

Little Jazz Carols

Bob Chilcott

for SATB, piano, and optional bass

vocal score

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Composer's note

With these settings of well-known Christmas texts, I looked to write pieces in a jazz-influenced style that could be performed in either a concert or carol service, that might sit alongside more traditional settings in a comfortable way. I imagined the accompaniment to be either piano alone, or piano with double bass or bass guitar. As with all the jazz settings for choir that I have composed, the piano part can either be played as written or interpreted freely within the chord structure. An annotated bass part is also available separately.

These pieces were written for the professional vocal ensemble at St Martin-in-the-Fields in London, St Martin's Voices, and their director, Andrew Earis. They were recorded and filmed by St Martin's Voices in autumn 2025, with the pianist John Turville and bass player, Gareth Huw Davies.

Duration: c.8 minutes

Little Jazz Carols Bass Part (ISBN 978-0-19-358082-4) is available as a digital download from Oxford University Press's digital partners.

For ABCD Conference 2026

for Andrew Earis and St Martin's Voices, St Martin-in-the-Fields, London

Little Jazz Carols

1. Blessed be that maid Mary

G. R. Woodward (1848–1934)

adap. Bob Chilcott

BOB CHILCOTT

Easy tempo ♩ = c.90

SOPRANO
ALTO

TENOR
BASS

PIANO

Easy tempo ♩ = c.90

mp

3
SOPRANOS
mp

s. Bless - ed be that maid Ma - ry, the mo - ther of Je - sus,

6
soon to be; As fore - told, her child was born

for us all on Christ - mas morn, for us all on

Christ - mas morn.

S. A. Soft - ly, soft - ly ly - ing there,

T. & B. *unis.* *mp* Soft - ly in a man - ger bare, the child of Ma - ry

18

ly - ing there;_ Born_ to die_ up - on_ the Tree, _

ly - ing_ there;

21 *mf*

born_ to_ die for_ you_ and me, _ born_ to_ die for_

mf

mf

24

you _____ and me. _____

This block contains the musical notation for measures 24 through 26. It features a vocal melody in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with a long note in measure 25. The piano accompaniment provides a harmonic foundation with chords and moving lines in both hands.

27

Joy - ful, joy - ful, the song of the an - gels

Sweet and joy - ful was the sound, the song of the an - gels

This block contains the musical notation for measures 27 through 29. It continues the vocal melody and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Joy - ful, joy - ful, the song of the an - gels" and "Sweet and joy - ful was the sound, the song of the an - gels". The piano accompaniment includes chords and moving lines in both hands, supporting the vocal melody.

30

all a - round; 'Peace on earth, Al - le - lu - ia!

all a - round; Al - le - lu - ia!

33

In ex - cel - sis glo - ri - a,¹ in ex - cel - sis, ex -

¹glory in the highest

36

f

- cel - sis glo - ri - a.' Make we mer - ry on this fest,

f

39

In quo Chris - tus na - tus est;² On this child I

²in which Christ is born

42

pray you call, who has come to save us all,

45

who has come, has come to save us all,

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48

save us all, save us

mf

mf

51

rit.

all, save us all.

mp

mp

rit.

2. Balulalow

James, John, and Robert Wedderburn, c.1567
adap. Bob Chilcott

With a free feel ♩ = c.54 **poco rit.**

SOPRANO
ALTO

TENOR
BASS

PIANO

With a free feel ♩ = c.54 **poco rit.**

p **mp**

a tempo

O my dear heart, _____ young Je - su

O my dear heart, young Je - su,

a tempo

p

7 sweet, _____ pre - pare thy cra - dle _____ in _____ my spreit;* _____ And I shall

Je - su sweet, pre - pare thy cra - dle _____ in my _____ spreit;* And I shall

10 *mp* rock _____ thee _____ in my _____ heart, _____ and ne - ver mair _____ from thee de -

rock thee, rock thee in my heart, and ne - ver mair from

mp

* spreit = spirit

poco rit.

- part, _____ and ne - ver mair_ from thee de - part.

a tempo*p*

13

thee de - part, ne - ver mair from_ thee de - part.

*p***poco rit.****a tempo***p*

16

*mp espress.**mf*19 **poco rit.****a tempo**S. & A. unis. *mp espress.*

But I shall praise_ thee_

T. & B. unis. *mp espress.*

But I shall praise_ thee ev - er -

poco rit.**a tempo***mp espress.*

22

mf S. A. The

ev - er - more, with song - ès sweet un - to thy glore.

mf T. B.

