Cat # 20674-HB

3 - 6 octaves handbells3 - 6 octaves handchimesVocal Solo

Level 3-

Cat and Mouse Carol

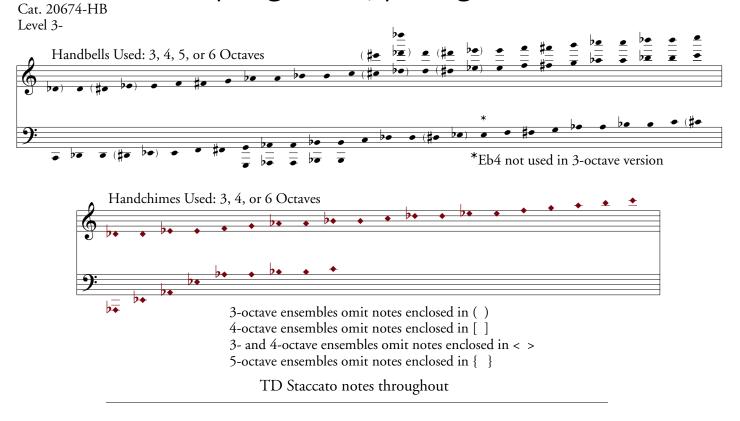


Arranged by Derek K. Hakes



From the Top Music Albuquerque, NM www.FromTheTopMusic.com

The Cat and Mouse Carol



Performance Notes and Suggestions

I am a huge fan of the Choir on Temple Square (formerly the Mormon Tabernacle Choir) as well as the Bells on Temple Square. I especially appreciate two of their broadcasts – Music and the Spoken Word and their yearly Christmas special. Their programming is planned such that all walks of life, and indeed, all ages, are reached and touched by their message. It was during one such Christmas special – Glad Christmas Tidings – that I heard David Archuleta (then a recent runner-up on American Idol) sing The Cat and Mouse Carol. To that point, I had never heard this song.

While relatively obscure and unknown here in the United States, this 1970s song is mostly familiar in both England and Australia. After David Archuleta's beautiful and stirring performance, however, this song's presence certainly began making itself known. The story behind this carol is also relatively unknown.

There are only two known settings, and both are for choir (Mac Wilberg and Tom Fettke, respectively). I believe that the setting of this piece, like many of my pieces, was placed on my heart by God, and I am both humbled and thrilled that He has chosen me to arrange this song.

An avid listener of Christmas music, – and a huge fan as well – I believe the best Christmas carols are those that are both simple and transcend all age groups. This carol certainly fits these criteria. In a music era all-too-fraught with either meaningless or inappropriate lyrics, it is nice to be able to listen to and read lyrics that still reflect innocence.

As for the handbell setting, the vocal part (which may be performed as a solo or distributed to multiple voices) is required. During the chorus, either the vocal soloist may sing alone, or the handbell ensemble, a vocal choir, or even the congregation/audience can join in on the chorus.

A two-octave version will be available soon, making this a truly versatile arrangement for worship, concert, or even festivals. However you and your ensemble perform this, it is my hope you find the Christ Child in the manger this Christmas season, and – indeed – your heart.

Merry Christmas, Derek Hakes (Indianapolis, IN)

The Cat and Mouse Carol



** Measures 10-12: three-octave ensembles should play the bottom-most note, while four-, five-, and six-octave ensembles should play the top-most note

THE CAT AND THE MOUSE CAROL

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^{*}Love Came Down At Christmas (trad. Irish melody)



