

The Landkey Carols

On Bethlehem's Peaceful Hill

Also known by the first line - "Softly The Night Is Sleeping"

Written by Caleb Simper

From the singing of The Landkey Carollers

Transcribed and Arr Paul Wilson



B \flat (Bbdim) B \flat F C m F

V1 Soft ly the night is sleep - ing on Beth 'lem's peace - ful ____ hill

V2 Come with the glad - some shep - herds quick hast 'ning from the ____ fold

5 B \flat G m D m C F

Si - lent the shep - herds watch - ing, the gen - tle flocks are ____ still But

Come with the wise men bring - ing in - cense and myrrh and ____ gold Come

9 F7 B \flat E \flat F7 B \flat

hark, the won 'drous mu - sic falls from the op - 'ning sky

near Him, poor and low - ly a - round the crad - le throng

13 G m E \flat F7 F7

Val - ley and cliff re - e - cho Glor - y to God ____ on ____ high!

Come with your hearts of sun - shine sing - ing the an - gels ____ song

On Bethlehem's Peaceful Hill

Chorus

17 B^b E^b B^b B^b E^b C F

Glor - y to God! It rings a - gain Peace on the earth good will t'wards men

21 B^b G m C F B^b B^b/F F B^b

Glor - y to God! It rings a - gain Peace on the earth good will t'wards men

Verse 1

**Softly the night is sleeping, on Beth'lem's peaceful hill
 Silent the shepherds watching, the gentle flocks are still
 But hark, the won'drous music, falls from the op'ning sky
 Valley and cliff re-echo, Glory to God on high!**

Chorus

**Glory to God! It rings again
 Peace on the earth good will t'wards men
 Glory to God! It rings again
 Peace on the earth good will t'wards men**

Verse 2 (*sung really quietly*)

**Come with the gladsome shepherds quick hast'ning from the fold
 Come with the wise men bringing incense and myrrh and gold
 Come near Him, poor and lowly around the cradle throng
 Come with your hearts of sunshine singing the angels song**

Chorus (*full volume again*)

**Glory to God! It rings again
 Peace on the earth good will t'wards men
 Glory to God! It rings again
 Peace on the earth good will t'wards men**

Notes on performance

This arrangement is designed for a good strong unison performance - for example a primary school choir.

It would benefit from a chordal accompaniment if possible - guitar or keyboard

Try giving the words extra meaning in performance - for example the Landkey Carollers would always make a really short note on the word "hark" in Verse 1 followed by a short silence. It could be fun to try for this.

Enjoy the high notes - especially at the end of the verse. When you're teaching this carol perhaps start with the chorus - the last two bars are exactly the melody of the well known 'Joy to the World'

The Landkey Carollers seem to have always sung just these two verses and choruses - there is a third verse given in the printed MS source which is specially suited to Christmas Day itself.