What soul-inspiring music

Christmas traditional

1. What soul-inspiring music Thrills thro' the midnight air? What sounds of heav'ly sweetness Dispel all doubt and care? Ev'ry star and constellation Sheds a radiance doubly bright; See the Pleiads and Orion Glit-ter keenly in the height! Sparkling fires, like twinkling blossoms, Stud Night's robe with light.

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2.
Strange forms float hovering o'er us,
   New sounds fall on our ear;
God's Angel bids us welcome,
   His voice says, "Never fear!
Born to you in David's city
   Lies the Saviour, all Divine,
David's Root and David's Off-spring,
   Promised Seed of David's line;
He is swathed and in a manger:
   Take this for a sign."

3.
Straight, crowds of heavenly warriors,
   Outshining every star,
Stand forth round that one Herald
   Proclaiming peace afar;
Choirs of Angels and Archangels,
   Seraphim and Cherubim,
Thrones and Princedoms, Dominations,
   Powers and Might which wax not dim;
Spirit-hosts in ranks celestial,
   Raise one joyous hymn.

4.
"Lord God, to Thee be glory,
   In heights all height above;
Peace dwell on earth beneath us,
   Towards men goodwill and love!
Heaven and earth are now united,
   Man may see his Father's face:
Mary's Son, God's Word incarnate,
   Is an endless Fount of Grace:
Therefore Righteousness may Mercy
   And Truth Peace embrace."

5.
Speed, Shepherds, leave your sheepfolds,
   To Bethle'm haste away:
Fall on your knees before Him,
   Salute Him while ye may:
Bring your offerings, bring your treasure,
   Open wide each simple store:
Pipe and dance in rustic measure
   In His Manger Him adore:
Every deed to give Him pleasure
   Be yours evermore.