

KING HEROD (*EL REI HERODES*)

for SATB Voices

Traditional Catalonian Carol
Free rhyming, prosodic English translation
by William J. Bullock

Traditional Catalonian Carol
arr. William J. Bullock
2021

Interpolation: Allegretto ♩ = 92

Soprano *p*
*(They learn of the e - dict put forth by King Her (od.)

Alto *p*
*(They learn of the e - dict put forth by King Her (od.)

Tenor *p*
*(They learn of the e - dict put forth by King Her (od.)

Bass

Reduction

Poco più mosso ♩ = 100

5 *mp*
Oo *mp*
Oo *mp*
Oo *mf*

vs I While Jo - seph at - tends his Di - vine in - fant son, He
vs I Es - tant a la cam - bra Amb so fill al - mat Re

*Parentheses indicate textual accretions by the arranger.

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pon - ders the rum - or That's stunned ev' - ry one: The troops of King
 mor va sen - tir - se Per tot la vei - nat. E - ra el Re - ge -

15

Her - od Are near and have planned To kill ev' - ry in - no - cent
 rod - es Amb la se - va gent, Que fei - a ma - tar Tos

Interpolation: Tempo I

20

Boy in the land. (So Mar - y sug - ges they should
 els in - no - cents. (So Mar - y sug - ges they should

p

p

25

Poco più mosso
mf

vs 2 "Let's flee, dear - est Jo - seph! Come!
 vs 1 A - nem - se'n _____ Jo - sep, A -

mf

vs 2 "Let's flee, dear - est Jo - seph! Come!
 vs 2 A - nem - se'n _____ Jo - sep, A -

mp

in - to E - gypt.) _____ Oo

mp

flee in - to E - gypt.) _____ Oo

30

Hus - band, let's go! Let's hur - ry to E - gypt, And rest let's for -
nem - se'n es - pós, A - nem - se'n E - gip - to Sens te - nir re -

Hus - band, let's go! Let's hur - ry to E - gypt, And rest let's for -
nem - se'n es - pós, A - nem - se'n E - gip - to Sens te - nir re -

35

go. Our store and pos - sions We must leave be - hind, For
pós, Die - xem nos - tres co - ses, Vi - an - des tam - bé, Per -

go. Our store and pos - sions We must leave be - hind, For
pós, Die - xem nos - tres co - ses, Vi - an - des tam - bé, Per -

Oo

Interpolation:
Tempo I

40

Her - od ap - proach - es With mur - der in mind."
 quó el Rei He - ro - des Diu en que ja ve.

pp

Her - od ap - proach - es With mur - der in mind."
 quó el Rei He - ro - des Diu en que ja ve.

pp

(They

(They

Piano accompaniment for measures 40-44.

Poco più mosso
mp

45

vs 3 Their
vs 3 Amb

p

flee with a don - key as an - gels pro - tect them.)

vs 3 Their
vs 3 Amb
p

flee with a don - key as an - gels pro - tect them.)

vs 3 Their
vs 3 Amb
p

vs 3 Their
vs 3 Amb

vs 3 Their
vs 3 Amb

Piano accompaniment for measures 45-49.



50

don - key's pack load - ed, On horse - back they flee. They
la so - me - re - la S'e van a ca - vall Se -

don - key's pack load - ed, On horse - back they flee. They
la so - me - re - la S'e van a ca - vall Se -

don - key's pack load - ed, On horse - back they flee. They
la so - me - re - la S'e van a ca - vall Se -

don - key's pack load - ed, On horse - back they flee. They
la so - me - re - la S'e van a ca - vall Se -

54

trek down a path Cut by roy - al de - cree. The
quint les pet - ja - des Per un - ca - mi - ral. Els

trek down a path Cut by roy - al de - cree. The
quint les pet - ja - des Per un - ca - mi - ral. Els

trek down a path Cut by roy - al de - cree. The
quint les pet - ja - des Per un - ca - mi - ral. Els

trek down a path Cut by roy - al de - cree. The
quint les pet - ja - des Per un - ca - mi - ral. Els

58

an - gels de - scend, And small birds fly a - round. Thus
 an - gels de - val - llen, Tam - bé - els o - ce - llets, Per -

an - gels de - scend, And small birds fly a - round. Thus
 an - gels de - val - llen, Tam - bé - els o - ce - llets, Per -

an - gels de - scend, And small birds fly a - round. Thus
 an - gels de - val - llen, Tam - bé - els o - ce - llets, Per -

an - gels de - scend, And small birds fly a - round. Thus
 an - gels de - val - llen, Tam - bé - els o - ce - llets, Per -

62

molto rit. **ppp**

Je - sus, in hid - ing, Will nev - er be found.
 que el bon Je - sus No fos des - co - bert.

ppp

Je - sus, in hid - ing, Will nev - er be found.
 que el bon Je - sus No fos des - co - bert.

ppp

Je - sus, in hid - ing, Will nev - er be found.
 que el bon Je - sus No fos des - co - bert.

ppp

Je - sus, in hid - ing, Will nev - er be found.
 que el bon Je - sus No fos des - co - bert.

ABOUT:

This traditional Catalonian carol, juxtaposing flowing melodies with vivid storytelling, serves as a fresh, yet familiar-feeling addition to any Christmas program!

FROM THE COMPOSER:

The subject of this traditional Catalonian carol is the Holy Family's plan to flee Bethlehem into Egypt to escape Herod's decree that all young boys be killed. Curiously, the carol's graceful, flowing melody is at odds with its ominous subject matter. The prosaic character of the carol's text is emulated in the English translation.

In this arrangement, added text and music introduce each of the carol's three verses. Subsequent introductory passages are sung by fewer voice parts: first 3, then 2, then 1. Conversely, each of the carol's verses increases in number of voice parts singing the text: first 1, then 2, then 4, though additional voices harmonically support the carol's melody with the neutral vowel "oo". Mixed meter in the final verse suggests the donkey's halting stride.

DURATION: ~2'40"



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Additional octavos are available for purchase from the publisher online.



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