

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

# THE GOLDEN CAROL

*of Melchior, Balthazar, and Caspar, the Three Kings*

Old English Carol

BEN PONNIAH

(b 1984)

Peaceful, joyful ♩ = 90

SOPRANO  
ALTO

TENOR  
BASS

*p* *mp* *p*

We saw the light shine out a - far, On Christ - mas in the

*p* *mp* *p*

7

*mp* *mf*

morn - ing, And straight we knew Christ's Star it was, Bright beam - ing

*mp* *mf*

14

*mp*

in the morn - ing, Then did we fall on bend - ed knee, On Christ - mas

*mp*

22

*mf* *mp* *mf*

in the morn - ing, And prais'd the Lord, who'd let us see His

*mf* *mp* *mf*

29 **rit** **mp** **meno mosso:**  
**smooth, flowing** ♩ = 84

glo - ry at its dawn - ing. Oh! ev - 'ry thought be of — His

36

name, On Christ-mas in — the morn - ing, — Who bore — for us — both

43 **mf dark** **f** **mp**

grief and shame, Af - flic - tion's sharp - est scorn - ing. And may we

50 **f** **mf** **mp**

S die, when death shall come, On Christ - mas in the morn - ing, And

A die, — when death shall come, On Christ-mas in — the morn - ing, And

T B

57 *rich* *mf*

see in heav'n, our glor - ious home, The Star of Christ - mas

*rich* *mf*

see in heav'n, our glor - ious home, The Star of Christ - mas\_

*rich* *mf*

**poco accel** - - - - -

63

morn - ing, And see in heav'n, our glo - rious home, The

morn - ing, And see in heav'n, our glo - rious home, The

$\text{♩} = 92$  **rit** - - - - -  $\text{♩} = 78$  **rit** - - -

69 *ff* **bright** *mf*

Star of Christ - mas morn - ing, Christ - mas.

*ff* **bright** *mf*

Star of Christ - mas morn, the Star of Christ - mas.

*ff* **bright** *mf*

## 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

Photo: Sarah MacDonald



## 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](https://bit.ly/46Ahqfh)

