



The Sleepy Shepherd Boy



A Christmas Song
SATB VERSION

Words and music by

Gordon Thornett

**Orchestration available: 1.1.2.1; 2.0.0.0; perc., glock., xyl., hp. & strings
from www.newcarols.com*

First performed (in original 2-part version)
by the CBSO Children's Chorus in December 2007


The Sleepy Shepherd Boy

Version for Mixed Choir (SATB)

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$\text{♩} = 120$

Piano



mp

The piano introduction consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef staff with a melody of eighth notes and a bass clef staff with a bass line of eighth notes. The second system continues the melody in the treble clef, while the bass clef staff has a whole note chord and a final eighth note.

4


Choir

T+B
mf

1. Hey lit-tle shep-herd boy, sit-ting on the hill side,

Pno.

p



The choir part begins at measure 4 with a box labeled 'A'. The vocal line is in the bass clef, with the tenors and basses (T+B) singing. The piano accompaniment (Pno.) is in two staves, treble and bass clef. The piano part features chords in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The piano part is marked *p*.

7

S+A
mf

Choir

Say, lit-tle shep-herd boy,

Watch-ing o'er your sheep on a cold, dark night,

Pno.

10

Choir

what can you be think-ing As you gaze_ up in won-der at the

Pno.

4 parts:

S: Tell me, O shep-herd boy,

12

Choir

stars so bright?

A: Ah

Ah

Pno.

14

Choir

poor lit - tle shep-herd boy,

ah

How d'you stay a-wake on such a

ah

Please tell me

Pno.

16

Choir

night?

Hey there! A

How you stay a - wake on such a night, lit - tle shep-herd boy, A

B REFRAIN

Pno.

18

Choir

pen-ny for your thoughts, lit-tle shep-herd boy, on this cold, cold night!

Pno.

21

Choir

No text mess-ag - ing, Oh no! You

beep beep! tel - ly* or com - pu - ter games, You

Pno.

*'Telly' means TV in the UK: feel free to substitute any other distracting activity!

23

Choir

might as well be count ing sheep, lit tle shep-herd boy!

Pno.

26

Pno.

C

29 *f* S+A

Choir

2. Say, have you heard of a - no - ther lit - tle shep-herd boy?

Pno.

p

31

Choir

Da - vid was his name, and he was brave and true.

T+B

He

Pno.

33

Choir

They

killed a hung-ry li - on just to keep his flocks from dan - ger, They

Pno.

*In the UK 'telly' means television - please feel free to substitute 'TV'

35

Choir

say he killed a gi - ant called Go - li - ath too!

Pno.

37

Choir

mf Five lit - tle stones he took and with his sling took aim and struck the

p Ah _____ ah _____ and struck the

Pno.

39 **D** REFRAIN *f*

Choir
might-y gi-ant right be-tween the eyes! Hey there!

Pno.

might-y gi-ant right be-tween the eyes! Hey there!

f

f

42

Choir
what a bor-ing life for a shep-herd boy, on this cold, cold night!

Pno.

what a bor-ing life for a shep-herd boy, on this cold, cold night!

p

45 S+A [shrugging shoulders]

Choir

You might as well be count-ing

No wild an-i-mals, or fights with might-y gi- ants,

Pno.

48

Choir

sheep, *p* lit - tle shep-herd boy!

Baah! _____

Pno.

50 **poco.rall..**

Choir

Pno.

E

A little slower

53

Choir

*May be spoken, with other choir members humming in background.

SOLO (or small group)

mf

3. *One two_ three four five_ six_ sev - en eight nine ten e -

[Counts his sheep, rather hesitatingly]

A little slower

Pno.

56 *mf*

Choir

His

-lev - en twelve, Thir - teen four - teen, fif - teen - six - teen,

Pno.

59 **rall.**

Choir

eye - lids are get - ting ve - ry hea - vy now!

(fading away...)

sev'n - teen eight - een,

rall.

Pno.

62

[Some of the choir make snoring sounds.]

F A tempo **REFRAIN**
p tutti

Choir

mm - - - - Hey there! A

nine-teen, ten-teen, mm - - - -

Pno.

A tempo

pp

66

Choir

pen-ny for your dreams lit-tle shep-herd boy, on this cold, cold night,

Pno.

