

PROGRAM NOTES

And It Came to Pass is a canticle (a musical setting of a Biblical text, in this case from the Gospel of Luke) designed like a triptych painting, but in music, in which the “left panel” or Prologue of the piece proclaims the promise of a Savior who will bring peace; the “center panel”—the body of the work—shares the story of the birth of this Savior, Jesus; and the “right panel” or Epilogue of the piece confirms that the speaker has now seen that salvation, that with the holy birth the promise has been fulfilled. This piece was first performed as part of a Christmas season “Ceremony of Carols” celebration service and, as such, was initially conceived for use in a religious service; it could also, however, be successfully performed within a concert setting, as it is a work of musical storytelling.

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AND IT CAME TO PASS

Prologue

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,
And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;
To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Canticle

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Epilogue

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

for Charles Humphries, with thanks for a beautiful premiere performance

And It Came to Pass

Canticle for Countertenor and Piano

Gospel of Luke
King James Bible

Juliana Hall
(ASCAP)

Prologue

With majesty and mystery ♩ = 60

The musical score is presented in three systems, each with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The first system begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic marking. The music is in 3/4 time and features a mix of chords and moving lines. A large, diagonal watermark reading "Copying is illegal" and "Review only" is overlaid across the entire page.

The Gospel of Luke from the King James Bible is in the public domain.

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17 *mp*

Bless - ed be the Lord God of Is - ra - el;

This system contains measures 17 through 20. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staves. The piano part includes a right-hand treble staff and a left-hand bass staff. The music is in a key with one flat and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "Bless - ed be the Lord God of Is - ra - el;".

21

for he hath vis - it - ed and re -

This system contains measures 21 through 24. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staves. The piano part includes a right-hand treble staff and a left-hand bass staff. The lyrics are: "for he hath vis - it - ed and re -".

25

deemed his peo - ple, And hath

This system contains measures 25 through 28. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staves. The piano part includes a right-hand treble staff and a left-hand bass staff. The lyrics are: "deemed his peo - ple, And hath".

29

raised up an horn of sal - va - tion for us

33

in the house of his ser - vant Da - vid;

poco rit.

mf *f*

poco rit.

8^{vb} Ped.

37

To give light to them that sit in dark - ness and in the

♩ = 52

p

61 *mf* *f*

(be-cause he was of the house and lin - e - age of Da - vid:)

mp *mf*

64 *mp*

To be taxed with Mar - y his es-poused wife,

p

Ped.

66

be - ing great with child.

p

$\text{♩} = 96$

Ped.

68 *mp*

And so it was, that, — while they were there, the

71

days were ac-com-plished that she should be de - liv - ered. And

74

she brought forth — her first - born son, —

100 *mf*

on them, and the

mp

Ped. Ped.

103 *f*

glo - ry of the Lord shone

mf *f*

Ped. Ped. Ped.

106 *mp*

round a - bout them: and

p

Ped. Ped.

109

they were sore a - fraid.

p *mp* *mf*

112

And the an - gel said un - to them,

mp *p*

115

Fear not: for, be - hold, I

mp *mf* *poco rit.* *mp*

p *mf*

139

sud-den - ly there was with the an - gel a mul-ti-tude of the heav-en - ly host

Ped.

141

ff prais - ing God, *f* and say - ing,

ff *f*

Ped. Ped.

143

ff Glo - ry to God in the high - est,

ff

Ped. Ped.

145 *mf*

and on earth peace,

mf

147 *mp*

good will toward men.

mp

Ped. Ped.

149 *poco rit.* $\text{♩} = 56$ *mp* *poco rit.*

And it came to pass,

poco rit. $\text{♩} = 56$ *p* *poco rit.*

177 *mf* *p* $\text{♩} = 60$

child. And all they that heard it

mf *pp*

$\text{♩} = 60$

180 *poco rit.*

won - dered at those things which were told them by the shep - herds.

poco rit.

182 $\text{♩} = 96$ *mp*

But Mar - y kept all these things, and

p

$\text{♩} = 96$

185 $\text{♩} = 96$ *mf*

pon - dered them in her heart. And the

mp

188 *mf*

shep - herds re - turned, glo - ri - fy - ing and

mf

191 *f* *mp*

prais - ing God for all the things that they had

f *mp*

237

Is - ra - el. _____

mf

Ped. Ped.

This system contains measures 237 through 242. It features a vocal line with the lyrics "Is - ra - el." and a piano accompaniment. The piano part includes a dynamic marking of *mf* and two pedal markings labeled "Ped.".

239

poco rit. *a tempo*

mp *p*

Ped.

This system contains measures 239 through 242. It features a piano accompaniment with a dynamic marking of *mp* in measure 239 and *p* in measure 240. The tempo changes from *poco rit.* to *a tempo* between measures 240 and 241. A pedal marking "Ped." is present at the beginning of measure 239.

243

This system contains measures 243 through 246. It features a piano accompaniment with a dynamic marking of *p* in measure 243. A large slur covers the entire system, indicating a long phrase or a specific performance instruction.

248

mp

This system contains measures 248 to 251. The right hand features a melodic line with a slur over the first four measures, starting on a half note G4 and moving through A4, B4, and C5. The left hand provides a steady accompaniment of quarter notes: G2, B1, D2, and E2. A piano dynamic marking 'mp' is present in the first measure.

252

mf

Ped.

This system contains measures 252 to 255. The right hand continues the melodic line with a slur, moving from D5 to E5, F5, and G5. The left hand accompaniment remains the same. A mezzo-forte dynamic marking 'mf' is in the third measure, and a 'Ped.' (pedal) marking is at the end of the system.

256

mp

p

Ped.

This system contains measures 256 to 259. The right hand has a slur over measures 256-258, ending on a half note G5. The left hand accompaniment continues. A mezzo-piano dynamic marking 'mp' is in the first measure, and a piano dynamic marking 'p' is in the fourth measure. A 'Ped.' marking is at the end of the system.