

Written for the Advanced Women's Chorale
Red Mountain High School (Mesa Arizona), Joseph Johnston, Director

Before the Paling of the Stars

to Lauren

Christina G. Rossetti

J. Edmund Hughes

SSA, unis. 3
Optional Solo/Soli *mp* plaintive

Gently rocking ♩ = 50

Unis. Be - fore the pal - ing of the stars, be -

Piano or Handbells *p*

Piano RH (or bells)
Optional: windchimes before introduction and played softly through the first verse.

poco

fore the win - ter morn, be - fore the ear - liest cock - crow,

*Soprano I 12
(Tutti) *mf* fuller

Je - sus Christ was born. Born in a sta - ble,

*All parts should be equally balanced through canon section (mm. 12-23).

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16

S cra - dled in a man - ger, in the world his hands were made,

(Tutti) *mf fuller*

S Born in a sta - ble, cra - dled in a man - ger,

(Tutti) *mf fuller*

A Born in a sta - ble,

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20

born a stran - ger.

in the world his hands were made, born a stran - ger.

cra - dled in a man - ger, in the world his hands were made,

25

warmly

Je - sus on his moth - er's breast
warmly
 Je - sus on his moth - er's breast
warmly
 born a stran - ger. Al - le

29

in the sta - ble cold, Spot - less lamb of God was he,
 in the sta - ble cold, Spot - less lamb of God was he,
 lu - ia. Al - le

Greensleeves (16th Century)

34

f joyful

Shep - herd of the fold. Let us kneel with
f joyful
 Shep - herd of the fold. Let us kneel with
f joyful
 lu - ia! Let us kneel with

38

Mar - y maid, with Jo - seph bent and hoar - y, with saint and an - gel,
 Mar - y maid, with Jo - seph bent and hoar - y, with saint and an - gel,
 Mar - y maid, with Jo - seph bent and hoar - y, with saint and an - gel,

ox and ass, to hail the King of Glo - ry.
 ox and ass, to hail the King of Glo - ry.
 ox and ass, to hail the King of Glo - ry.

44

mp

Be - fore the pal - ing of the stars, be - fore the win - ter
mp Be - fore the pal - ing of the stars, be - fore the win - ter
mp Be - fore the pal - ing of the stars, be - fore the win - ter
 Lower Alto optional

48 50

morn, be - fore the ear - liest cock - crow, Je - sus Christ_ was
 morn, be - fore the ear - liest cock - crow,
 morn, be - fore the cock - crow,

54

born.
 Je - sus Christ_ was born.
 *Optional Solo/Soli *p* freely, non accented
 Je - sus Christ_ was born.

SSA, unis. rit. *ppp*

Je - sus Christ_ was born.

Optional windchimes to end.

*If performed as Solo/Soli, distribute other voices evenly on Soprano I and II.