

How far is it to Bethlehem?

Poem by

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Music by

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HOW FAR IS IT TO BETHLEHEM?

FRANCES CHESTERTON

ALEC ROWLEY

Simply (*not fast*)

VOICE

How far is it to Beth - le-hem? Not ve - ry

PIANO

far. Shall we find the sta - ble - room

Lit by a star?

pp *mf* *mp* *slower*

mf rather faster

Can we see the lit - tle Child, Is He with - in?

mf rather faster

mf

If we lift the wood-en latch May we go in?

mf *sva* *retard* *p*

mf As at first *p*

May_ we stroke the creat-ures there, Ox, ass, or

pp *mf* As at first *p*

mf *p*

sheep? May we peep like them and see Je - sus a -

pp *mf*

mf rather faster

-sleep? _____ If we touch His ti - ny hand Will He a -

The first system of music features a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has one sharp (F#). The vocal line begins with a rest followed by the lyrics. The piano accompaniment starts with a melodic line in the right hand and a harmonic line in the left hand. Dynamics include *mp* and *mf*. Performance markings include *mp slower* and *mf*.

mf

retard

-wake? Will He know we've come so far Just for His sake?

The second system continues the musical piece. The vocal line has lyrics. The piano accompaniment features a *mf* dynamic and a *retard* marking. A *sva* (sustained vibrato) marking is present over the final notes of the vocal line.

f Broader

p

Great Kings have pre - cious gifts, And we have naught;

The third system shows a change in dynamics and performance style. The vocal line is marked *f* and *Broader*. The piano accompaniment is marked *pp* and *p*. The piano part includes a *dim* (diminuendo) marking and various chordal textures.

mp

Lit-tle smiles and lit-tle tears _____ Are all we brought. _____

The fourth system concludes the piece. The vocal line has lyrics. The piano accompaniment is marked *mp*. The system ends with a *Red.* (Reduction) marking and an asterisk.

mf faster

For all wea - ry child - ren Ma - ry must weep

mf faster

p Here, on His bed of straw, *pp* Sleep, child - ren, sleep. *retard*

p *pp* *retard* *ppp*

gva

mf As at first God in His Mo - ther's arms, *p* Babes in the byre, *gva*

mf As at first *pp*

pp Very slow Sleep, as they sleep who find their heart's de - sire.

gva

pp Very slow