Choral music for Christmas

A Christmas Hymn
(For the Beasts of the Field)

Ken Johnston

for unaccompanied SATB voices

Words by Will H. Ogilvie
and used with the kind permission of his great-granddaughter, Catherine Reid

W. H. Ogilvie (1869-1963) was born and brought up near Kelso in the Scottish borders.
When he was 20, he went to Australia to work. While there he had many poems published.
In his 30's he returned to Scotland and settled in the borders, where he continued to write.
There are memorial cairns to him in Bourke, Australia and on the road to Roberton in the
Scottish borders.

Composed January 2003

Duration of piece: 4' 30''

Another version of this piece is also available,
for unaccompanied female voices (SSAA)

A Christmas Hymn

(For the Beasts of the Field)

Poem - Will H. Ogilvie

for unaccompanied SATB voices

Music - Ken Johnston

Lyrics underlaid in the score:

Re-joice, re-joice, re-joice, all ox-en who feed in your stalls to-day, For those were your fore-fa-thers who fed where the Christ-child lay; Theirs was the light of the lan-tern and

Duration: 4' 30"

theirs the warmth of the byre; Theirs was the hay in the man-ger that man-tled the

ah

ah

ah

poco rit. **Tempo 1** ♩ = 60

World's De - sire! Re - joice, re - joice,

Re - joice, re - joice, re - joice,

Re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, re -

Re - joice, re - joice,

poco rit. **A little faster** ♩ = 66

re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, all sheep-flocks, for the

re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, all sheep-flocks, for the

joice, re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, all sheep-flocks, for the

re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, all sheep-flocks, for the

A little faster ♩ = 72

31

p

sires that fa - shioned your line____ ah_____

sires that fa - shioned your line__ ah_____

sires that fa - shioned your line   Were the sheep that the Shep - herds ten - ded   when the

sires that fa - shioned your line   ah_____

35

_____ ah_____

_____ ah_____ whose tel - ling shall ne - ver be

Star came forth to shine   And yours is part of the sto - ry   ah

mp   *poco cresc.*

ah_____

poco cresc.

poco rit.

40

mf   *dim.*

____ As long as the hills are__ pas - ture,   as long as the ri - vers

mf   *dim.*

done   As long as the hills are   pas - ture,   as long as the ri - vers

mf   *dim.*

____ As long as the hills are   pas - ture, as   long as the ri - vers

mf   *dim.*

____ As long as the hills are   pas - ture, as   long as the ri - vers

Tempo 1 ♩ = 60

run!_____ Re - joice, re - joice,

run!_____ Re - joice,_____ re - joice, re - joice, re - joice,_____

run!_____ Re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, re -

run!_____ Re - joice, re - joice, re -

poco rit.   **A little faster** ♩ = 66

re - joice,_____ re - joice, re - joice, all hor - ses, for the sake of the ass who

_____ re - joice,_____ re - joice, re - joice, all hor - ses, for the sake of the ass who

joice, re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, all hor - ses, for the sake of the ass who

joice, re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, all hor - ses, for the sake of the ass who

A little faster ♩ = 72

bore___ His load on the roy - al jour - ney and stood by the sta - ble

bore___ His load on the jour - ney and stood by the

bore His load on the jour - ney and stood by the

bore His load on the jour - ney and stood by the

60

Soprano: door   ah _____   And

Alto: door ____ ah _____ when he saw the dawn in the sky   And

Tenor: door ____ For his was a share of the glo - ry _____   And

Bass: door ____ ah _____   And

65

Soprano: lif - ted his head in the still - ness to hear ____ the Babe's first

Alto: lif - ted his head in the still - ness to hear the Babe's first

Tenor: lif - ted his head in the still - ness to hear the Babe's first

Bass: lif - ted his head in the still - ness to hear the Babe's first

69 **poco rit.**   **Slowly** ♩ = 60   **rit.**

Soprano: cry! ____   To hear the Babe's first cry!

Alto: cry! ____ Cry! ____ To hear ____ the Babe's first cry!

Tenor: cry!   Cry!   To hear the Babe's first cry!

Bass: cry!   Cry!   To hear ____ the Babe's first cry!