

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

for S. A. T. B. voices, a cappella,
with optional guitar or harp*

WILLIAM CHATTERTON DIX
(1837-1898)

Greensleeves; English, before 1600
Accompaniment by Joseph Karpienia
Edited by Lawrence Bennett

What Child Is This? is one of the best known and most loved Christmas carols. It combines the famous Renaissance melody of Greensleeves with a text by the Victorian hymn-writer William Chatterton Dix. We have employed a standard harmonization while adding an optional guitar or harp accompaniment that may be played either in the elaborate notated version by Joseph Karpienia or in the simple chords indicated above the vocal parts. Satisfactory results can also be achieved by performing the accompaniment on a keyboard instrument. If an accompaniment is used, *The Western Wind* suggests that a solo voice sing stanzas 1 and 2, with the full chorus joining in stanza 3 and for all refrains. Carefully observing the gentle, rocking rhythms of the compound meter, performers should establish a steady tempo that is not too slow.

Adoringly (♩ = ca. 52)

Musical score for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass voices, and optional guitar or harp accompaniment. The score is in G major and 6/8 time. The tempo is Adoringly (♩ = ca. 52). The vocal parts are marked with a piano (p) dynamic. The optional guitar or harp accompaniment is marked with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic.

SOPRANO
ALTO

TENOR
BASS

optional
GUITAR
or HARP

1. What
2. Why

p

mp

Musical score for the third stanza of "What Child Is This?". The score is in G major and 6/8 time. The tempo is Adoringly (♩ = ca. 52). The vocal parts are marked with a piano (p) dynamic. The optional guitar or harp accompaniment is marked with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic. The lyrics are: "child is this, who, laid to rest, On / lies he in such mean es - tate, Where". The chords are Em, G, and D.

3 Em G D

child is this, who, laid to rest, On
lies he in such mean es - tate, Where

p

mp

* The optional accompaniment is in standard guitar notation (an octave higher than it sounds).
If played by harp, it may be transposed down one octave.

5 Em Am B

Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing? Whom
 ox - and ass are feed - ing? Good

7 Em G D

an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, While
 Chris - tian fear: for sin - ners here The

9 Em B Em *poco rit.*

shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 si - lent Word is plead - ing?
poco rit.

Refrain

11 Bm G D *a tempo*

This, this is Christ the King, Whom

mp *a tempo*