

Little Lamb, Who Made Thee?

William Blake 1789

Larry Nickel

Andante ♩ = 86

p

Choir

Oo...

p

Oo...

6 **A** *mp*

S. Lit - tle Lamb, who made thee? you know who made thee?

sostenuto - stagger breathing

A. *p* Oo...

T. *p* Oo...

B. *p* Oo...

Pno.

Copyright © CYPRESS CHORAL MUSIC 2015

Copying or reproducing this publication in any form is illegal

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY - PLEASE DO NOT COPY

10

S. Gave thee life and bade thee feed, by the stream and o'er the mead*;

A. Oo...

T. Oo...

B. Oo...

Pno.

*mead - (meadow)



B

14

S. *mp* Gave thee cloth - ing soft - est cloth - ing, wool - y, bright;

A. *mp* Gave thee cloth - de - light, soft - est cloth - ing, wool - y, bright;

T. Oo...

B.

Pno.

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY - PLEASE DO NOT COPY

18

S. *mf*
Gave thee such a ten-der voice, mak-ing all the vales re- joice?

A. *mf*
Gave thee such a ten-der voice, mak-ing all the vales re- joice

T. Oo...

B. Oo...

Pno.

23

S. *mf* *p*
Lit-tle lamb, who made thee? Do you know who made thee?

A. *p*
Lit-tle lamb, who made thee? Do you know who made thee?

T. *mf* *pp*
Lit-tle lamb, who made thee? Do you know?

B. *mf* *pp*
Lit-tle lamb, who made thee? Do you know?

Pno.

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY - PLEASE DO NOT COPY

29 *rit.*

Choir

Oo...

Oo...

C *hymn style - dolce*
a tempo

33 *mf* *mp*

Choir

Lit - tle lamb, I'll tell thee; lit - tle lamb I'll tell thee:

Lit - tle lamb, I'll tell thee; lit - tle lamb I'll tell thee:

37 *mf*

Choir

He is call - ed _____ ame, for He calls Him - self a lamb. _____

He is call by thy name, for He calls _____ Him - self a lamb. _____

D

41

Choir

is meek and He is mild, He be - came a lit - tle child;

He is meek and He is mild, He be - came a lit - tle child;

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY - PLEASE DO NOT COPY

45

S. *f*
I a child and thou a Lamb, we are call - ed by his name_____

A. *f*
I a child and thou a Lamb, we are call - ed by his name_____ name.)_

T. *f*
I a child and thou a Lamb, we are call - ed by his _____

B. *f*
I a child and thou a Lamb, we are call - ed b _____ ame.

Pno.

50

S. *mf*
Lit - tle lamb, God bless _____ Lit - tle lamb__ (lit - tle lamb) God

A. *mf*
Lit - tle lamb, God thee. _____ Lit - tle lamb__ (lit - tle lamb) God

T. *mf*
Lit - tle lamb, God bless thee. _____ Lit - tle lamb__ (lit - tle lamb) God

B. *mf*
amb, God bless thee. _____ Lit - tle lamb__ (lit - tle lamb) God

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY - PLEASE DO NOT COPY

54 *rit.* *p* *mp*

S. bless thee. Lit-tle lamb, lit - tle lamb, who made thee?

A. bless thee. Lit-tle lamb, lit - tle lamb, who made thee?

T. bless thee. Lit-tle lamb, lit - tle lamb, made thee?

B. bless thee. Lit-tle lamb, lit .b, who made thee?

Pno. *rit.*

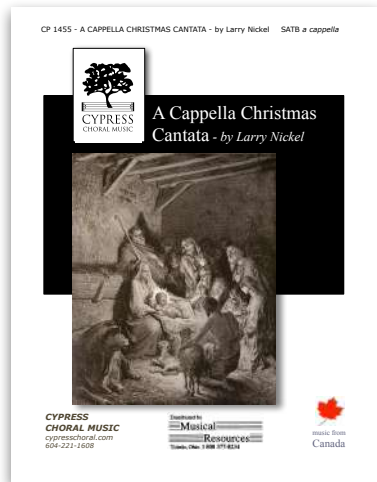
Commentary:

This poem is a child's song, in a question and answer. The first stanza is rural and descriptive, while the second focuses on abstract spiritual, contains explanation and analogy.

The child's question is both simple and profound. The question ("who made thee?") is a simple one, and yet the child is also aware of the deep and timeless questions that all human beings have, about their own origins and the nature of creation. Blake's apostrophic form contributes to the effect of naiveté, since the situation of a child talking to an animal is a simple one, and not simply a literary contrivance. Yet by answering his own question, the child converts it into a riddle, thus counteracting the initial spontaneous sense of the poem. The answer is presented as a puzzle or riddle, though it is an easy one—child's play—this also contributes to an underlying sense of ironic knowingness throughout the poem. The child's answer, however, reveals his confidence in his simple Christian faith and his inner acceptance of its teachings.

The lamb symbolizes Jesus – the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. (John 1:29) The true image of Jesus as a lamb underscores the Christian values of gentleness, meekness, and peace. The child is also associated with Jesus: in the Gospel, Jesus displays a special solicitude for children, and the depiction of Jesus in his childhood shows him as guileless and vulnerable.

Blake also the characteristics from which the child-speaker approaches the ideas of nature and of God. Like many of the "Songs of Innocence", accepts what Blake saw as the more positive aspects of traditional Christian belief.



A Cappella Christmas Cantata was commissioned and premiered in 2015. (Guy Mills, Pennsylvania - directed by Brandon Mullet)

- **15 movements** give a unique and compelling of the Christmas story, from ancient prophecy to .aculate conception and until the Holy Child was two yr
- **Texts** include scripture and poetry by Herbert and William Blake.
- **written for** accomplished choirs and approachable - with intuitive voice leading and sweet registers.
- one can order the **complete book** **individual movements**
- total duration** - 35 minutes

- 1) **First Fruits**
- 2) **Behold, A Great Light**
- 3) **Break Forth, O Beautiful**
- 4) **Mary Treasured All Things**
- 5) **Joseph's Dream**
- 6) **Caesar Augustus**
- 7) **No Room**
- 8) **The Gifts**
- 9) **Tir Great Joy**
- 10) **the Ruler**
- 11) **Joseph's Dream - part two**
- 12) **There's a Cry Over Bethlehem**
- 13) **Joseph Made a Treasure Box**
- 14) **Little Lamb, Who Made Thee?**
- 15) **Behold, a Great Light - reprise**



Dr. Larry Nickel

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY - PLEASE DO NOT COPY