

(As Narrator speaks, two or more sheep are on one side of the platform, in “the fields” outside Bethlehem. They are looking upward in wonder at the sky.)

NARRATOR: As Jesus slept comfortably in the manger, tucked snugly in the soft, warm straw, a heavenly angel choir appeared in the countryside around Bethlehem, singing “Glory to God” and “Noel!” A bright light shone all around, as one of the angels announced the birth of God’s Son in a humble stable in Bethlehem. The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem to see God’s Son, Jesus.

WOOLIAN: (looking up, wonderingly) Pssst! Shiloh! Did you see those really, really bright creatures with wings up in the sky?

SHILOH: (sighing, with a know-it-all expression) Yes, Woolian. They were angels.

WOOLIAN: Well, that’s not something you see every night!

SHILOH: (sighing dramatically) No, Woolian, that was a once-in-a-lifetime – (pauses) of – the – UNIVERSE – (pauses) event.

WOOLIAN: Did you hear what they sang? First one Noel, and then another! What exactly does that mean – Noel?

SHILOH: Noel means “Christmas,” Woolian. The angels were singing of the birth of Christ, who is God’s Son. So this is Christ’s birthday – Christmas!

WOOLIAN: (excited) A brand new Baby – let’s go see! Let’s get the rest of the flock and go to Bethlehem! Let’s follow the shepherds, and – and SEE this thing which has come to pass!

SHILOH: (in amazement, stuttering) To BAAA-thlehem, Woolian? L-l-leave our field? Do you really think we’d be welcome?

WOOLIAN: Are you kidding? It’s a stable! We’re sheep! Of course we’ll be welcome, every LAST one of us!

SHILOH: But ... but ...

WOOLIAN: Shiloh, I’m going, if it’s the LAST thing I do, and I’m gonna need your help to find my way BAAA-ack!

(Sheep hurriedly make their way to the manger area.)

GLORIOUS NOEL MEDLEY

(Rise Up, Shepherd / The First Noel / Angels We Have Heard on High)
Choir and opt. Shiloh Solo

With excitement (♩ = ca. 116-122) (opt. Shiloh Solo) ***mf*** **5** **RISE UP, SHEPHERD**
Traditional spiritual;
words by Ruth Elaine Schram and Scott Schram

VOICES

There were an - gels— here with news to tell!

(opt. ALL VOICES)

Rise up, Shi - loh, and fol - low! Hear the ech - o— of their last No - el.

11 (opt. ALL VOICES) 13 (opt. Shiloh Solo)

Rise up, Shi-loh, and fol - low! We are on our way to Beth - le - hem!

15 (opt. ALL VOICES) (opt. Shiloh Solo)

Rise up, Shi-loh, and fol - low! Gon-na see that Child, gon-na wor - ship Him!

19 (opt. ALL VOICES) *rall.* *a tempo* 3 *mf* (ALL VOICES) (+opt. audience / congregation)

Rise up, Shi-loh, and fol - low! The

25 THE FIRST NOEL
Traditional English carol

first No - el the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor

30 33

shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay

35

keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that was so

40 41

deep. No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el,

45 49

born is the King of Is - ra - el! No - el, No - el,

50 *poco rall.*

el, No - el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el!