

# O Little Town of Bethlehem

Testo: Phillips Brooks (1868)

Music by Trad. Arr. Preece

**Peacefully (Pacificamente)**

Soprano:  $\text{G} \ \frac{4}{4}$  dynamic  $p$ .  
Contralto:  $\text{G} \ \frac{4}{4}$ .  
Tenor:  $\text{G} \ \frac{4}{4}$  with a bass clef.  
Basso:  $\text{F} \ \frac{4}{4}$ .

Music: Soprano sings "O lit - tle town of Beth - le-hem, how still we see thee lie! A -". Contralto, Tenor, and Basso have rests.

Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B):  $\text{G} \ \frac{4}{4}$ .  
Music: Soprano sings "bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go - by. Yet in thy dark streets". Alto, Tenor, and Bass sing the same lyrics.

Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B):  $\text{G} \ \frac{4}{4}$ .  
Music: Soprano sings "shin - eth the e - ver - last - ing light; The hopes and fears of all the years are". Alto, Tenor, and Bass sing the same lyrics.

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## O Little Town of Bethlehem

15

S met in thee to - night. O mor - ning stars to - ge - ther pro - claim the ho - ly  
A met in thee to - night. hum  
T met in thee to - night. hum.  
B met in thee to - night. hum

This section of the musical score consists of four staves, one for each vocal part: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The music is in common time with a key signature of one flat. The soprano and alto parts sing the lyrics 'met in thee to - night.' followed by 'hum' on the third measure. The tenor and bass parts sing the lyrics 'O mor - ning stars to - ge - ther pro - claim the ho - ly' followed by 'hum' on the third measure.

20

S birth, hum hum For  
A \_\_\_\_\_ And prai-ses sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth; For  
T hum For  
B hum For

This section continues the musical score with four staves. The soprano part begins with 'birth,' followed by 'hum' and another 'hum'. The alto part follows with 'And prai-ses sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth;' followed by 'For'. The tenor and bass parts provide harmonic support with sustained notes and rhythmic patterns.

25

S Christ is born of Ma - ry; And gath-ered all a - bove, While mor - tals sleep, the  
A Christ is born of Ma - ry; And gath - ered all a - bove, While mor - tals sleep, the  
T Christ is born of Ma - ry; And gath-ered all a - bove, While mor - tals sleep, the  
B Christ is born of Ma - ry; And gath-ered all a - bove. while mor - tals sleep, the

This section concludes the musical score with four staves. The soprano part begins with 'Christ is born of Ma - ry; And gath-ered all a - bove, While mor - tals sleep, the'. The alto, tenor, and bass parts repeat this phrase in unison, providing a harmonic closure to the hymn.

## O Little Town of Bethlehem

3

30

S an - gels keep their watch of wond'ring love. How si - lent - ly, the  
A an - gels keep their watch of wond'ring love. How si - lent - ly, the  
T an - gels keep their watch of wond'ring love. How si - len - tly, how si - len - tly, the  
B an - gels keep their watch of wond'ring love. How si - len - tly, how si - len - tly, the

35

S won drous, gift is giv'n! The hu - man hearts the bles - sings of his  
A won drous, gift is giv'n! The hu - man hearts the bles - sing of his  
T won drous gift is giv'n! So God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bles - sing of his  
B won drous gift is giv'n! So God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bles - sing of his

40

S heav'n. may hear his com - ing; this world of sin, \_\_\_\_\_  
A heav'n. may hear his com - ing; this world of sin, \_\_\_\_\_  
T heav'n. No ear may hear his com - ing; But in this world of sin, Where  
B heav'n. No ear may hear his co - ming; But in this world of sin, Where

## O Little Town of Bethlehem

45

S - - - receive him still the dear Christ en - ters is. O

A - - - receive him still the dear Christ en - ters is. O ho - ly Child of

T - meek souls will re - ceive him still the dear Christ en - ters in. O ho - ly Child of

B - meek souls will re - ceive him still the dear Christ en - ters in. O ho - ly Child of

50

S ho - ly Child de - scend to us we pray; Cast out our sin, be

A Beth - le-hem, de - scend to us we pray; Cast out our sin, be born in in, be

T Beth - le-hem, de - scend to us we pray; Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be

B Beth - le-hem, de - scend to us we pray; Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be

55

S born in us to day, The Christ-mas an - gels

A born in us to day, We hear the Christ-mas an - gels The great glad ti-dings

T born in us to - day. We hear, we hear the Christ-mas, an - gels The great glad ti-dings

B born in us to day; we hear, we hear the Christ-mas an - gels The great glad ti-dings

**1** O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

**2** For Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth.

**3** How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive Him still,  
the dear Christ enters in.

**4** O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in;  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels,  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel!

**1** O piccola città di Betlemme,  
come ancora ti vediamo distesa!  
Sul tuo sonno profondo e senza sogni  
passano le stelle silenziose.  
Eppure nelle tue strade buie risplende  
la luce eterna;  
le speranze e le paure di tutti gli anni  
si incontrano in te stasera.

**2** Perché Cristo è nato da Maria;  
e, raccolti in alto,  
mentre i mortali dormono, gli angeli vigilano  
sull'amore meravigliato.  
O stelle del mattino, insieme  
proclamate la santa nascita,  
e cantate lodi a Dio Re,  
e pace agli uomini sulla terra.

**3** Quanto silenziosamente, quanto silenziosamente  
viene dato il dono meraviglioso!  
Così Dio impartisce ai cuori umani  
le benedizioni del Suo cielo.  
Nessun orecchio può udire la Sua venuta,  
ma in questo mondo di peccato,  
dove le anime miti lo riceveranno ancora,  
entra il caro Cristo.

**4** O santo Bambino di Betlemme,  
scendi a noi, ti preghiamo;  
caccia via il nostro peccato ed entra;  
nascere in noi oggi.  
Ascoltiamo gli angeli di Natale,  
raccontano la grande buona novella;  
Vieni a noi, rimani con noi,  
nostro Signore Emmanuele!