



part of the Robbie Songs Project

When the Carols Began

*by Robbie Smith and Mike Appelboom
arranged by Tom Leighton*



Robbie Smith with Kathleen Glauser

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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 Bb C C(sus4) C

Piano *mf*

pedal freely

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

6 **A**

mf

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

Bbmaj7 Am7 Am7 Dm7 Am7 Am7 Bb F

11

mf

Ah _ _ _ _ _ When _

words are mere shad- ows of what hap - pened then When _

Bbmaj7 Am7 Dm7 F/A C(add2) F

16

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

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

Gm F C/E Dm Am/C Bb



21

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

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

C Bb F C F(add2) F

B

26 *mf*

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

mp

Time has been long

B

Bbmaj7 *Am7* *Dm7* *Am7* *Bb* *F*



31

mf

Since the world danced to the an - gels' glad song. But

mf

to the an - gels' glad song. But

Bbmaj7 *Am7* *Dm7* *F/A* *C(add2)* *F*

mf

36

each year brings clos - er that_ first year a - new The_____

each year brings clos - er that_ first year a (a) - new_____ The_____ (the)

Gm F C/E Dm Am/C Bb



41

old - er the mem-'ry the more it rings true._____

old - er the mem-'ry the more it rings true._____ He in -

C Bb F C F(sus4) F

46 C

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

Dm Am/C Bb C A A/C#

52

Ah al-most like an - gels.

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

Dm G/D Bb C C(sus4) C

58 D A tempo

rit.

Hm

Hm

rit. A tempo

Bbmaj7 Am7 Dm7 Am7 Bb F

64 *Bbmaj7 Am7 Dm7 F/A C(add2) F*



69 *mf* **E**

Now in love's bright mu - sic we hon - our His birth,

mf

Now in love's bright mu - sic we hon - our His birth,

E

Gm F C/E Dm Am/C Bb



75 *mp* *p*

Scarce-ly be - liev - ing He once graced this Earth.

mp *p*

Scarce-ly be - liev - ing He once graced this Earth.

C Bb F C F F

rit.

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

F A tempo

85 *mf*

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

mf

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

A tempo

Bbmaj7 Am7 Dm7 Am7 Bb F Bbmaj7 Am7

91 *f*

mu - sic where they best be - long. Ex - ult - ing in__

f

mu - sic where they best be - long. Ex - ult - ing in__

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

96

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

won - der that first glimpse of Him.

C/Bb Am/C Dm C Bb(add2) C Bb

101

ra-diance the world could not dim. Hm Hm Hm

the world could not dim.

F C(add2) F F Dm Am/C

G *p unison*

107

Hm Hm Hm Hm

unison mp

Bb A Dm G C C(sus4)/D C/E

113 **H**

S. *p*
Take the words, — make the words, — fill the hearts — of men —

A. *p melody*
Take the words, — make the words, — fill the hearts of men — Though

p
Take the words, — make the words, — fill the hearts of men — Though

H
B♭maj7 Am7 Dm7 Am7 B♭ F C F C F



118

S. *mp* — *f*
Though words shad - ow — what hap - pened — then, Ah — When —

A. *mp* — *f*
words are mere shad - ows of what hap - pened then, Ah — When —

f
words are mere shad - ows of what hap - pened then, *mf* Ah (When) —

B♭maj7 Am7 Dm F/A C(add2) F

123

S. *mp*
 Heav - en's great treas - ure de - scend - ed, de - scend - ed to man, That

A. *mp*
 Heav - en's great treas - ure de - scend - ed, de - scend - ed to man, That

mp
 Heav - en's great treas - ure de - scend - ed to man, to man, That
 man to man,

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

mp



128

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

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

C B \flat F C F C

133

p **I**

That time hon-oured night when the

p

That time hon-oured night when the

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

139 *rit.* *molto rit.*

car - ols _____ be - gan. _____

car - ols _____ be - gan. _____

rit. *molto rit.*

C F(sus4) F

The musical score consists of three systems. The first system (measures 133-138) features vocal lines in treble and bass clefs with lyrics 'That time hon-oured night when the'. The piano accompaniment is in the grand staff with chords C/B \flat , F/A, Dm, C, B \flat , C, B \flat , and F. The second system (measures 139-144) is marked 'rit.' and 'molto rit.' and contains the lyrics 'car - ols _____ be - gan. _____'. The piano accompaniment includes chords C, F(sus4), and F. The third system (measures 145-150) continues the piano accompaniment with the same chords.



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.