

London Gallery Quire 601

Text anon.

A Virgin most pure, the prophet foretold

Attrib. William Knapp (c1698-1768)

Edited by Francis Roads

[Air]

$\text{♩} = 144$

Soprano/
Tenor

Alto

Bass

6

S

A

B

11

S

A

B

16

S

A

B

Symphony

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

The musical score is written for Soprano, Alto, and Bass voices. It begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 144. The first system (measures 1-5) contains five numbered verses of lyrics. The second system (measures 6-10) continues the lyrics. The third system (measures 11-15) continues the lyrics. The fourth system (measures 16-29) includes a 'Symphony' section and concludes with the lyrics 'Then let us be merry, cast sorrow away, Our Saviour Christ Jesus was born on this day.' The score is in G major and 3/4 time.

29.9"

6. Then presently after the shepherds did spy
Vast numbers of angels to stand in the sky;
So merrily talking, so sweet they did sing,
All glory and praise to our heavenly King.

This tune is listed in Temperley's *Hymn Tune Index* (Oxford, 1998) as Tune 1681a, and ascribed there to William Knapp, in whose publication *Anthems for Christmas Day ...* (London, 1744) it is first known to have appeared in print, and from which this edition is made. However, many versions of both text and tune are found in the folk tradition. Knapp is known to have drawn music for his publications from a variety of sources. On this and on stylistic grounds, it appears doubtful to the present editor whether this tune was composed by Knapp himself, though the harmonisation is probably his.