

Contents

1. Blessed be that maid Mary	5
2. Balulalow	13
3. Ding-dong ding!	19

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 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 _____

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It begins with a piano introduction in 4/4 time, marked 'Easy tempo' with a quarter note equal to approximately 90 beats per minute. The piano part features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, both marked 'mp'. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) are shown as empty staves in the first system. The second system shows the vocal parts with lyrics and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'Bless - ed be _____ that _____ maid _____ Ma - ry, the mo - ther of Je - sus, soon _____ to _____ be; As _____ fore - told, _____ her _____ child _____ was born _____'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same melody and bass line.

9

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

12

Christ - mas morn.

15

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;

This block contains the musical notation for measures 18 through 20. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a bass line, and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The piano part includes a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

21

mf born_ to_ die for_ you_ and me, - born_ to_ die for_

mf

mf

This block contains the musical notation for measures 21 through 23. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a bass line, and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The piano part includes a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The dynamic marking *mf* (mezzo-forte) is present.

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

p *mp*

a tempo

4

O my dear heart, _____ young Je - su

O my dear heart, young Je - su,

p *p*

a tempo

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

7

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

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

10 *mp*

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

mp

mp

* spreit = spirit

3. Ding-dong ding!

G. R. Woodward (1848–1934)

Jazz Waltz style $\text{♩} = c.63$

SOPRANO ALTO

TENOR BASS

PIANO

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

come a - dore the new - born King,

49

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