69

Choir

No text mess - ag - ing, tel - ly* or com - pu - ters as you

Pno.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 69 and 70. The choir part consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lower staff is in bass clef. The lyrics are: "No text mess - ag - ing, tel - ly* or com - pu - ters as you". The piano accompaniment (Pno.) also consists of two staves. The upper staff has a treble clef and contains several chords. The lower staff has a bass clef and contains a simple bass line with quarter and eighth notes.

71 **poco rall.**

Choir

drift in-to the land of__ dreams, lit tle shep herd boy!
A:to the land of dreams,

Pno.

poco rall.

mp

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 71 and 72. The tempo marking is "poco rall.". The choir part consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat. The lower staff is in bass clef. The lyrics are: "drift in-to the land of__ dreams, lit tle shep herd boy!" and "A:to the land of dreams,". The piano accompaniment (Pno.) consists of two staves. The upper staff has a treble clef and contains chords and some melodic lines. The lower staff has a bass clef and contains a bass line. A dynamic marking of "mp" (mezzo-piano) is present in the piano part.

G A little slower

mf [telling story]

74

Choir

4. Once long a-go on a Beth-le-hem hill-side

Pno.

77

Choir

there were some shep-herds just like you, Watch-ing their flocks and

Pno.

80

Choir

feel-ing rath-er drow-sy, hud-dled up to-ge-ther with no-thing to do, When

Pno.

83

Choir

all of a sud-den a bright light shone o - ver them, A

Ah _____ ah _____

Pno.

pp

pp

H REFRAIN*f* A tempo

85

Choir

voice seemed to e-cho through the skies: 'Hey there!

Pno.

mp

88

Choir

Do not be a-fraid', said the an - gel, 'I've got

Pno.

90 *mp tenderly*

Choir
news for you: There's a lit-tle ba - by, born in a sta - ble. He's

p *mp*

Mm _____ mm _____ He's

Pno. *p espr.*

93

Choir
come to set the whole world free, lit-tle shep-herd boy.'

come to set the whole world free, lit-tle shep-herd boy.'

Pno. *mf*

96

Pno.

99 **I**

f

Choir 5. Now the light shines e - ven bright - er, Heav'n - ly mu - sic

f

Pno. *mp*

102

Choir fills the air. A:An - gel voi - ces ring - ing out their mess - age:

An - gel voi - ces ring - ing out their mess - age:

mf

Pno.

105

Choir

'Peace_ on_ earth good - will_ to all.' Hey, lit tle shep-herd boy,

'Peace_ on_ earth good - will_ to all.' Mm_____

Pno.

p S+A

p

pp

108

Choir

are you still sleep- ing? Wake up now and join in the song:

mm_____ Wake up! wake up! Wake up now and join in the

Pno.

mp

mp

J

111 *f* REFRAIN

Choir

Glo - ry, glo - ry be to God on—
 song, lit - tle shep-herd boy, sit - ting on the hill - side,

J

Pno. *mf*

113

Choir

high, — and_ peace to all! Join in ev'-ry-one,
 Won't you sing a long with the an-gel choir? Join in ev'-ry-one,

Pno.

116

Choir

sing-ing with the an - gels. Now you're wide a-wake and sing-ing

sing-ing with the an - gels. Now you're wide a-wake and sing-ing

Pno.

118

Choir

too, *ff* **K** Glo - ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o, —

too, *ff* lit-tle shep-herd boy. in ex-cel-sis De - o,

Pno.

f

121

Choir

glo-ri-a, sing glo - ri - a, Et in ter-ra pax ho-min-i-bus,

glo - - ri - a! Et in ter-ra pax ho-min-i-bus,

Pno.

125

Choir

ev' - ry - bod - y join - ing in the song with the

ev' - ry - bod - y join - ing in the song with the

Pno.

mp cresc.

127

Choir

shep-herd boy.

shep-herd boy.

Pno.

f

129

Pno.

p

mf

sfz

NOTE - This copy is made available for your perusal. PLEASE DO NOT PHOTOCOPY!

The original version of this piece, for children's choir (S/A), is available from JWPepper.com, SheetMusicPlus.com or SwirlyMusic.org, where it can be downloaded or bought in printed form.

For other Christmas music for adult and children's choirs, see www.newcarols.com.