon notes: B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2, F#2, E2, D2, C2, B1.

57

Soprano: Beth - le - hem did God com-mend to this blessd pair His
Alto: Beth - le - hem did God com-mend to this blessd pair His
Tenor: In Beth - le - hem did
Bass: In Beth - le - hem did

Organ: Bassoon notes: B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2, F#2, E2, D2, C2, B1.

60

S A T B Bassoon

Soprano (S): Son's care so mor-tal love did un - der-take to
Alto (A): Son's care so mor-tal love did un - der-take to
Tenor (T): God com-mend to this blessd pair His Son's care
Bass (B): God com-mend to this blessd pair His Son's care

63

S A T B

gaurd the Christ for our sakes.

gaurd the Christ for our sakes.

so mor-tal love did un - der-take to gaurd the Christ for

so mor-tal love did un - der-take to gaurd the Christ for

Soprano (S): Treble clef, 66 measures.

Alto (A): Treble clef, 66 measures.

Tenor (T): Treble clef, 66 measures. The lyrics "our sakes." appear at measure 8.

Bass (B): Bass clef, 66 measures. The lyrics "our sakes." appear at measure 8.

Piano: Bass clef, 66 measures. Measures 69-72 show a melodic line with grace notes and slurs. Measures 75-78 show a melodic line with grace notes and slurs.

78 *freely*

Jos.

Ma-ry sweet-heart I will__ try__ to fetch two wo-men from near - by

80

Jos.

two will I fetch a-non to__ thee__ if I may__ find__ an - y.

Scene 4

Jos.

5 *freely*

Jos.

Wo-men God you save and see

7

Jos.

Is it your will to come with me?

mf

9

Jos.

My wife has come to this ci - ty with child

mf

11

Jos.

Her time is near help her now for cha - ri - ty.

N $\downarrow.$ = 60, in one

13

Sal. Tab.

Al - rea - dy good man lead the way
Come good man show us the way

17

Sal.

We will do what - e - ver we may
With God's help e're it be day

Tab.

Bass

22

Sal. do what - e - ver we may For two o - ther such mid-wives

Tab. help _____ e're it be day That we can do well

27

Sal.

For two other such mid-wives

Tab.

That we can do well

Bass/Bassoon

32

Sal.

For two o - ther such mid-wives That we can do well thy

Tab.

That we can do well For two o - ther such

Bass:

37

Sal. wife shall say and that thou shall well see that thou shall well

Tab. mid-wives I dare well say _____ are not _____ in

41

Sal. see that thou shall well see.

Tab. this ci - ty.

46

51

56

61

Scene 5, jubilantly, $\text{d} = 92$ rall. a tempo

Mary

Jo - seph! Ti - dings of gre - at joy!

Jos.

5

Mary

I have a

Jos.

9

Mary

son ____ a swe - et boy.

Jos.

Lord, __ wel - come!

13

Mary Lord, _____ than - ked be thou nought can des-troy thy

Jos. Swe-et Je - su! Swe-et Je - su! Lord, ___

16

Mary po-wer and grace! Pain none at all I felt this night.

Jos. wel - come! Swe-et Je - su! Swe - et Je - su!

19

Mary But e - ven so did Christ a - light, and come is here in my -

Jos. Wel-come, Lord! ___ Lord, ___ wel - come! Wel - come,

22

Mary sight - God's Son as you may see!

Jos. Lord!

Piano accompaniment: Right hand eighth-note chords, Left hand sustained notes.

f

O $\text{♩} = 92$

25

Mary Lord, bles-sed must thou be ____

Sal. Bless'd be God A - mazed am I ____

Tab. Ah, Dear Lord! Heav'n - ly King! ____

Jos. Lord, wel-come! Sweet Je - su! Thy ____

Piano accompaniment: Right hand eighth-note chords, Left hand sustained notes.

29

Mary
That sim - ple born art as I see.

Sal.
Now be - lieve I well and ve - ri - ly.

Tab.
That this is a marv' - lous thing.

Jos.
name thou hadst e're I thee ____ knew. Now

Bass continuo staff:

33

Mary
To de - prive __ the __ de - vil of __ his __ mas - te - ry,

Sal.
To save man God is come from high;

Tab.
with - out pain or tra - vail - ling, —

Jos.
I be - lieve the an - gel's words true

Bass continuo staff:

39 accellerando

Mary swe - et boy!

Sal. has _____ won.

