

Once In Royal David's City

IRBY 8.7.8.7.7.7

Cecil Frances Alexander (1848)

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$\text{♩} = 100$
Capo 3: C2
Eb2

Gsus/B
Bbsus/D

Am7
Cm7

F2
Ab2

The piano introduction consists of four measures. The first measure has a treble staff with a descending eighth-note scale (F4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F3) and a bass staff with a whole note chord (F2, Ab2, C3). The second measure has a treble staff with a descending eighth-note scale (G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2) and a bass staff with a whole note chord (Bbsus/D). The third measure has a treble staff with a descending eighth-note scale (A2, G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1) and a bass staff with a whole note chord (Cm7). The fourth measure has a treble staff with a descending eighth-note scale (B1, A1, G1, F1, E1, D1, C1, B0) and a bass staff with a whole note chord (Ab2).

5

C2
Eb2

Dm7
Fm7

C/E
Eb/G

F2
Ab2

The vocal melody begins on measure 5 with a half note C4, followed by a quarter note D4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note F4. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a single note in the left hand. The lyrics are: 1. Once in ro - yal Da - vid's ci - ty stood a low - ly cat - tle shed, 2. He came down to earth. from hea - ven who is God and Lord of all, 3. And through all his won - drous child-hood he would ho - nour and o - bey, 4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love; 5. Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble with the ox - en stan - ding by,

9

Am7
Cm7

G
Bb

F2
Ab2

C2/E
Eb2/G

The vocal melody begins on measure 9 with a half note C4, followed by a quarter note D4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note F4. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a single note in the left hand. The lyrics are: where a mo - ther laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall: love and watch the low - ly mai - den in whose gen - tle arms he lay: for that child so dear. and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n. a - bove: we shall see him but in hea - ven set at God's right hand on high;

Dm7
Fm7

C2/E
E♭2/G

Ma - ry was that mo - ther mild,
with the poor, and mean and low - ly
Chris - tian chil - dren all must be
and he leads his chil - dren on
there His chil - dren ga - ther 'round,

FΔ
A♭Δ

G7sus
B♭7sus

Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child,
lived on earth our sav - iour ho - ly.
mild, o - be - dient, good as he.
to the place where he is gone.
bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

C2
E♭2

Gsus/B
B♭sus/D

Am7
Cm7

F2
A♭2

D.S.

rall. last time

The intro should be used as an interlude until after the third verse, at which point this bigger interlude works better. This interlude can also be repeated after the last verse for a more gradual finish.