

Noel (D.C.M.)

Adapted from a traditional tune.

The musical score is written for piano in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music. The first system has 8 measures, the second 8 measures, the third 8 measures, and the fourth 8 measures. The final measure of the fourth system is a double bar line followed by a final chord and the text 'A - men.'

1 It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good-will to men,"
From heaven's all-gracious King!
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessèd angels sing.

3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has waited long;
Beneath the angel strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The words of peace they bring:
Oh! listen now, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing.

4 O Prince of Peace, Thou knowest well
This weary world below;
Thou seest how men climb the way
With painful steps and slow.
Oh! still the jarring sounds of earth
That round the pathway ring,
And bid the toilers rest awhile
To hear the angels sing! Amen.

Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1810 - 76.