

King Herod And The Cock

trad. English; arr. Jerome Epstein

$\text{♩} = 58$

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems. The first system has a treble and bass staff with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a common time signature (C). The melody is in the treble staff, and the piano accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are: 'There was a star in Da - vid's land, In Da - vid's land ap -'. The second system starts with a measure rest in the treble staff, indicated by a box with the number '4'. The melody continues in the treble staff, and the piano accompaniment continues in the bass staff. The lyrics are: 'peared; And in King Her - od's cham - ber So bright it did shine there.' The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the bass staff.

There was a star in Da - vid's land, In Da - vid's land ap -

peared; And in King Her - od's cham - ber So bright it did shine there.

1. There was a star in David's land,
In David's land appeared,
And in King Herod's chamber,
So bright it did shine there.
2. The Wise Men, they soon spied it,
And told the King a-nigh,
A Princely Babe was born that night,
No King shall e'er destroy.
3. "If this be the truth," King Herod said,
"That thou hast told to me,
This roasted cock that lies in the dish,
Shall crow full senses three."
4. O the cock soon thrustened and feathered well,
By the work of God's own hand,
And he did crow full senses three,
In the dish where he did stand!

This legendary ballad of a miraculous happening at the table of Herod has been traced to early Danish sources of 1200 A.D. The English variant was collected by Cecil Sharp in Worchestershire. The singing of the story should be straightforward. Source: The Christmas Revels Songbook, 2nd edition, 1995. Nowell Sing We Clear do a similar version with slightly different words.