

# WHAT SWEETER MUSIC

# 68a

Commissioned by The Law Society Choir  
Northern Ireland, PRO BONO PUBLICO

Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

For SATB and Organ  
Duration: ca. 4:15

Philip WJ Stopford

Sweetly ♩ = 72

*mp*

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Organ

*trvp*

What sweet-er mu-sic can we bring -

What weat-er mu-sic can we bring

5

Than a car - ol for to sing The birth of this our heav'n - ly King?

Than a car - ol for to sing The birth of this our heav'n - ly King?

9

A - wake the voice! a - wake the string!

A - wake the voice! a - wake the string!

*mf*  
Dark and dull night fly

*mf*  
Dark and dull night fly

12

hence a - way! And give the hon - our to this day\_\_\_ That sees De -

hence a - way! And give the hon - our to this day\_\_\_ That sees De -

cem - ber turn'd to May, That sees De-cem - ber turn'd to May.

cem - ber turn'd to May, That sees De-cem - ber turn'd to May.

19 *mf*

Why does the chill - ing win - ter's morn Smile like a field be -

Why does the chill - ing win - ter's morn Smile like a field be -

22

set with corn? Or smell like a meadow newly shorn Thus on the

set with corn? Or smell like a meadow newly shorn Thus on the

Thus on the

Thus on the

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

25

sud - den? \_\_\_ Come and see The cause why things thus fra - grant be:

sud - den? \_\_\_ Come and see The cause why things thus fra - grant be: \_\_\_

sud - den? \_\_\_ Come and see The cause why things thus fra - grant be:

sud - den? \_\_\_ Come and see The cause why things thus fra - grant be: \_\_\_

sud - den? \_\_\_ Come and see The cause why things thus fra - grant be: \_\_\_



*mp*

Musical staff for Soprano voice, measures 29-31. The staff is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. It begins with a whole rest in measure 29. In measure 30, it starts with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G#4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. In measure 31, it continues with a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note F#5, and a quarter note G5.

'Tis He is born, whose quick-'ning birth Gives life and

*mp*

Musical staff for Alto voice, measures 29-31. The staff is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. It begins with a whole rest in measure 29. In measure 30, it starts with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G#4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. In measure 31, it continues with a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note F#5, and a quarter note G5.

'Tis He is born, whose quick-'ning birth Gives life and

*mp*

Musical staff for Tenor voice, measures 29-31. The staff is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. It begins with a whole rest in measure 29. In measure 30, it starts with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G#4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. In measure 31, it continues with a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note F#5, and a quarter note G5.

'Tis He is born, whose quick-'ning birth Gives life and

*mp*

Musical staff for Bass voice, measures 29-31. The staff is in bass clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. It begins with a whole rest in measure 29. In measure 30, it starts with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G#3, a quarter note A3, a quarter note B3, and a quarter note C4. In measure 31, it continues with a quarter note D4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note G4.

'Tis He is born, whose quick-'ning birth Gives life and

Piano accompaniment, measures 29-31. The piano part is in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. In measure 29, there is a whole rest. In measure 30, the right hand plays a half note chord of G#4 and A4, and the left hand plays a half note G#3. In measure 31, the right hand plays a half note chord of B4 and C5, and the left hand plays a half note A3.

32 *mf*

lus - tre, pub - lic mirth, To heav - en and the un - der - earth.

*mf*

lus - tre, pub - lic mirth, To heav - en and the un - der - earth.

*mf*

lus - tre, pub - lic mirth, To heav - en and the un - der - earth.

*mf*

lus - tre, pub - lic mirth, To heav - en and the un - der - earth.

*mf*

36 *mp*

We see Him come and know Him ours, \_\_\_

We see Him come and know Him ours, \_\_\_

We see Him come and know Him ours, \_\_\_

We see Him come and know Him ours, \_\_\_

We see Him come and know Him ours, \_\_\_

39

*mf*

Who with his sun - shine and his show'rs Turns all the pa - tient

*mf*

Who with his sun - shine and his show'rs Turns all the pa - tient

*mf*

Who with his sun - shine and his show'rs Turns all the pa - tient -

*mf*

Who with his sun - shine and his show'rs Turns all the pa - tient



46

world is come, — And fit it is — we find a room To

world is come, — And fit it is we find a room, find a room — To

world is come, — And fit it is we find a room, find a room — To

world is come, And fit it is we find a room To

wel-come Him, to wel - come Him, to wel - come Him  
 wel-come Him, to wel-come Him, to wel - come Him  
 wel-come Him, to wel - come Him. The  
 wel-come Him, to wel-come Him. The

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

53

no - bler part Of all the house here is the heart, will

Which we will

no - bler part Of all the house ere is the heart, will

Which we will



give Him; and be - queath This hol - ly and this i - vy

give Him; and be - queath This hol - ly and this i - vy

give Him; and be - queath This hol - ly and this i - vy

give Him; and be - queath This hol - ly and this i - vy

60

wreath To do Him hon - our, To do Him hon - our, To do Him

wreath To do Him hon - our, To do Him hon - our, To do Him

wreath To do Him hon - our, To do Him hon - our, To do Him

wreath To do Him hon - our, To do Him hon - our, To do Him

wreath To do Him hon - our, To do Him hon - our, To do Him

wreath To do Him hon - our, To do Him hon - our, To do Him

*mp* *cresc.*

*mp* *cresc.*

*mp* *cresc.*

*mp* *cresc.*

*mp* *cresc.*

*mp* *cresc.*

63

King — And Lord of all this rev-el-ling.

hon-our, who's our King — And Lord of all this rev-el-ling.

hon-our, who's our King — And Lord of all this rev-el-ling.

hon-our, who's our King — And Lord of all this rev-el-ling.

rit.

rit.

rit.

rit.

rit.

More relaxed

68

*TVp*

What weat-er mu - sic can we bring \_\_\_\_\_ Than a car - ol for to sing The

*TVp*

What sweet-er mu - sic can we bring \_\_\_\_\_ Than a car - ol for to sing The

*TVp*

What weat-er mu - sic can we bring \_\_\_\_\_ Than a car - ol for to sing The

*mp*

What sweet-er mu - sic can we bring \_\_\_\_\_ Than a car - ol for to sing The

More relaxed

7W/7



72 *rit. p*

birth of this our heav'n-ly King, \_\_\_\_\_ Of this our heav'n - ly King?

*rit. p*

birth of this our heav'n-ly King, \_\_\_\_\_ of this our heav'n - ly King?

*rit. p*

birth of this our heav'n-ly King, \_\_\_\_\_ of this our heav'n - ly King? 1

*Tit. p*

birth of this our heav'n-ly King, \_\_\_\_\_ of this our heav'n - ly King?

*rit. p*

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