

London Gallery Quire 673

Fröhliche Weihnacht

Rebecca S. Cook, 1870

German translation by Caroline Wichern (1836–1906)

Merry, merry Christmas everywhere! by Mrs Thomas J. Cook, 1870

adapted from the arrangement by Caroline Wichern (1836–1906)

Edited by Nicholas Markwell

Frisch [♩ = 72]
CHORUS.
f

Soprano [Air]
Alto
Tenor
Bass

„Fröh - li - che Weih - nacht ü - ber - all!“

[Instrumental]

tö - net durch die Lüf - te froh - er Schall.

5

S
A
T
B

Weih - nachts-ton, Weih - nachts - baum, Weih - nachts-duft in je - dem Raum!

9

S
A
T
B

„Fröh - li - che Weih - nacht ü - ber - all!“ tö - net durch die Lüf - te froh - er Schall.

Rit. Fine.

VERSE.
a tempo.

13

S

1. Da - rum Al - le stim - met In den Ju - bel - ton,
2. **Licht auf dun - klem We - ge, Un - ser Licht bis du,**
3. Was wir An - dern tha - ten, Sei ge - than für dich !

A

T

1. Da - rum Al - le stim - met In den Ju - bel - ton,
2. **Licht auf dun - klem We - ge, Un - ser Licht bis du,**
3. Was wir An - dern tha - ten, Sei ge - than für dich !

B

17

S

Denn es kommt das Licht der Welt Von des Va - ters Thron.
Denn du führst, die dir ver - traun, Ein zur sel' - gen Ruh.
Daß be - ken - nen Je - der muß : Christ - kind kam für mich.

A

T

Denn es kommt das Licht der Welt Von des Va - ters Thron.
Denn du führst, die dir ver - traun, Ein zur sel' - gen Ruh.
Daß be - ken - nen Je - der muß : Christ - kind kam für mich.

B

D.C.

This popular German carol has its origins in the American carol *Merry, merry Christmas everyone!* Initially, the credit for both words and music was ascribed to Mrs Thomas J. Cook in *Biglow & Main's Christmas Annual No. 2* (New York, 1870), but when the rather basic harmony was revised in *Songs for Little Folks* (New York, 1875), Mrs Cook was credited as being the composer only, the words now being ascribed to Rebecca S. Cook instead. As no other details are known, the identity of the two women is shrouded in mystery—some commentators believing therefore that they are, in fact, one and the same person.

The carol soon made its way to Germany, where it was published in a German translation by Caroline Wichern, in her *Alte und neue Weihnachtslieder für Schule und Haus* (Hamburg, 1880). Wichern was a music teacher at Ellerslie College in Manchester, a school for Kindergarten teachers, until 1895. She was instrumental in popularising *Stille Nacht!* in Britain, and was an associate of Johannes Brahms. Her arrangement is in three-part harmony for school children. The melody has been altered from the American original in several places, including an obvious misprint on the second note of the penultimate bar, where c" incorrectly reads b"—now corrected to c" for this edition. Her arrangement crossed the Atlantic to America very quickly indeed: it was printed in the German hymnal *Liederlust und Psalter*, compiled by Heinrich Liebhart, for use in Methodist Sunday Schools and families (Cincinnati, 1882).

The musical setting in this edition is primarily based on Wichern's arrangement, but adapted for SATB voices using some elements of the original 1870 composition (as revised in 1875) to provide four-part harmony. Wichern's German translation is as given in 1880, and does not take account of the minor variations introduced in more recent times. The opening four bars have been arranged as a vocal duet at the request of London Gallery Quire's Music Director, Phil Price.