- more, with song - ès sweet un - to thy glore.

mf

25

f

knees of my heart shall I bow, and sing that richt* Ba -

f

f

* richt = right

poco rit.

a tempo

*mf**mp*

28

- lu - - la - low, Ba - lu - la - low,

poco rit.

a tempo

*mf**mp*

Ba - lu - - la - low, Ba -

31

Ba - lu - - la - low, Ba -

rit.

p

34

- lu - - la - low, Ba - lu - la - low,

p

rit.

p

37

Ba - lu la - low.

This musical score is for measures 34 through 37 of a piece. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. Measures 34 and 35 show the vocal line with lyrics '- lu - - la - low, Ba - lu - la - low,'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands. Measures 36 and 37 continue the vocal line with 'Ba - lu la - low.' and feature long, sustained notes in the piano accompaniment. The score includes dynamic markings like 'rit.' (ritardando) and '*p*' (piano), and a watermark 'For ABCD Conference 2026' is visible across the middle.

3. Ding-dong ding!

G. R. Woodward (1848–1934)

Jazz Waltz style ♩ = c.63

**SOPRANO
ALTO**

**TENOR
BASS**

PIANO

Jazz Waltz style ♩ = c.63

f

5

11

f

Ding - dong - ding!

f

15

Ding - a - dong - a - ding - ding - dong, ding - dong, - ding - dong, -

19

ding - a - dong - a - ding! Ding - dong - ding!

23

Ding - a - dong - a - ding - ding - dong, ding - dong, - ding - dong, -

27

ding - dong, ding - dong_ ding!

32

mf

Up, good Chris - ten folk, and

mf

36

lis - ten, how the mer - ry church bells ring;

41

And, from stee - ple, bid good peo - ple

45

f come a - dore the new - born King,

f

49

come a - dore, a - dore the new - born

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53

King!

57

Ding - dong_ ding! Ding - a - dong - a - ding - ding - dong,

61

ding - dong, ding - dong, ding - a - dong - a - ding!

