

Program Note:

People of all nations have adapted Christian traditions to their own cultural contexts; and there is a stirring beauty as the story of Christ's birth is understood by cultures of widely varying times and places. The Huron Carol is a beautiful re-telling of the Christmas story by Jean de Brébeuf, one of the earliest French missionaries in Canada. Brébeuf's carol was written for the Huron Native Americans that he lived among, and therefore uses natural and cultural ideas that would have resonated with them. Originally written in the Wendat (Huron) language around 1643, and set to a French Canadian melody, this version was translated into English by Jesse Edgar Middleton, a 20th century Canadian news reporter who researched Brébeuf's story.

This arrangement paints the soundscape into which this carol was born, through both music and a bit of the original language. The recurring phrase "Jesous ahathonhia," from Brébeuf's original version, is Wendat/Huron for "Jesus is born." The term "Gitchi Manitou" is the Algonquin translation for "God" throughout the Cree New Testament, and is therefore an appropriate reference to God the Father. (The phrase may be replaced with "God the great Creator" if clarity in the vernacular is desired.)

The Huron Carol

For SATB Choir and Piano, with optional String Quartet and Percussion* or Full Orchestra**

Jean de Brébeuf, c. 1643

trans. Jessie Edgar Middleton, 1926

JESOUS AHATONHIA

French Canadian melody

Arranged by DAN FORREST
(ASCAP)

Misterioso ♩ = ca. 60-63

SOLO - ethereal folk/ Celtic feel
pp distant

(May be sung by semi-chorus)
pp SA straight tone

† Wyandot/Huron for "Jesus is born"; pronounced "heh-soos ah-ha-tuhn-yah"

Tenors *pp*

(Oo)

Piano *p*

Je - sous A - ha-ton-hia,†

Glo - ri - a,

TB

Glo - ri - a,

mf

4 5 6 7

* Optional Full Score and Parts for String Quartet and Percussion (BP2164A) is available for purchase.

** Optional Full Score and Parts for Orchestral accompaniment (BP2164B) is available for purchase.

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BP2164-3

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mp very freely (rhythms and grace note are merely suggestions)

(May be sung by semi-chorus)

SA *pp*

(Oo)

'Twas in the moon of win-ter-time, when

mp

8 9 10 *And. simile*

*New Testament translation for "God" in Algonquian languages;
pronounced "giht-chih mah-nih-too"

all the birds had fled, _____ that might-y Git - chi Man-i - tou* sent
(God the Great Cre - a - tor)

11 12 13

an-gel choirs in - stead; Be - fore their light the stars grew dim,

14 15 16 Red.

and wan-d'ring hun-ters heard the hymn: Je-sus your King is born,

(Oo) Je-sus your King is born,

(Oo) Je - sous
(Men may sing on Oo if preferred)

17 18 19 20 Red. ad lib.

Je - sus is born, in ex-cel-sis glo - ri - a."

Je - sus is born, in ex-cel-sis glo - ri - a."

unis.

a - ha - ton - hia."

21 22 23

mf

simile

24 25 26

(roll LH chords if necessary; emphasize top note melody)

TB unis. mf

With - in a lodge of bro - ken bark the

27 28

ten - der babe was found, _____ A

29 30

rag - ged robe of rab - bit skin en - wrap - p'd His beau - ty round; _____

31 32

SA unis. *mf*

But as the hun - ter braves drew nigh, the

mf

33 34

an - gel song rang loud and high,

35 36

"He is born,

"Je - sus your King is born, Je - sus is born, in ex-cel - sis

37 38

glo - ri - a."

glo - ri - a."

mp

39 40 41

S *poco rit.* **mp** **Molto rubato e espressivo** *poco rit.* *a tempo*

The ear-liest moon of win-ter-time is not so round and fair as

A *poco rit.* **p** *poco rit.* *a tempo*

(Oo) _____

T *poco rit.* **p** *poco rit.* *a tempo*

(Oo) _____

B *poco rit.* **p** *poco rit.* *a tempo*

(Oo) _____

Molto rubato e espressivo

poco rit. *mp* *a tempo*

42 43 44

poco rit. *a tempo*

was the ring of glo - ry on the help - less in - fant there. The

poco rit. *a tempo*

poco rit. *a tempo*

poco rit. *a tempo*

poco rit. *mp* *a tempo*

45 46

chiefs from far be - fore Him knelt, with gifts of fur and bea - ver pelt, _____

47 48

mp

mp

Je - sus your King is born, Je - sus is born, in ex-cel-sis

mp

Je - sus your King is born, Je - sus is born, in ex-cel-sis

mp

(Oo), your King is born, He is born, in ex-cel-sis

mp

(Oo), your King is born, He is born, in ex-cel-sis

49 50 51

SA unis.

Moving forward

glo - ri - a.

mf

52 53 54

f Poco piu mosso ♩ = ca. 76

O chil - dren of the

f

55 56

Poco piu mosso ♩ = ca. 76

f pesante

57 58

for - est free, O sons of Ma - ni - tou, the

59 60

58 59 60

Ho - ly Child is born for
 Ho - ly Child of earth and heav'n is born to - day for
 Ho - ly Child of earth and heav'n is born to - day for

61 62 63

you.
 you. Come kneel be - fore the
 you.

64 65 66

unis.
 ra - diant boy who brings you beau - ty, peace and joy.
unis.
 peace and joy.

67 68 69

A few sopranos

“Je - sus your King is born,
peace and joy. —

70 71 72

born, — in ex - cel - sis glo - ri -

unis. *ff* *poco a poco rit.*

Je - sus is born, in ex - cel - sis glo - ri -

ff *poco a poco rit.*

73 74 75

Slower ♩ = ca. 66

a!"

a!"

Slower ♩ = ca. 66

mf

76 77 78

p *pp*

Je - sous A - ha-ton-hia, _____ Je - sous a - ha-ton-hia. _____

mp

79 80 81

mp

Glo - ri - a,

mp

82 83 84

rit.

p

Glo - ri - a.

rit.

p

85 86 87 88