

A Virgin Unspotted

(Judea)

Traditional English

William Billings
(1746-1800)

A sprightly dance (two in a bar)

Soprano

1. A Vir - gin un - spot - ted, by Pro - phet fore - told, Should bring forth a Sav - iour which
2. At Beth - lem in Jew - ry a ci - ty there was, Where Jo - seph and Ma - ry to -
3. To teach us hu - mil - i - ty all this was done; Then learn we from hence, haugh - ty

Alto

Tenor

1. A Vir - gin un - spot - ted, by Pro - phet fore - told, Should bring forth a Sav - iour which
2. At Beth - lem in Jew - ry a ci - ty there was, Where Jo - seph and Ma - ry to -
3. To teach us hu - mil - i - ty all this was done; Then learn we from hence, haugh - ty

Bass

Organ

4

S.

now we be - hold, to be our Re - deem - er from death, hell and sin, Which
geth - er did pass, And there to be tax - ed with ma - ny one mo', For
pride for to shun. A man - ger's his cra - dle, who came from a - bove, The

A.

T.

now we be - hold, to be our Re - deem - er from death, hell and sin, Which
geth - er did pass, And there to be tax - ed with ma - ny one mo', For
pride for to shun. A man - ger's his cra - dle, who came from a - bove, The

B.

Org.

William Billings is the most important American composer of the 18th century. Though largely self-taught, Billings wrote many volumes of unaccompanied choral music including "The Singing Masters's Assistant" (1778) from which this Christmas Carol is taken. Billings expected some tenors to sing the soprano line and some sopranos to sing the tenor line: this style of singing became known as 'The Sacred Harp' and is still practised in the USA today.

7

S. Ad - am's trans - gress - ion in - vol - vèd us in.
Cae - sar com - man - ded the same should be so. Then___
Great God of mer - cy, of peace and of love.

A.

T. Ad - am's trans - gress - ion in - vol - vèd us in.
Cae - sar com - man - ded the same should be so. Then___
Great God of mer - cy, of peace and of love.

B.

Org.

9

S. *1. f* let us be mer - ry, put sor - row a - way, Our Sav - iour Christ Je - sus was born on this day. Then
2. p

A. *1. f* let us be mer - ry, put sor - row a - way, Our Sav - iour Christ Je - sus was born on this day. Then
2. p

T. *1. f* let us be mer - ry, put sor - row a - way, Our Sav - iour Christ Je - sus was born on this day. Then
2. p

B. *1. f* let us be mer - ry, put sor - row a - way, Our Sav - iour Christ Je - sus was born on this day. Then
2. p

Org.

13 *2nd time only*

S. let us be mer - ry put sor - row a - way Our Sa - viour Christ Je - sus was born on this day. Then

A. let us be mer - ry put sor - row a - way Our Sa - viour Christ Je - sus was born on this day. Then

T. let us be mer - ry put sor - row a - way Our Sa - viour Christ Je - sus was born on this day. Then

B. let us be mer - ry put sor - row a - way Our Sa - viour Christ Je - sus was born on this day. Then

Org. *2nd time only*