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65

Ding - dong_ ding! Ding - a - dong - a - ding - ding - dong,

69

ding - dong,_ ding - dong,_ ding - dong,_ ding - dong_

73

ding!_

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77

mf Ding - dong,

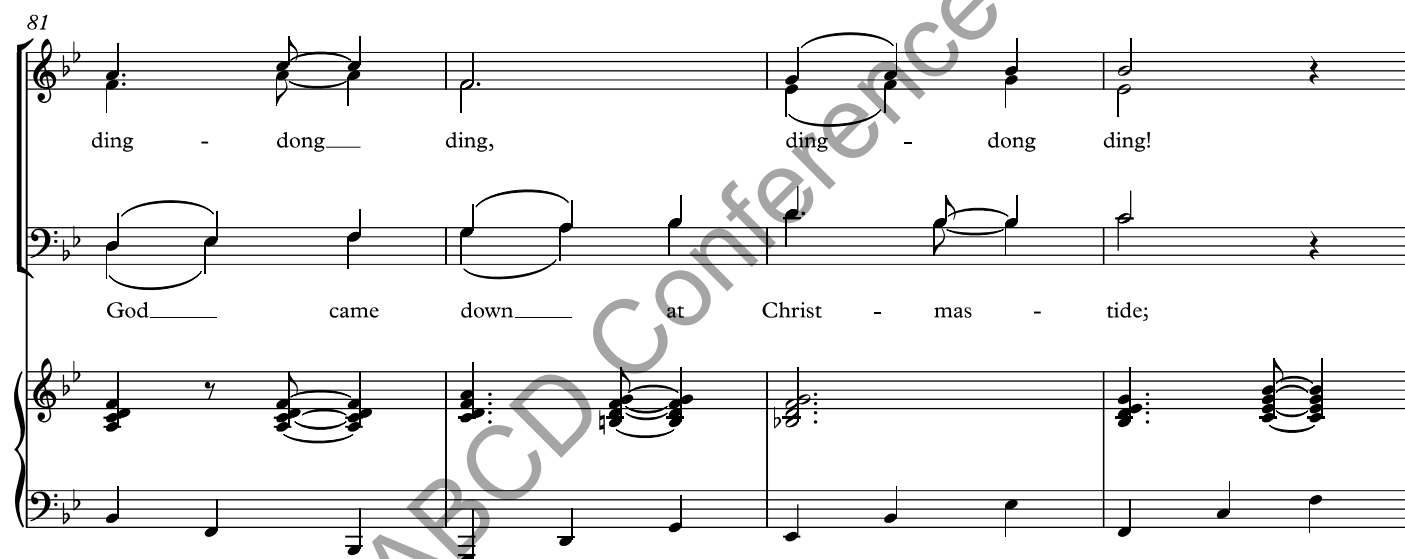
mf Tell the sto - ry how from glo - ry



81

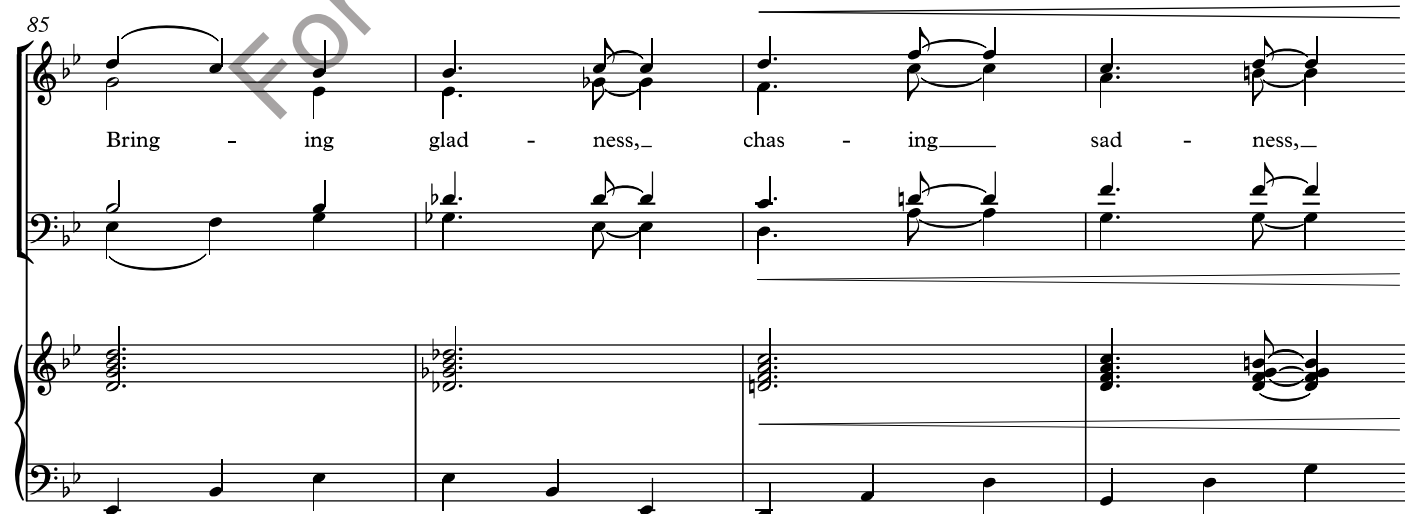
ding - dong ding, ding - dong ding!

God came down at Christ - mas - tide;



85

Bring - ing glad - ness, chas - ing sad - ness,



89 *f*

show'r - ing bless - ings___ far and___ wide,

f

93

show'r - ing bless - ings___ bless - ings far and___

97

wide.____

101 *mf*

Born of mo - - - ther,

mf

Born of mo - ther, - blest o'er o - ther, -

105

Ex Ma - ri - a Vir gi - ne,¹

109

In a sta - ble ('tis no fa - ble), -

In a sta - - - ble,

¹Of the Virgin Mary

113 *f*

Chris - tus na - tus — ho - di - e,²

117

Chris - tus na - tus, — na - tus ho - di - e. —

122

Ding - dong - ding!

²Christ is born today

127

Ding - a - dong - a - ding - ding - dong, ding - dong, ding - dong, —

131

ding - a - dong - a - ding! Ding - dong — ding! —

135

Ding - a - dong - a - ding - ding - dong, ding - dong, ding - dong, —

139

ding - dong, ding - dong ding, ding - dong

143

ding, ding - dong ding, ding - dong ding,

148

ding - dong ding!

ff

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