

Joseph's Christmas

for Walter E. Ralls, Jr.

Music and Lyric by
Robert Stoddard

Adagio ♩ = 65

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music. The first system shows the beginning of the piano accompaniment with a first ending bracket. The second system includes the vocal line starting with the lyrics 'Ma - ry and Son At last are a-sleep,'. The third system continues the vocal line with 'Cat-tle and sheep A - round them nod - ding. Jo-seph's be-gun the vi - gil'. The fourth system shows the continuation of the piano accompaniment. The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, a key signature of one flat, a common time signature, and dynamic markings like 'p' (piano). There are also first ending brackets and triplet markings throughout the piece.

10 he will keep, A - gainst the shad - ows steep and broad-'ning.

Piano accompaniment for measures 10-12. The right hand features a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes in measure 12. The left hand provides a steady bass line with eighth notes.

13 Shep-herds ap - pear. They've come to the stall

Piano accompaniment for measures 13-15. The right hand consists of block chords, while the left hand has a simple bass line.

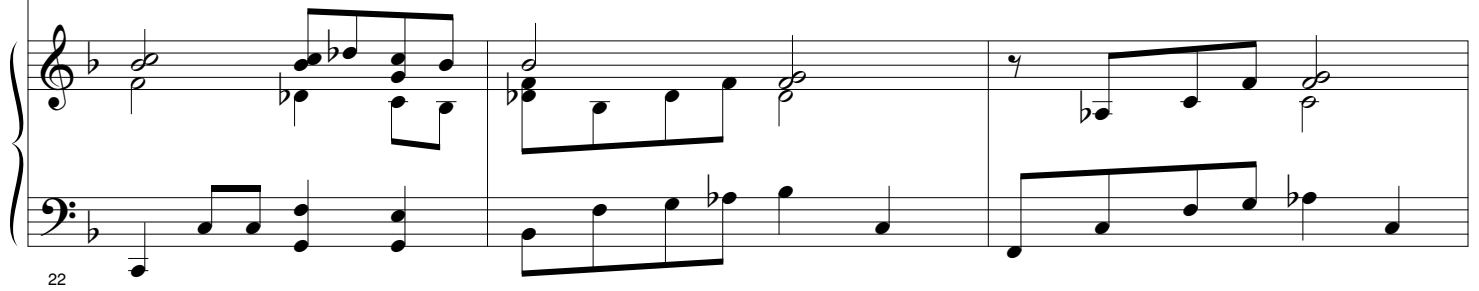
16 Heed-ing the call Of an - gels sing - ing. Jo-seph is dear. He shows the

Piano accompaniment for measures 16-18. The right hand has block chords with a triplet of eighth notes in measure 18. The left hand has a bass line with a triplet of eighth notes in measure 18.

19 pil - grims all Sweet Ma - ry and her small Child cling - ing.

Piano accompaniment for measures 19-21. The right hand has block chords with a triplet of eighth notes in measure 21. The left hand has a bass line with a triplet of eighth notes in measure 21.

22 E - ven be - fore, When — he hears Ma - ry's claim,



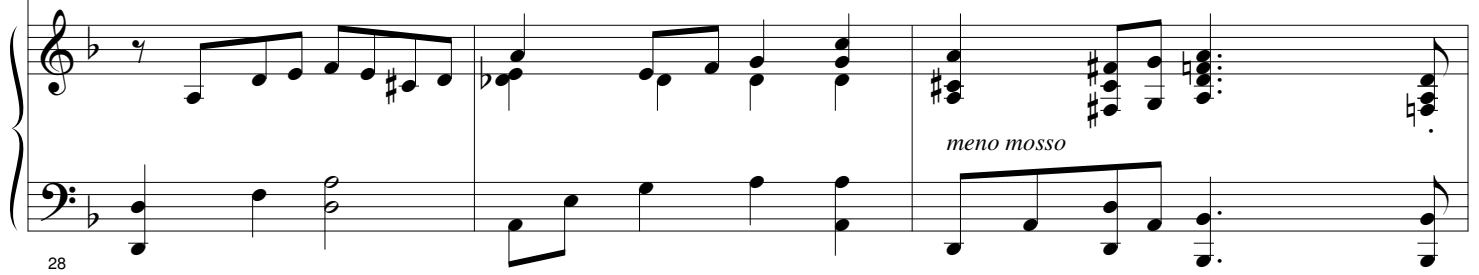
22

25 Jo - seph is prayer - ful — then — pro - tects her from shame. Then at the inn, With his



25

28 Ma - ry in need, He is re - source - ful. — He — is quick to pro - ceed: Find - ing them shel - ter,



28

31 Shap - ing the straw, Help - ing de - li - ver Je - sus, Then pre - sent - ing the ba - by to Ma - ry — in



31

34 awe. _____ La - ter there flares a

a tempo

37 star _____ ò - ver-head, Light-ing the shed _____ With glo - ry stream - ing.

poco rit.

40 Jo-seph re - pairs _____ a man - ger for a bed To lay the Christ al - read - y

a tempo

43 dream - ing. Oh, how he cares, This man whom Ma - ry wed, Thus

poco rit. *meno mosso*

46 *poco rit.* *a tempo*
stand - ing in God's stead, be - seem - ing.

46 *poco rit.* *a tempo*

49 Oh!

49 *poco rit.*

52 Jo - seph, dear.

52 *a tempo*