

The story of the shepherd

Christmas traditional

1. It was the ve-ry noon of night: the stars a - bove the fold, More sure than clock or

The first system of musical notation is in common time (C) with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of a treble and a bass staff. The melody is marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The lyrics are: "1. It was the ve-ry noon of night: the stars a - bove the fold, More sure than clock or".

7 chim - ing bell, the hour of mid - night told: When from the heavens there

The second system of musical notation continues from the first. It starts at measure 7. The melody is marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The lyrics are: "chim - ing bell, the hour of mid - night told: When from the heavens there".

11 came a voice, and forms were seen to shine, Still bright' ning as the mu - sic rose with

The third system of musical notation continues from the second. It starts at measure 11. The melody is marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The lyrics are: "came a voice, and forms were seen to shine, Still bright' ning as the mu - sic rose with".

16 light and love di - vine. With love di-vine, the song be-gan; there shone a light se-

The fourth system of musical notation continues from the third. It starts at measure 16. The melody is marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The lyrics are: "light and love di - vine. With love di-vine, the song be-gan; there shone a light se-".

21

- rene: O, who hath heard what I have heard, or seen what I have seen? O,

26

who hath heard what I have heard, or seen what I have seen?

2.

O ne'er could nightingale at dawn salute the rising day
 With sweetness like that bird of song in his immortal lay:
 O ne'er were wood-notes heard at eve by banks with poplar shade
 So thrilling as the concert sweet by heavenly harpings made;
 For love divine was in each chord, and filled each pause between:
 O, who hath heard what I have heard, or seen what I have seen?

3.

I roused me at the piercing strain, but shrunk as from the ray
 Of summer lightning: all around so bright the splendour lay.
 For oh, it mastered sight and sense, to see that glory shine,
 To hear that minstrel in the clouds, who sang of Love Divine,
 To see that form with birdlike wings, of more than mortal mien:
 O, who hath heard what I have heard, or seen what I have seen!

4.

When once the rapturous trance was past, that so my sense could bind,
 I left my sheep to Him whose care breathed in the western wind;
 I left them, for instead of snow, I trod on blade and flower,
 And ice dissolved in starry rays at morning's gracious hour,
 Revealing where on earth the steps of Love Divine had been;
 O, who hath heard what I have heard, or seen what I have seen?

5.

I hastened to a low-roofed shed, for so the Angel bade;
 And bowed before the lowly rack where Love Divine was laid:
 A new-born Babe, like tender Lamb, with Lion's strength there smiled,
 For Lion's strength, immortal might, was in that new-born Child;
 That Love Divine in childlike form had God for ever been:
 O who hath heard what I have heard, or seen what I have seen?