Bethlehem Down

Poem by
BRUCE BLUNT (1899–1957)

Music by
PETER WARLOCK (1894–1930)

Very slow and quiet

SOPRANO

1. "When He is King we will give Him the King's gifts,
2. Beth - le - hem Down is___ full of the star - light

ALTO

1. "When He is King we will give Him the King's gifts,___
2. Beth - le - hem Down is___ full of the star - light___

TENOR

1. "When He is King we will give Him the King's gifts,
2. Beth le - hem Down is___ full of the star - light

BASS

1. "When He is King we will give Him the King's gifts,
2. Beth - le - hem Down is___ full of the star - light

(for rehearsal only)

S

Myrrh for its sweet - ness, and gold for a crown,
Winds for the spi - ces, and stars for the gold,

A

Myrrh for its___ sweet - ness, and gold for___ a crown,___
Winds for the___ spi - ces, and stars for___ the gold,___

T

Myrrh for its sweet - ness, and gold for a___ crown,___
Winds for the spi - ces, and stars for the___ gold,___

B

Myrrh for its sweet - ness, and gold for___ a crown,
Winds for the spi - ces, and stars for___ the gold,

2

Beau - ti - ful robes," said the young girl to Jos - eph
Ma - ry for sleep, and for lul - la - by mu - sic,

Beau - ti - ful robes," said the young girl to Jo - seph
Ma - ry for sleep, and for lul - la - by mu - sic,

Beau - ti - ful robes," said the young girl to Jos - eph
Ma - ry for sleep, and for lul - la - by mus - sic,

Beau - ti - ful robes," said the young girl to Jo - seph
Ma - ry for sleep, and for lul - la - by mu - sic,

Fair with her first - born on Beth - le - hem Down.
Songs of a shep - herd by Beth - le - hem fold.

Fair with her first - born on Beth - le - hem Down.
Songs of a shep - herd by Beth - le - hem fold.

Fair with her first - born on Beth - le - hem Down.
Songs of a shep - herd by Beth - le - hem fold.

Fair with her first - born on Beth - le - hem Down.
Songs of a shep - herd by Beth - le - hem fold.

9

S

3. When He is King they will clothe Him in grave - sheets
4. Here He has peace and a short while for dream - ing,

A

3. When He is King they will clothe Him in grave - sheets
4. Here He has peace and a short while for dream - ing,__

T

3. When He is King they will clothe Him in grave - sheets
4. Here He has peace and a short while for dream - ing,__

B

3. When He is King they will clothe Him in grave - sheets
4. Here He has peace and a short while for dream - ing,

11

S

Myrrh for em - balm - ing, and wood for a crown,
Close - hud - dled ox - en to keep Him from cold,

A

Myrrh for em - balm - ing, and wood for__ a crown,__
Close - hud - dled__ ox - en to keep Him__ from cold,__

T

Myrrh for em - balm - ing, and wood for a__ crown,__
Close - hud - dled ox - en to keep Him from__ cold,__

B

Myrrh for em - balm - ing, and wood for__ a crown,
Close - hud - dled ox - en to keep Him__ from cold,

4

1. "When He is King we will give Him the King's gifts,
Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,
Beautiful robes," said the young girl to Joseph,
Fair with her first-born on Bethlehem Down.

2. Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music,
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

3. When He is King they will clothe Him in grave-sheets
Myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown,
He that lies now in the white arms of Mary
Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.

4. Here He has peace and a short while for dreaming,
Close-huddled oxen to keep him from cold,
Mary for love, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

† Warlock's hand-written manuscript, published in The Daily Telegraph on December 24, 1927, gives a B-flat in the bass part at bars 6 & 14. The engraved 1928 Winthrop Rogers edition has a B-natural as is used here.