~ 3 ~

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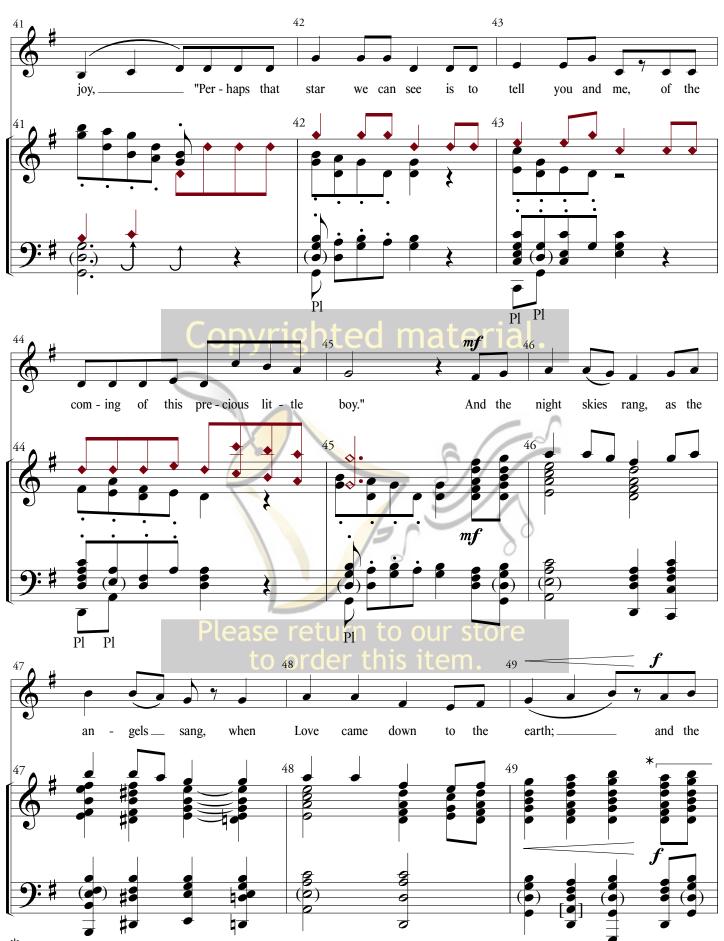


^{*}Measures 24-28: Five- and six-octave ensembles may double top note one octave higher ** The Birthday of a King (William Harold Neidlinger; ca. 1890)



^{*}Top-most notes are for four-, five-, and six-octave ensembles only

~ 5 ~



^{*}Top-most notes are for four-, five-, and six-octave ensembles only



~ 7 ~

Cat. 20674-HB



~ 8 ~

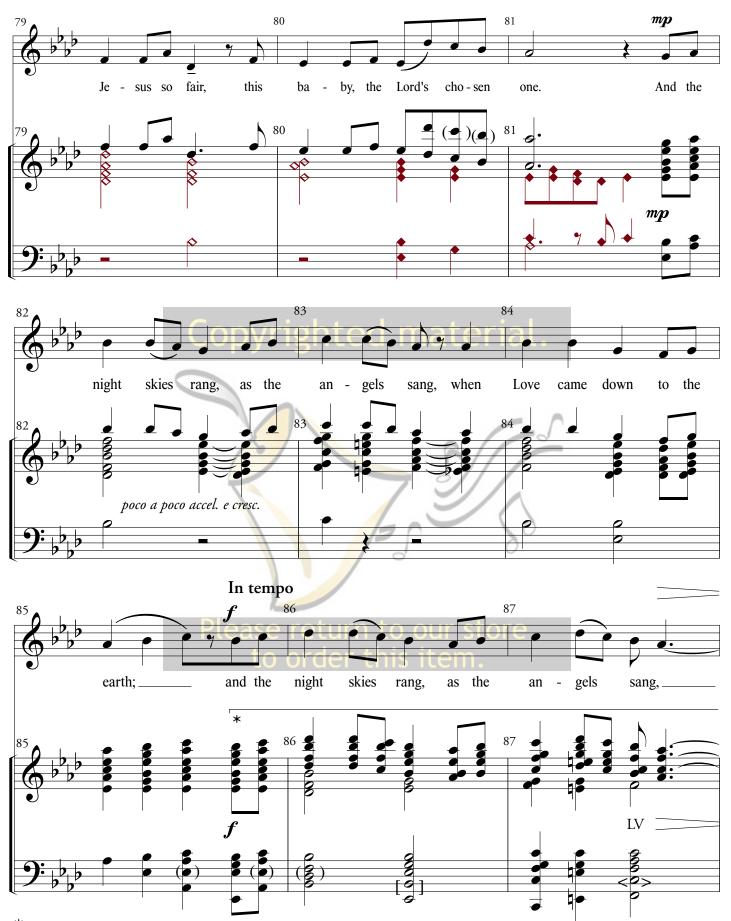
Cat. 20674-HB



^{*}Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (Polish carol)

~ 9 ~ Cat. 20674-HB

^{**}Eb5 appears in *both* treble and bass clef



 \star Six-octave ensembles double top note one octave higher through m. 88

~ **10** ~ Cat. 20674-HB



~ 11 ~ Cat. 20674-HB