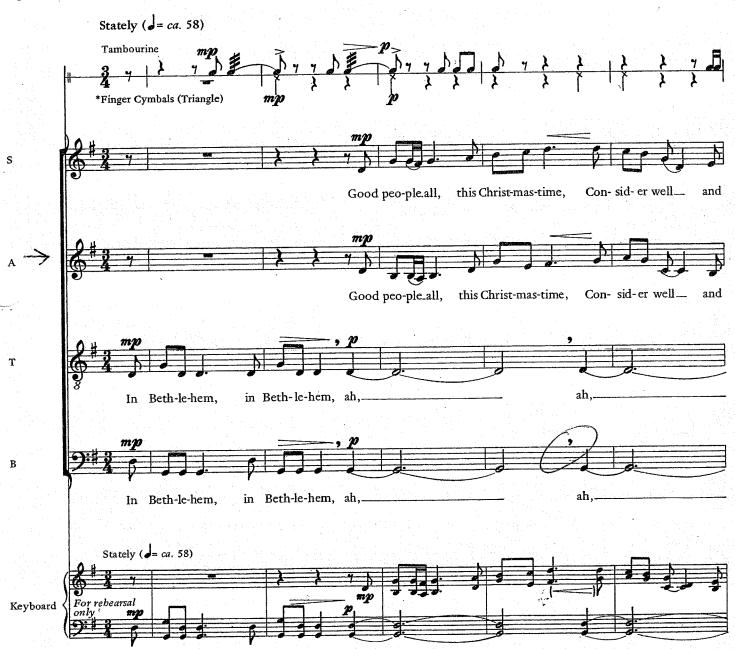
415

XVIII. WEXFORD CAROL

SATB, Accompanied

English and Irish Traditional

arr. by EDWIN FISSINGER



*Finger Cymbals should be struck in the manner of a Triangle.

N.B. In divided parts, balance S-A and T-B as equally as possible.

411-13044















24

Gaudete!



(Piae Cantiones, 1582; Jistebnice Cantional, 1420)









Fourteenth-century (Piae Cantiones, 1582)

TRANSLATION Rejoice! rejoice! Christ is born of the Virgin Mary; rejoice!

- 1 The time of grace has come for which we have prayed; let us devoutly sing songs of joy.
- 2 God is made man, while nature wonders; the world is renewed by Christ the King.
- 3 The closed gate of Ezekiel has been passed through; from where the Light has risen [the East] salvation is found.
- 4 Therefore let our assembly sing praises now at this time of purification; let it bless the Lord: greetings to our King.

No music is given for the verses in *Piae Cantiones*. They derive from the medieval Bohemian song 'Ezechielis porta', which Finnish clerical students would have encountered in Prague and which shared a tune with a Czech vernacular Christmas song that still survives. Finno, the editor of *Piae*

Cantiones, was probably responsible for the refrain. It adapts the words of one of the medieval verses to the music which, in various forms, was sung throughout Lutheran Germany to Luther's single-stanza grace before meat, 'Danket den' Herren'.

Verse 3 refers to the eastern gate of the city in Ezekiel's vision (Ezekiel 44:2). The gate is a traditional symbol of Mary as perpetual virgin.

PERFORMANCE Refrain, choir or four voices, with instruments ad lib.; verse, solo voice(s). Earlier settings lack accidentals; this need not imply uninflected performance but the careful keybbard intabulations of 'Danket dem Herren' by Ammerbach (1571 and 1583) sharpen only the final leading note.

See NOBC for Psallite Unigenito (no. 52).