

# **Choral music for Christmas**

## **A Christmas Hymn** **(For the Beasts of the Field)**

**Ken Johnston**

**for unaccompanied SSAA voices**

**Words by Will H. Ogilvie**

and used with the kind permission of his great-granddaughter, Catherine Reid

W. H. Ogilvie (1869-1963) was born and brought up near Kelso in the Scottish borders. When he was 20, he went to Australia to work. While there he had many poems published. In his 30's he returned to Scotland and settled in the borders, where he continued to write. There are memorial cairns to him in Bourke, Australia and on the road to Robertson in the Scottish borders.

Composed January 2003

Duration of piece: 4' 30''

Another version of this piece is also available,  
for unaccompanied mixed voices (SATB)

# A Christmas Hymn

(For the Beasts of the Field)

Poem - Will H. Ogilvie

for unaccompanied SSAA voices

Music - Ken Johnston

Slowly ♩ = 60 **p cresc.** **poco rit.** **A little faster ♩ = 66 mp**

S Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, all ox - en who

S Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, all ox - en who

A Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, all ox - en who

A Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, all ox - en who

7 **A little faster ♩ = 72 mp**

(melody.....)

feed in your stalls to - day, For those were your fore - fa - thers who

feed in your stalls to - day, ah

feed in your stalls to - day, ah

feed in your stalls to - day, ah

11

fed where the Christ - child lay; Theirs was the light of the lan - tern and

ah

ah

ah

Duration: 4' 30"

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15 *poco cresc.*

theirs the warmth of the byre; Theirs was the hay in the man-ger that man-tled the  
ah ah ah ah

20 *poco rit.* **Tempo 1** ♩ = 60

World's De-sire! Re-joice, re-joice,  
Re-joice, re-joice,  
Re-joice, re-joice, re-joice, Re-  
Re-joice, re-joice, re-joice,

26 *poco rit.* **A little faster** ♩ = 66

Re-joice, re-joice, re-joice, re-joice, all sheep-flocks, for the  
Re-joice, re-joice, re-joice, re-joice, all sheep-flocks, for the  
joyce, re-joice, re-joice, re-joice, all sheep-flocks, for the  
Re-joice, re-joice, re-joice, re-joice, all sheep-flocks, for the

A little faster ♩ = 72

31

sires that fa - shioned your line ah

sires that fa - shioned your line ah

sires that fa - shioned your line ah

sires that fa - shioned your line ah

*p*

*mp*

*p*

*p*

35

Star came forth to shine ah

Star came forth to shine ah

And yours is part of the sto - ry whose tel - ling shall ne - ver be

ah

*p*

*mp*

*poco cresc.*

*poco cresc.*

40

As long as the hills are pas - ture, as long as the ri - vers

As long as the hills are pas - ture, as long as the ri - vers

done As long as the hills are pas - ture, as long as the ri - vers

As long as the hills are pas - ture, as long as the ri - vers

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*dim.*

*dim.*

*dim.*

*dim.*

*poco rit.*

45 **Tempo 1** ♩ = 60

*p cresc.* *mf* *p cresc.*

run! Re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, —

*p cresc.* *mf* *p cresc.*

run! Re - joice, re - joice, re -

*p cresc.* *mf* *p cresc.*

run! Re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, re -

*p cresc.* *mf* *p cresc.*

run! Re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, —

51 **poco rit.** **A little faster** ♩ = 66

*f* *mp*

— re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, all hor - ses, for the sake of the ass who

*f* *mp*

joice, re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, all hor - ses, for the sake of the ass who

*f* *mp*

joice, re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, all hor - ses, for the sake of the ass who

*f* *mp*

re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, all hor - ses, for the sake of the ass who

56 **A little faster** ♩ = 72

bore His load on the roy - al jour - ney and stood by the

bore His load on the jour - ney and stood by the sta - ble

bore His load on the jour - ney and stood by the

bore His load on the jour - ney and stood by the

60

door For his was a share of the glo - ry And  
 door ah when he saw the dawn in the sky And  
 door ah And  
 door ah And

*mp* *p* *mp poco cresc.* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

65

lif - ted his head in the still - ness to hear the Babe's first  
 lif - ted his head in the still - ness to hear the Babe's first  
 lif - ted his head in the still - ness to hear the Babe's first  
 lif - ted his head in the still - ness to hear the Babe's first

*dim.* *dim.* *dim.* *dim.*

69

*poco rit.* *Slowly* ♩ = 60 *rit.*

cry! To hear the Babe's first cry!  
 cry! Cry! To hear the Babe's first cry!  
 cry! Cry! To hear the Babe's first cry!  
 cry! Cry! To hear the Babe's first cry!

*p* *p* *p* *p* *dim.* *dim.* *dim.* *dim.*