

# OCP Choral Series

## A Virgin Most Pure

Assembly, SATB Choir, Descant, Keyboard, and Solo Instrument

English Traditional Carol  
Arranged by Christopher Walker

INTRO *Rustically* (♩ = ca. 144)

The Intro section consists of two staves. The top staff is labeled 'Instrument' and the bottom staff is labeled 'Keyboard'. Both are in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The Instrument part begins with a melodic line marked *mf* and includes several slurs and accents. The Keyboard part provides harmonic support, also marked *mf*, and includes a section marked *sim.* (simile) in the second measure.

### VERSES

The Verses section features four vocal parts: Solo, Men, Women, and All. The lyrics are as follows:

Solo	1.	A	vir - gin	most	pure	as	the	proph - ets	do
Men	2.	In	Beth - le - hem	Jew - ry	a	cit - y	there		
Women	3.	But	when	they	had	en - tered	the	cit - y	so
All	4.	Then	they	were	con - strain'd	in	a	sta - ble	to

The musical notation includes a vocal line with lyrics, a descant line, and a keyboard accompaniment line. The key signature remains one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4.

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From the collection IN FAITH, IN HOPE Songbook #12749 Compact Disc #12750

1. tell, hath brought forth a ba - by, as it hath be -  
 2. was, where Jo - seph and Ma - ry to - geth - er did  
 3. fair, a num - ber of peo - ple so might - y was  
 4. lie, where hors - es and ass - es they used for to

1. fell; to be our Re - deem - er from death, hell and  
 2. pass, and there to be tax - éd with man - y one  
 3. there, that Jo - seph and Ma - ry, whose sub - stance was  
 4. tie; their lodg - ing so sim - ple they took it no

1. sin, which Ad - am's trans - gres - sion had wrap - ped us in.  
 2. more, for Cae - sar com - mand - ed the same should be so.  
 3. small, could find in the inn there no lodg - ing at all.  
 4. scorn, but a - gainst the next morn - ing our Sav - ior was born.

## REFRAIN

**Instrument**  
*f*

**Descant**  
*f*

Aye, and there - fore\_\_\_ be\_\_\_ mer - ry, re - joice, re - joice, set

**Soprano/Alto**  
*f*

Aye, and there - fore\_\_\_ be\_\_\_ mer - ry, re - joice, and be you mer - ry, set

**Tenor**  
*f*

**Bass**

Aye, and there - fore\_\_\_ be\_\_\_ mer - ry, re - joice, be mer - ry, set

sor - row, set sor - row a - side; our\_\_\_

sor - row\_\_\_ a - side; Christ\_\_\_ Je - sus\_\_\_ our\_\_\_

sor - row, set sor - row a - side; our

Sav - ior was born at this tide.

Sav - ior was born at this tide.

Sav - ior was born at this tide. Re -

The first system of the musical score consists of four staves. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics "Sav - ior was born at this tide." The second staff is another vocal line with the same lyrics. The third staff is a piano accompaniment line with lyrics "Sav - ior was born at this tide. Re -". The bottom staff is a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C).

joyce, re - joice, re - joice! joyce!

The second system of the musical score consists of four staves. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics "joyce, re - joice, re - joice! joyce!". The second staff is a vocal line with lyrics "joyce, re - joice, re - joice! joyce!". The third staff is a vocal line with lyrics "joyce, re - joice, re - joice! joyce!". The bottom staff is a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The system includes performance markings such as "1-3", "D.S.", "Final", and "rit.".

# A Virgin Most Pure

SOLO INSTRUMENT

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§ VERSES 1-4

*mf*

15

REFRAIN

*f*

1-3

*D.S.*

Final

*rit.*

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## Performance Notes

Altos may sing the melody with the sopranos, as notated, or alternately, support the tenors on their line. The verses may be divided among the groups marked, or sung by the complete choir.

Added interest can come through the use of the instrumental part, which can be played up an octave for variety. A string bass or bass guitar may be added to the first beat of each measure. Percussion can also add color: add Indian bells on the first beat of alternate bars and a tambourine in the refrain.

This carol may be heard on the OCP Publications recording, “In Faith, In Hope,” edition 12750.

—Christopher Walker

# Assembly Edition

## A VIRGIN MOST PURE

English Traditional Carol

Verses



1. A vir - gin most pure as the proph - ets do
2. In Beth - le - hem Jew - ry a cit - y there
3. But when they had en - tered the cit - y so
4. Then they were con - strain'd in a sta - ble to



1. tell, hath brought forth a ba - by, as it hath be -
2. was, where Jo - seph and Ma - ry to - geth - er did
3. fair, a num - ber of peo - ple so might - y was
4. lie, where hors - es and ass - es they used for to



1. fell; to be our Re - deem - er from death, hell and
2. pass, and there to be tax - éd with man - y one
3. there, that Jo - seph and Ma - ry, whose sub - stance was
4. tie; their lodg - ing so sim - ple they took it no



1. sin, which Ad - am's trans - gres - sion had wrap - ped us in.
2. more, for Cae - sar com - mand - ed the same should be so.
3. small, could find in the inn there no lodg - ing at all.
4. scorn, but a - gainst the next morn - ing our Sav - ior was born.

Refrain



Aye, and there - fore be mer - ry, re - joice, and be you



mer - ry, set sor - row a - side; Christ Je - sus our



Sav - ior was born at this tide.