

Sing Christmas!

Narrations

Suite I, #2 Sing Joy! Underscore - Pg. 11

Narr.1 - Christmas! The season of joy! And what better way to express joy than through singing! Nothing warms our hearts more than the familiar carols and songs of the season.

Narr.2 - Some describe the beauty of a sparkling winter night; of snow, tinsel, and twinkling lights.

Narr.1 - Some celebrate the joy of giving and receiving gifts, or of simply gathering around a fire to bask in the warmth of friendship and love.

Narr.2 - But the real joy of the season is in celebrating the birth of a child; a birth foretold by prophets – one who would come from heaven and bring salvation to a broken world. Tonight (today) we celebrate in song! We sing of love and hope and peace and especially – joy.

Narr.1 - We sing...Christmas!

Suite II, #1 Sing Noel! Introduction - Pg. 20

Narr.1 - Over 2,000 years ago, on a winter's night in a town called Bethlehem, the long-expected Messiah was born.

Narr.2 - And on that night the world was given a song, a perfect song composed by the creator of the universe, a song that will ring throughout the ages with the promise of eternal hope and joy.

Narr.1 - In French, a Christmas song is referred to as a “noel,” and the very first noel was sung by an angel to a group of shepherds on a hillside as they were tending their sheep.

Narr.2 - And that angel was joined by other angels until the heavens were filled with glorious voices singing “Glory to God in the highest” and “on earth, peace and goodwill to all.”

Suite II, #3 Tell Out, My Soul - Pg. 40

Narr.1 - While the word “noel” refers to Christmas carols, the origin of the word can be traced even further back to the Latin word *natalis*, which means “birthday.”

Narr.2 - Today (tonight), we celebrate a birthday! Because a young girl named Mary was given a divine mission – to bring into the world the *Song of Songs*, and to give birth to the *King of Kings*.

Suite III, #1 Sing Emmanuel! Introduction - Pg. 50

(on cue, m. 5) Narr.1 - The child born to Mary on that first Christmas came to be known by many names. His followers called him Teacher, Lord, and Master.

Narr.2 - The Scriptures refer to him as Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, and Emmanuel, God with Us.

Narr.1 - He declared himself the Bread of Life and the Good Shepherd. Some called him the Rose of Sharon.

(on cue, m. 19) Narr.2 - And on that night, Mary and Joseph gave him the name the world would sing throughout the ages.

(on cue, m. 27) Narr.1 - Placing the baby in the manger, they gave him the name...Jesus!

Suite III, #3 Emmanuel! God with Us! - Pg. 65

(on cue, m. 5) Narr.1 - The birth of Jesus had long been anticipated. The prophet Isaiah wrote "a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and he shall be called *Emmanuel*" ...God with us.

Suite IV, #1 Sing Gloria! Introduction - Pg. 74

Narr.1 - Angels appeared throughout the Christmas story, bringing messages and singing praises. An angel told Mary she would give birth.

Narr.2 - And an angel told Joseph to call the child Jesus.

(on cue, m. 17) Narr.1 - An angel warned the couple to flee to Egypt.

Narr.2 - And an angel told them when it was safe to return to Israel.

(on cue, m. 26) Narr.1 - And on the night of Christ's birth, an angel appeared to the shepherds and was joined by a whole heavenly host of angels...

Narr.2 - ...all praising God and saying,

Both - "Glory to God in the highest!"

Suite IV, #3 Glory to the Newborn King - Pg. 88

Narr.1 - As the shepherds gathered in Bethlehem to witness the blessed event, we gather to celebrate God's wondrous gift of love.

Narr.2 - As the wise men brought their gifts to the Christ child, we offer our gifts of gratitude and praise.

Narr.1 - And just as the angels sang on that wondrous night, we lift our voices and hearts in song. We sing of hope and joy and peace and love. Together, we sing:

Both - "Glory to God in the highest!"