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THE STAR IN THE EAST

Jesus was born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of Herod. After his birth astrologers from the east arrived in Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who is born to be king of the Jews? We observed the rising of his star, and we have come to pay him homage.' King Herod was greatly perturbed when he heard this; and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the chief priests and lawyers of the Jewish people, and put before them the question; 'Where is it that the Messiah is to be born?' 'At Bethlehem in Judaea', they replied.

Herod next called the astrologers to meet him in private, and ascertained from them when the star had appeared. He then sent them on to Bethlehem, and said, 'Go and make a careful inquiry for the child. When you have found him, report to me, so that I may go myself and pay him homage.'

They set out at the king's bidding; and the star which they had seen at its rising went ahead of them until it stopped above the place where the child lay. At the sight of the star they were overjoyed. Entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and bowed to the ground in homage to him; then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned home another way.

Matthew 2: 2-5; 7-8

BY THE WATERS OF THE JORDAN

Jesus arrived at the Jordan from Galilee, and came to John to be baptized by him, John tried to dissuade him. 'Do you come to me?' he said; 'I need rather to be baptized by you.' Jesus replied, 'Let it be so for the present; we do well to conform in this way with all that God requires.' John then allowed him to come. After baptism Jesus came up out of the water at once, and at that moment heaven opened; he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove to alight upon him; and a voice from heaven was heard saying, 'This is my Son, my Beloved, on whom my favor rests.'

Matthew 3: 13-17

YOU ARE PETER, THE ROCK

When he came to the territory of Caesareae Philippi, Jesus asked his disciples, 'Who do men say that the Son of Man is?' They answered, 'Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, others Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.' 'And you,' he asked, 'who do you say I am?' Simon Peter answered: 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' Then Jesus said: 'Simon son of Jonah, you are favored indeed! You did not learn that from mortal man; it was revealed to you by my heavenly Father. And I say this to you: You are Peter, the Rock; and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall never conquer it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of Heaven.'

Matthew 16: 13-19

THE VOICE FROM THE CLOUD

Jesus took Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain where they were alone; and in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as the light. And they saw Moses and Elijah appear, conversing with him. Then Peter spoke: 'Lord,' he said, 'how good it is that we are here! If you wish it, I will make three shelters here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, a bright cloud suddenly overshadowed them, and a voice called from the cloud; 'This is my Son, my Beloved, on whom my favor rests; listen to him.' At the sound of the voice the disciples fell on their faces in terror. Jesus then came up to them, touched them, and said, 'Stand up; do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one, but only Jesus.

Matthew 17: 1-8

ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS

'On one occasion I was travelling to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, extending my persecution of the followers of Jesus of Nazareth; and as I was on my way, Your Majesty, in the middle of the day I saw a light from the sky, more brilliant than the sun, shining all around me and my travelling companions. We all fell to the ground, and then I heard a voice saying to me in the Jewish language, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you, this kicking against the goad." I said, "Tell me, Lord, who you are"; and the Lord replied, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But now, rise to your feet and stand upright. I have appeared to you for a purpose: to appoint you my servant and witness, to testify to both what you have seen and what you shall yet see of me. I will rescue you from this people and from the Gentiles to whom I am sending you. I send you to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, from the dominion of Satan to God, so that, by trust in me, they may obtain forgiveness of sins, and a place with those whom God has made his own.'

Acts 26: 12-18

The Star in the East

Tranquillo $\text{♩} = 72$

I { *mf* *legato possibile*

The first system of musical notation consists of three staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat major) and a 3/4 time signature. It contains a melodic line with various ornaments and slurs. The middle staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (D major) and contains a harmonic accompaniment. The bottom staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F# major) and contains a bass line. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading 'Copyright is illegal' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

The second system of musical notation continues the piece with three staves, maintaining the same instrumental and key signatures as the first system. The melodic line in the top staff continues with similar ornamentation and phrasing.

The third system of musical notation concludes the piece with three staves. The melodic line in the top staff ends with a final cadence. The accompaniment in the middle and bottom staves provides a steady harmonic and rhythmic foundation.

By the waters of the Jordan

Sciolto ♩ = 160

The musical score is arranged in four systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system begins with a tempo marking of ♩ = 160 and includes a fingering instruction 'II' with a brace. The second system features a tempo change to ♩ = 80 and includes a fingering instruction 'I' with a brace. The third system returns to ♩ = 160 and includes a fingering instruction 'II' with a brace. The fourth system also features ♩ = 160 and includes a fingering instruction 'II' with a brace. The score contains various musical notations including notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

You are Peter, the Rock

Declamatorio ♩ = 69

Più animato ♩ = 96 *ritenuto*

Tempo I°

Vivo ♩ = 144 *rit.* *accelerando*

Allegro ♩ = 120

The musical score is divided into four systems. The first system, marked 'Declamatorio' (♩ = 69), features piano (I) and organ (III) parts. The piano part includes dynamics like *ff* and *legato*. The organ part includes *f legato*. The second system, marked 'Tempo I°', continues the piano and organ parts, with the organ part marked *accelerando*. The third system, marked 'Vivo' (♩ = 144), includes a vocal line with *rit.* and *accelerando* markings, and a piano part starting with *p.* and *cedendo*. The fourth system, marked 'Allegro' (♩ = 120), features a piano part with *ff* dynamics. A large watermark 'Copyrighted Material' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

The Voice from the Cloud

♩ = 60

The musical score is presented in three systems, each with three staves (treble, alto, and bass clefs). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system includes dynamic markings *ppp* (pianissimo) and *mf* (mezzo-forte), and the instruction *simile*. The second system continues the melodic and harmonic development. The third system concludes the piece with sustained chords in the upper staves and a final melodic phrase in the bass staff.

On the road to Damascus

Andante ♩ = 60

The first system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is in treble clef and contains a melodic line with a fermata over the first measure. The middle staff is in treble clef and contains a harmonic accompaniment. The bottom staff is in bass clef and contains a bass line. The tempo is marked *Andante* with a quarter note equal to 60 beats per minute. The dynamic marking is *pp* (pianissimo). A Roman numeral *II* with a bracket and *mf* (mezzo-forte) is placed above the first measure of the middle staff.

The second system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is in treble clef and contains a melodic line with a fermata over the first measure. The middle staff is in treble clef and contains a harmonic accompaniment. The bottom staff is in bass clef and contains a bass line. The tempo is *Andante* with a quarter note equal to 60 beats per minute. The dynamic marking is *pp* (pianissimo).

Più mosso ♩ = 132

The third system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is in treble clef and contains a melodic line with a fermata over the first measure. The middle staff is in treble clef and contains a harmonic accompaniment. The bottom staff is in bass clef and contains a bass line. The tempo is marked *Più mosso* with a quarter note equal to 132 beats per minute. The dynamic marking is *mf* (mezzo-forte). Roman numerals *III*, *I*, and *I* with brackets and *f* (forte) are placed above the first, second, and third measures of the middle staff, respectively.