

# Joseph's Song

SATB with piano

Joseph's role in the nativity story is often under-appreciated. What might he have been thinking as the birth of Jesus drew near? With a plaintive melody and lush harmonies this song offers a different perspective of the advent of our Savior. Even the steady plodding of Mary's donkey on the road to Bethlehem can be heard in the accompaniment.

Thoughtfully  $\text{♩} = 76$

Steven Rudolph

The first system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is the vocal line, starting with a whole rest followed by a melodic phrase. The middle staff is the bass line, also starting with a whole rest and then providing a steady accompaniment. The bottom staff is the piano accompaniment, featuring a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the left hand and chords in the right hand. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The dynamic marking *mp* is present above the vocal and piano staves.

Mar - y are you tired? Are you cold?  
Can you see the town there be - low?

The second system of the musical score continues the vocal and piano parts. The vocal line begins with a measure number '5' above the staff. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern. The key signature and time signature remain the same. The dynamic marking *mp* is not explicitly shown in this system but is implied from the first system.

We've been trav - ling now such a long — time. Eve - ning will soon be  
Can you see the lights through the win - dows there? Beth - le - hem now is

Joseph's Song - SATB

8

here.  
near.

Oh, \_\_\_\_\_ how we've been blessed that

*mp*

*mp*

12

you would bear God's on - ly son! But, Ma - ry, are we

*mf* *f*

*mf* *f*

Joseph's Song - SATB

15 *mp*

a - ble? And are we wor - thy?

15 *mp*

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of music, measures 15 through 17. It features SATB vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts begin with a fermata on the word 'able?' in measure 15. The piano accompaniment starts with a fermata on the first measure. The dynamic marking *mp* is present above the vocal staves and below the piano accompaniment. The key signature has two flats, and the time signature is 4/4.

18 *mp*

Is - ra - el has wait - ed so long, wait - ing for the Lord to de -  
Will the-peo-ple o - pen their hearts? Will they know this child is Em-

18 *mp*

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of music, measures 18 through 20. It features SATB vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts begin with a repeat sign in measure 18. The piano accompaniment also begins with a repeat sign. The dynamic marking *mp* is present above the vocal staves and below the piano accompaniment. The key signature has two flats, and the time signature is 4/4.

Joseph's Song - SATB

21

liv - er them. Year af - ter year they pray.  
man - u - el? Or will they turn a

21

25

way?  
This child \_\_\_\_\_ will save His peo - ple, this

25

29

*mf* *f*

This child will bless the nat - tions and

Ho - ly child with - in.

29

33

take a-way their sin.

33

*mp*

37 *mp*

Mar - y are you tired? Are you cold? We've been trav - ling now such a  
Can you see the town there be - low? Can you see the lights through the

37 *mp*

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of music, measures 37-39. It features SATB vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are marked *mp*. The lyrics are: "Mar - y are you tired? Are you cold? We've been trav - ling now such a / Can you see the town there be - low? Can you see the lights through the". The piano accompaniment consists of a treble and bass clef with a melodic line in the treble and a bass line with chords in the bass.

40

long — time. Eve - ning will soon be here.  
win - dows there? Beth - le - hem now is near.

40

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of music, measures 40-42. It features SATB vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are marked *mp*. The lyrics are: "long — time. Eve - ning will soon be here. / win - dows there? Beth - le - hem now is near.". The piano accompaniment continues with a treble and bass clef, featuring a melodic line in the treble and a bass line with chords in the bass.

Joseph's Song - SATB

44 *p* *rit.* *a tempo*

Beth - le-hem now is near.

44 *p* *rit.* *a tempo* *rit.*

**Please Read Me!**  
(and send this form along with your remittance)

Thank you for considering this piece. I hope you will find it a positive addition to your worship. If you decide to use it, make copies for your choir, and then **please remember** to send \$0.75 US per copy to me at:

Steven Rudolph  
43-B Cottage Street  
Norwood, MA 02062-0234

Title of piece	# of copies	x \$0.75=	Total
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Thank you so much. I pray this music will be a blessing to your choir and your congregation.

*Steven Rudolph*  
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