

What Sound Is Heard on Earth

(Pezh trouz zo àr en doar)

SSATBB *a cappella*

Trad. Breton, *attr.* Noury
English text D. A. M.

Daniel A. Mahraun

Legato, mysterious (♩ = ca. 48-52)

pp

Soprano

Oo.
Oo.

pp

Alto

Oo.
Oo.

Tenor

p

What
Pezh

Bass

p

What
Pezh

Legato, mysterious (♩ = ca. 48-52)

Keyboard

(for rehearsal only)

Breton Text: Traditional Breton, *attributed* to Fr. Pierre Noury, 1743-1804 (PD).
English text: Newly authored, and copyright © 2014 with this publication.
Tune: Traditional Breton, *attributed* to Fr. Pierre Noury, 1743-1804 (PD).
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5

(Oo.)
(Oo.)

(Oo.)
(Oo.)

sound is heard on earth? What mu - sic strikes my ear? What
trouz zo àr en doar, pezh kan e gle - van - -me? Na

sound is heard on earth? What mu - sic strikes my ear? What
trouz zo àr en doar, pezh kan e gle - van - -me? Na

9

song de-scends from heav'n? What mar - vels now ap - pear? Voic - es of
ka - rel er boue - zhiou e za a lein en neñv! Ae - led, la -

song de-scends from heav'n? What mar - vels now ap - pear? Voic - es of
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14

an - gels sing with glo - ry shin - ing 'round. What won - drous work is
va - ret deomp eit pe - tra e ka - net, Pe ne - vez - ted àr -

14

an - gels sing with glo - ry shin - ing 'round. What won - drous work is
va - ret deomp eit pe - tra e ka - net, Pe ne - vez - ted àr -

18

done up - on this low - ly ground. Oo... Fear
-se e zo ar - riu er bed? Oo... Ka -

18

done up - on this low - ly ground. Oo... Fear
-se e zo ar - riu er bed? Oo... Ka -

*Tune: GREENSLEEVES (What Child Is This), 16th cent. English carol (PD).

23

not, be - hold, re - joice, I bring good news this night of
 net e - ûé ge - neomp, ka - net, pobl ag en doar, E

brightly *mf**

“of
 E

23

27

Christ the Lord, the Prince of Peace, the God of Might. In ti - ny
 tamp de lâ - ret deoc'h un ne - vez - ted hep par: Ur ma - big

mp

Christ the Lord, the Prince of Peace, the God of Might. In ti - ny
 tamp de lâ - ret deoc'h un ne - vez - ted hep par: Ur ma - big

mp

Christ the Lord, the Prince of Peace, the God of might.
 tamp de lâ - ret deoc'h un ne - vez - ted hep par:

27

*Tune: UNE JEUNE PUCELLE ('Twas in the Moon of Wintertime), 16th cent. French carol (PD).

32 *,mf*

Beth - le - hem, from Da - vid's line, a birth. All glo - ry be to
 ben - ni - get, roue a Je - ru - za - lem, E zo ga - net ei -

Beth - le - hem, from Da - vid's line, a birth. All glo - ry be to
 ben - ni - get, roue a Je - ru - za - lem, E zo ga - net ei -

,mf

All glo - ry be to
 E zo ga - net ei -

32

36 *mf strongly*

God and peace to all on earth." This
 doc'h er gér a Veth - le - em. Ar -

God and peace to all on earth." This
 doc'h er gér a Veth - le - em. Ar -

God and peace to all on earth." Glo - ry be to God! This
 doc'h er gér a Veth - le - em. Ka - net, pobl ag doar. Ar -

mf strongly

Glo - ry be to God! This
 Ka - net, pobl ag doar. Ar -

36

40

is the ho - ly child the proph - ets did fore - tell a
 riu eo en ter - men ag er pro - fe - si - oû: O

is the ho - ly child the proph - ets did fore - tell a
 riu eo en ter - men ag er pro - fe - si - oû: O

is the ho - ly child the proph - ets did fore - tell a
 riu eo en ter - men ag er pro - fe - si - oû: O

is the ho - ly child the proph - ets did fore - tell a
 riu eo en ter - men ag er pro - fe - si - oû: O

