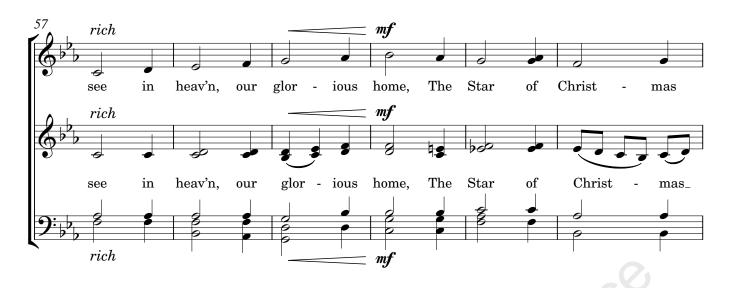
for Tim Reader and The Epiphoni Consort on their 10th anniversary in 2024

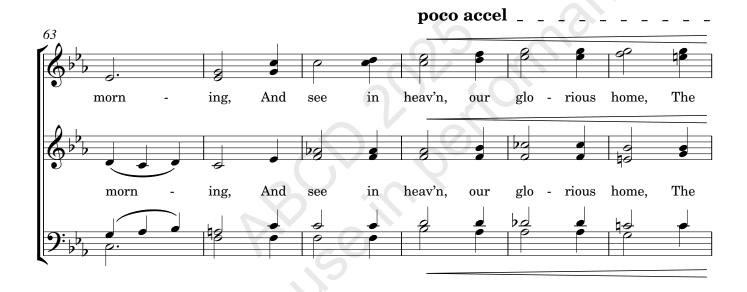
THE GOLDEN CAROL

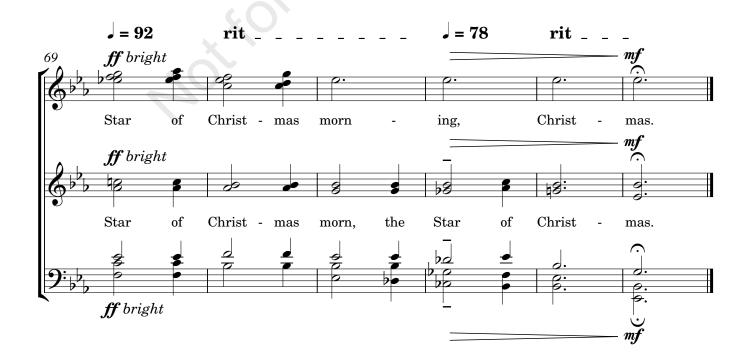
of Melchior, Balthazar, and Caspar, the Three Kings

BEN PONNIAH Old English Carol (b 1984) Peaceful, joyful J = 90mp \boldsymbol{p} **SOPRANO ALTO** the light shine out On Christ - mas saw far, the **TENOR BASS** p mp p And straight we knew Christ's Star it was, Bright beam - ing ing, morn mp mpinthe morn ing, Then did we fall on bend - ed knee, On Christ-mas mpmf mf mpAnd prais'd the Lord, who'd His the morn ing, see mf mp









Composer's note

Commissioned by Tim Reader for The Epiphoni Consort's 10th anniversary in 2024, this piece draws inspiration from both Bach's chorales and the harmonic palette of Jacob Collier. The emotional breadth of the text allowed for a more dissonant harmonic language – particularly in the second verse – which is uncommon in traditional carol writing.

Duration: c3 minutes

Text

We saw the light shine out afar,
On Christmas in the morning,
And straight we knew Christ's Star it was,
Bright beaming in the morning,
Then did we fall on bended knee,
On Christmas in the morning,
And praised the Lord, who'd let us see
His glory at its dawning.

Oh! every thought be of His name, On Christmas in the morning, Who bore for us the grief and shame, Affliction's sharpest scorning. And may we die, when death shall come, On Christmas in the morning, And see in heav'n, our glorious home, The Star of Christmas morning.

Old English Carol



Ben Ponniah

Ben Ponniah is a British composer. His music has been performed at cathedrals and chapels around the world, as well as being broadcast on radio, including by the BBC Singers on BBC Radio 3. It also features on a number of CDs including Celestial Dawn (Signum Classics) by The Pembroke College Girls' Choir and Marvellous Light (Regent Records) by The Choir of Selwyn College, Cambridge. Ben was awarded the Derek Ogston Postgraduate Music Scholarship by the University of Aberdeen in support of his PhD in Composition. His love of sacred music stems from his choral background, which started at St Mary-le-Tower Church in Ipswich. His first degrees were in Economics, after which he explored jazz piano, which rekindled his love for composition.

Available in print and digitally: bit.ly/46Ahqfh