Tab. God's__ own__ Son.

Jos. way._____

{

43

Mary

Fine clothes are not for thee,

Jos.

For thou art come man's bliss to sow,

A piano accompaniment is provided, consisting of two staves. The top staff uses a treble clef and the bottom staff uses a bass clef. Both staves show chords being played, primarily in the key of C major, with occasional sharps appearing in the bass staff to indicate changes in harmony.

52

Mary

Jos.

The musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is for 'Mary' in soprano clef, the middle for 'Jos.' in bass clef, and the bottom for the piano/bass. Measure 52 begins with a rest for all parts. The piano/bass staff features eighth-note chords throughout. The vocal parts remain silent for the first four measures of the example shown.

rally.

Q ∠= 92

piu mosso

Tan. $\text{C} = 92$ *piu mosso*

56

Mary

Sal.

Tab.

Jos.

I have a
Now I be -
A fair
Wel - come,

{

This musical score consists of five staves. The top four staves are vocal parts: Mary (soprano), Sal. (soprano), Tab. (alto), and Jos. (bass). The vocal parts sing eighth-note patterns. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment, indicated by a brace and a treble/bass clef. The piano part provides harmonic support with chords and bass notes. The tempo is marked as Tan. with a tempo of C = 92 and a dynamic of piu mosso (more moving). The measure number is 56. The lyrics are: "I have a Little Nutbrown Hare, Now I be - A fair Wel - come," with the last word continuing onto the next measure.

rall.

a tempo

60

Mary Son! I have a Son, Lord!

Sal. lieve now I be - lieve Lord!

Tab. Son she has won, Lord!

Jos. Lord, wel - come Lord, Lord!

63

Mary I have a Son

Sal. Now I be - lieve

Tab. Ah! Dear Lord!

Jos. Sweet Je - su!

accellerando

66

Mary: I _____ have a Son, —

Sal.: Now — I be - lieve, — now — I be - lieve —

Tab.:

Jos.: Ah! Dear
Wel - come Lord! — Wel - come

Piano/Bass: Measures 66-69 show a bass line with eighth-note chords and a treble line with eighth-note chords.

rall.

69

Mary: Lord! I have a Son — a sweet — boy!

Sal.: Lord!

Tab.: Lord!

Jos.: Lord!

Piano/Bass: Measures 69-72 show a bass line with eighth-note chords and a treble line with eighth-note chords.

R $\bullet = 100$

73 accellerando

77

81

85

89

93

97

Two staves of musical notation. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves have a key signature of one flat. The music consists of eighth-note patterns with some sixteenth-note grace notes.

Orchestral Postlude, calmly, $\text{♩} = 92$

1

p

Common time (indicated by '3/2')

Two staves of musical notation. The top staff shows a single note followed by a rest. The bottom staff shows a sustained note with a dot, followed by a note with a dot, then a series of eighth notes.

4

Two staves of musical notation. The top staff features eighth-note patterns with a bassoon-like sound indicated by a bassoon icon. The bottom staff features sustained notes with dots.

7

Two staves of musical notation. The top staff features eighth-note patterns. The bottom staff features sustained notes with dots.

10

Two staves of musical notation. The top staff features eighth-note patterns. The bottom staff features sustained notes with dots.

13

Musical score page 13. The score consists of two systems of four staves each. The top system shows a treble clef, a bass clef, and two bass staves. The bottom system shows a treble clef, a bass clef, and two bass staves. Measures 13 and 14 are shown. Measure 13 starts with a forte dynamic. Measure 14 starts with a piano dynamic. The bass staves feature sustained notes with grace notes.

16

Musical score page 16. The score consists of two systems of four staves each. The top system shows a treble clef, a bass clef, and two bass staves. The bottom system shows a treble clef, a bass clef, and two bass staves. Measures 16 and 17 are shown. Measure 16 starts with a forte dynamic. Measure 17 starts with a piano dynamic. The bass staves feature sustained notes with grace notes.

19

Musical score page 19. The score consists of two systems of four staves each. The top system shows a treble clef, a bass clef, and two bass staves. The bottom system shows a treble clef, a bass clef, and two bass staves. Measures 19 and 20 are shown. Measure 19 starts with a forte dynamic. Measure 20 starts with a piano dynamic. The bass staves feature sustained notes with grace notes. Measure 20 concludes with a measure repeat sign and a key signature change from A major to E major.