40

44

vir - gin shall con - ceive and bear Em - man - u - el.
 noz mil gwezh eu - rus e dorr hor li - am - mou!

vir - gin shall con - ceive and bear Em - man - u - el.
 noz mil gwezh eu - rus e dorr hor li - am - mou!

vir - gin shall con - ceive and bear Em - man - u - el.
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vir - gin shall con - ceive and bear Em - man - u - el.
 noz mil gwezh eu - rus e dorr hor li - am - mou!

44

*Tune: *VENI EMMANUEL* (O Come, O Come, Emmanuel), 15th cent. French processional (PD).

Historical Notes

This traditional carol, from the Brittany region of France, is attributed to Fr. Pierre Nourry, rector in Bignan before his exile to Spain during the French Revolution. Following the Revolution, he returned to France and was appointed archpriest of Vannes Cathedral, where he remained until his death.

Performance Notes

Three Advent/Christmas hymns that are more familiar appear briefly in this arrangement. The first, “What Child Is This,” continues the list of questions asked by the shepherds—“What sound...what song...what wondrous work?” The song of the angels and their several titles for the Child inspire the reference to “’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime.” The use of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” is inspired by the prophecy of the end of captivity and—in the English version—the mention of the name Emmanuel.

The upbeats at the beginnings of phrases are performed differently by traditional folk ensembles. Some perform them as eighth notes, others as dotted quarter notes. This arrangement makes use of each practice at different points.

Those desiring to perform this arrangement in Breton should consider several details. First, the spelling and orthography of the Breton language varies widely, even among scholars and speakers today. The arranger is grateful to Dr. Lois Kuter, noted American scholar of Breton culture, for her assistance in locating the printed Breton text. Second, phrasing changes may be necessary when performing in the original language.

In addition to the IPA pronunciation guide that follows on page 12, performers are referred to three recordings by different folk groups:

Yann-Fañch Kemener and Aldo Ripoché, *Noël en Bretagne*, 2008, Buda Musique, 3017745.

The Chieftains, *The Bells of Dublin*, 1991, RCAVictor, BMG 09026-60824-2.

Compagnie Nationale de Danses Françaises with Jacques Douai, *Songs and Dances of France*, [n.d.], Monitor Records, MON000491. Available through Smithsonian Folkways <<http://www.folkways.si.edu>>.

Word-by-Word Translation

Pezh trouz zo àr en doar, pezh kan e glevan-me?
 What noise is this in earth, what song do hear I?

Na karet er bouezhioù e za a lein en neñv!
 How lovely are voices is there from the-heights of heaven!

Aeled, lavaret deomp eit petra e kanet,
 Angels, say to-us for what is-the singing,

Pe nevezted àr-se e zo arriu er bed?
 What new-thing on-these is there arrived in-the world?

Kanet eùé geneomp, kanet, pobl ag en doar,
 Sing also with-us, sing, people of the earth,

E tamp de lâret deoc'h un nevezted hep par:
 we have to declare to-you a new-thing without peer:

Ur mabig benniget, roue a Jeruzalem,
 A son blessed, king of Jerusalem,

E zo ganet eidoc'h er gêr a Vethleem.
 is there born for-you in the-town of Bethlehem.

Arriu eo en termen ag er profesioù:
 Arrived is the time of the prophets:

O noz mil gwezh eurus e dorr hor liammoù!
 O night a-thousand times happy that breaks our chains!

Kanet gloer hag inour de Jezuz ha Mari:
 Sing glory and honor to Jesus and Mary:

O noz mil gwezh e'rus, arriu eo er Mesi.
 O night a-thousand times happy arrived is the Messiah.

