

# *Carol of the Poor Children*

*A setting of words by Richard Middleton  
For SATB and piano or harp*

**JANET WHEELER**

Duration 2'30"



## The Carol of the Poor Children

By Richard Middleton (1882–1911)

We are the poor children, come out to see the sights  
On this day of all days, on this night of nights;  
The stars in merry parties are dancing in the sky,  
A fine star, a new star, is shining on high!

We are the poor children, our lips are frosty blue,  
We cannot sing our carol as well as rich folk do;  
Our bellies are so empty we have no singing voice,  
But this night of all nights good children must rejoice.

We do rejoice, we do rejoice, as hard as we can try,  
A fine star, a new star is shining in the sky!  
And while we sing our carol, we think of the delight  
The happy kings and shepherds make in Bethlehem to-night.

Are we naked, mother, and are we starving-poor—  
Oh, see what gifts the kings have brought outside the stable door;  
Are we cold, mother, the ass will give his hay  
To make the manger warm and keep the cruel winds away.

We are the poor children, but not so poor who sing  
Our carol with our voiceless hearts to greet the new-born king,  
On this night of all nights, when in the frosty sky  
A new star, a kind star is shining on high!

# The Carol of the Poor Children

Words by RICHARD MIDDLETON

Music by JANET WHEELER

Con moto ♩ = 132

SOPRANOS AND ALTOS

*mp*

(Conducting ♩ beat recommended)

1. We are the poor chil - dren, come out to see the

*mp* *sim.*

6

sights On this day of all days, on this night of nights, the

11

stars in mer - ry par - ties are danc - ing in the sky, A fine star a

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

16

new star is shin - ing on high!

*mp*

## A

22 *mf*

2. We are the poor chil - dren, our lips are fros - ty blue, We can - not sing our

*mf*

27 *dim.*

ca - rol as well as rich folk do; Our bel - lies are so emp - ty we have no sing - ing

33 *cresc.*

voice, But this night of all nights good chil - dren must re - joice.

*mp*

## B

38 TENORS and BASSES *f*

3. We do re - joice, we do re - joice, as

*mf* *f*

43

hard as we can try, A fine star, a new star, is shin - ing in the

SOPRANOS and  
ALTOS

48 *f*

And\_ while we sing our ca - rol, we\_ think of the de - light The\_

sky! And\_ while we sing our ca - rol, we\_ think of the de - light The\_

53

S. hap - py kings and shep - herds make in Beth - le - hem to - night

A. hap - py kings and shep - herds make in Beth - le - hem to - night

T. hap - py kings and shep - herds make in Beth - le - hem to - night

B. hap - py kings and shep - herds make in Beth - le - hem to - night.

58 **C** *f* *dim.*

Are we na - ked? Are we star - ving?

*f* *dim.*

Are we na - ked? Are we star - ving?

*f* *dim.*

Are we na - ked? Are we star - ving?

62 *p*

Are we na - ked? Are we star - ving? See what

*p*

Are we na - ked? Are we star - ving? See what

*p*

Are we na - ked? Are we star - ving? See what

*mp*

4. Are we na - ked mo - ther, and are we star - ving poor? Oh, see what gifts the

67

gifts the kings have gi - ven, Are we cold mo - ther? the

gifts the kings have gi - ven, And the ass will

gifts the kings have gi - ven, And the ass will

kings have brought out - side the sta - ble door, And the ass will

72 *poco cresc.*

ass will give us hay To make the man - ger warm and keep the

give us hay

give us hay

give us hay

A tempo

77 *f*

cru - el winds a - way

*f* cru - el winds a - way

*f* cru - el winds a - way

*f* cru - el winds a - way

A tempo

**D**

SOPRANOS and ALTOS

*mp*

5. We are the poor chil - dren, but

TENORS and BASSES

*mp*

5. We are the poor chil - dren, but not so poor who

87

not so poor who sing Our ca - rol with our voice - less hearts to

sing Our ca - rol with our voice - less hearts to greet the new - born

91 SOPRANOS  
greet the new - born king, On this night when in the fros - ty sky, A

king, On this night of all nights, when in the fros - ty sky, *cresc.*

96 *cresc.* *mf cresc.*  
new star a kind star is shin - ing on high!

ALTOS *cresc.* *mf cresc.*  
A new star a kind star is shin - ing on high!

TENORS *cresc.* *p dim.*  
*mf* A kind star is shin - ing on high! Weare the poor

BASSES *p dim.*  
Weare the poor chil - dren

102 *pp*  
Weare the poor chil - dren

*p dim.*  
Weare the poor chil - dren

chil - dren

*pp*

The musical score is written for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Piano. It consists of three systems of music. The first system (measures 91-95) features Soprano and Alto parts with lyrics 'greet the new-born king, On this night when in the frosty sky, A king, On this night of all nights, when in the frosty sky,'. The piano accompaniment is in the right hand, with a 'cresc.' marking. The second system (measures 96-101) features Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass parts with lyrics 'new star a kind star is shining on high! Weare the poor'. The piano accompaniment continues with 'cresc.' and 'p' markings. The third system (measures 102-106) features Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass parts with lyrics 'Weare the poor children'. The piano accompaniment concludes with a 'pp' marking.