

When the Carols Began

Robbie Smith and Rosemary Wall

Robbie Smith and Mike Appelboom
arr. Tom Leighton

With a gentle lilt ♩ = 112-120*

Dm C Dm C B♭ C C(sus4) C

Piano *mf*

pedal freely

**any tempo from 100-136 is possible. Choose the best tempo for your choir*

A *tutti* *mf*

6

T1
T2

Take the words, — make the words, — fill the ' men Though

B1
B2

Take the words, — make the words, — ts of men Though

B♭maj7 Am7 Am7 Dm7 Am7 F

11

T1
T2

wor' sha - dows of what hap - pened then When_ *mf*

B1
B2

re mere sha - dows of what hap - pened then When_ *mf*

b. aj7 Am7 Dm7 F/A C(add2) F

16

T1
T2

Heav - en's great Trea - sure des - cen - ded to man That

B1
B2

Hea - ven's great Trea - sure des - cen - ded to man That

Gm F C/E Dm Am/C Bb



21

T1
T2

time hon - oured the car - ols be - gan.

B1
B2

time last night when the car - ols be - gan.

Bb F C F(add2) F

B

26 *mf*

T1 T2

Seek the words, speak the words, time has been long

B1 B2

mp

Time has

B

B♭maj7 Am7 Dm7 Am7 B♭ F



31 *mp*

T1 T2

Since the world the An - gels glad song. but

B1 B2

mf

to the An - gels glad song. but

mf

Dm7 F/A C(add2) F

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36

T1
T2

each year brings clo - ser that_ first year a new, The_____

B1
B2

each year brings clo - ser that_ first year a (a) new,_____ The____ (the)

Gm F C/E Dm Am/C B \flat



41

T1
T2

old - er the_ the more it rings true._____

B1
B2

old - mem-ory the more it rings true._____ He in -

B \flat F C F(sus4) F

mf

6

46 C

B1
B2

spir - ed the car - ols that we hum - ble mor - tals could sing in choirs_

Dm Am/C Bb C A A/C#



T1
T2

B1
B2

sound - ing like an - gels, Ah al - most like an - gels.

mp f p

Dm G/D Bb C C(sus4) C



T1
T2

B1
B2

58 rit. D A tempo

Hm

rit. D A tempo

Bbmaj7 Am7 Dm7 Am7 Bb F

64 B♭maj7 Am⁷ Dm⁷ F/A C(add2) F

69 *mf* E

T1 T2

How in Love's bright mus - ic we hon - our H'

B1 B2

How in Love's bright mus - ic we as birth,

E Gm F C/E Am/C B♭

75 *mp* p

T1 T2

Scarce-l' ev - ing He once graced this Earth.

B1 B2

be - liev - ing He once graced this Earth.

mp p

C B♭ F C F F

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rit.

80 Gm Dm Am Bb C F/D C/E

F A tempo

85 T1 T2 B1 B2

Lend the words, blend the words, turn them in - to song Then set them to

Lend the words, blend the words, turn them in - Then set them to

A tempo

Bbmaj7 Am7 Dm7 Am7 Bb F Bbmaj7 Am7

91 T1 T2 B1 B2

mu - sic they best be - long Ex - hault - ing in

where they best be - long Ex - hault - ing in

Dm7 F/A C(add2) F Gm F/A

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96

T1
T2

won - der that first glimpse of Him From man - ger a

B1
B2

won - der that first glimpse of Him

C/B \flat Am/C Dm C B \flat (add2) B \flat

mp

101

T1
T2

ra-dience the world could not dim.

B1
B2

the world could not

F C(add2) F Dm Am/C

p

unison

Hm Hm Hm

107

T1
T2

Hm Hm

B1
B2

Hm Hm Hm Hm

B \flat A Dm G C C(sus4)/D C/E

unison

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113 **H** *mp*

T1
T2
B1
B2

Take the words, make the words, fill the hearts of men _____ Though

Take the words, make the words, fill the hearts of men _____ Though

H
B♭maj7 Am7 Dm7 Am7 B♭ C F C F

p



118 *f*

T1
T2
B1
B2

words are mere shr of what hap - pened then, When__

word a-dows of what hap - pened then, When__

Dm F/A C(add2) F *f*

123

T1
T2

Heav - en's great Treas - ure de - scend - ed to man That

B1
B2

Heav - en's great Treas - ure de - scend - ed to man That

Gm F C/E Dm Am/C

mp



128

T1
T2

time hon - oured the car - ols be - gan.

B1
B2

time night when the car - ols be - gan.

Bb F C Bb F C

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133

T1 T2

B1 B2

p **I**

That time hon - oured night when the

p

That time b⁴ night when the

C/B \flat F/A Dm C B \flat F

139

T1 T2

B1 B2

rit.

car - ols be -

alto rit.

car - ols gan.

rit. C

F(sus4)

molto rit. F



Multi instrumentalist, and indefatigable, **Tom Leighton** brings sophisticated colours and novel arrangements to his music that few musicians can match. He plays piano, accordion, accordion bass, bouzouki, bodhran, whistles, jaw harps, mandolin and trombone— sometimes three of them at the same time! As a solo recording artist, Tom’s “Leighton Tendencies”, and “Leighton Life”, are projects starring his own compositions and arrangements and “... feature the writing skills and musical dexterity of this wonderful musician.” Whole Note Magazine. His instrumental recording - “Better Leighton Than Never” was released in May 2021.

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