

## **Bless the Manger-Child**

A Collection of Twelve New Christmas Carols
for
Unison Voices

## Foreword

This little collection of original carols is gleaned from past issues of Lutheran Education. Bless the Manger-Child is made available with the permission of the editor of Lutheran Education as well as those who created these carols.

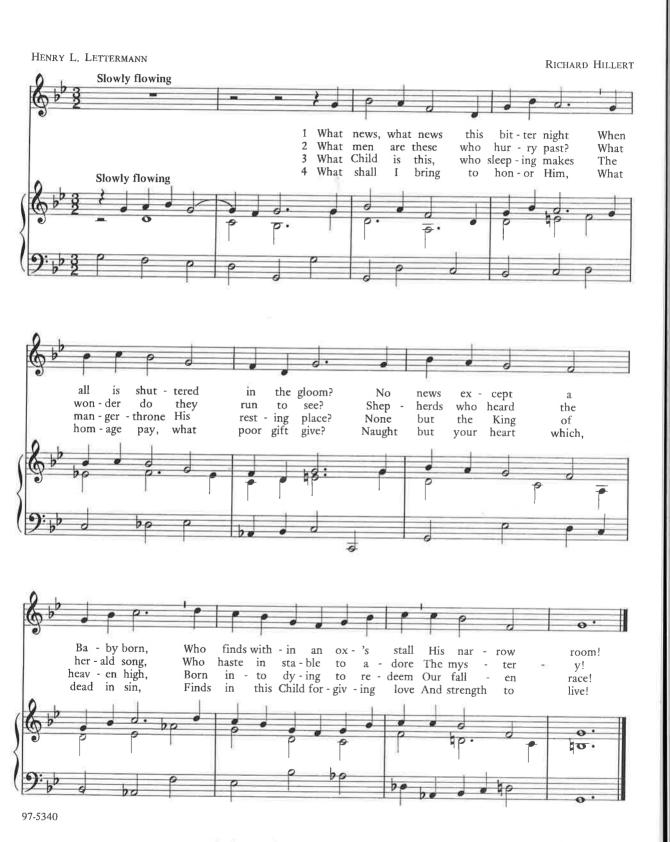
It has been customary for *Lutheran Education* to annually invite a composer to write an original carol for a fall/winter issue. The uniqueness of these carols in their textual as well as melodic content merit an exposure to the music world. Hence this collection.

Since all but 1 of the 12 carols are for unison voices, this collection is admirably suited for children's choirs as well as classroom use. Adult choirs might also find these carols a refreshing change from the traditional fare. Bless the Manger-Child may also find its way into the family circle during the holiday season—for a family gathering around the piano or as part of the Christian family's Advent/Christmas preparation.

Rod Schrank Epiphany 1976

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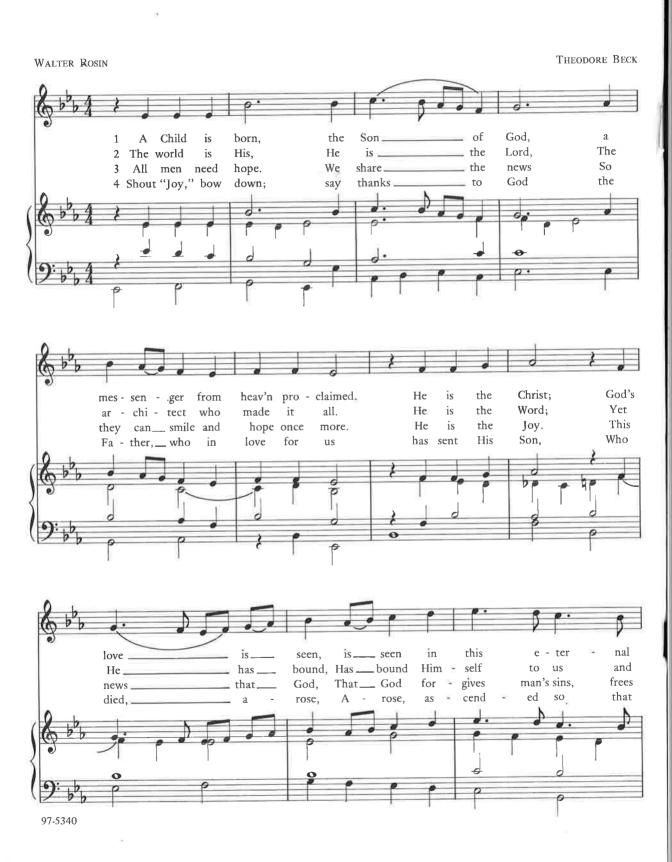
- 5 The lowly donkey could but bray, Alleluia! "I served His mother well today." Alleluia! "I carried her to David's town; From Nazareth I brought her down." Alleluia! Gloria! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 6 The cow did slowly move her head, Alleluia!
  "I gave my manger for His bed." Alleluia!
  "I'll let Him lie upon my hay;
  I'll seek my food some other way."
  Alleluia! Gloria! Alleluia!
  Alleluia! Christ is born! Alleluia!
- 7 And we, too, bring our gift of joy, Alleluia! For God has blessed us with this Boy. Alleluia! We sing with angel choirs who say, "Lord Jesus Christ is born today." Alleluia! Gloria! Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is born! Alleluia!





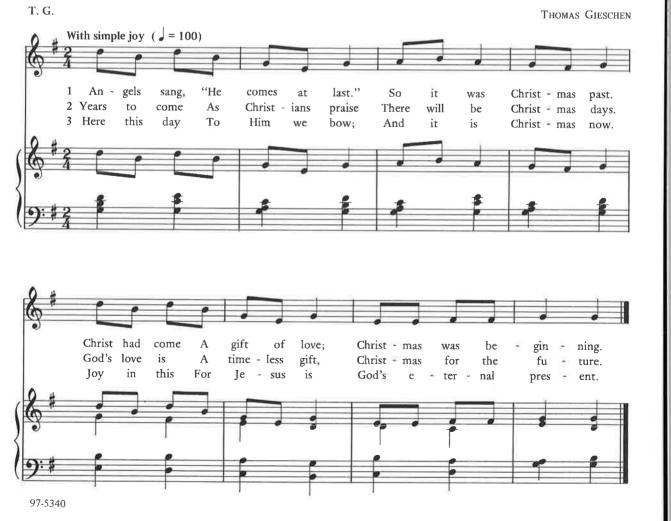






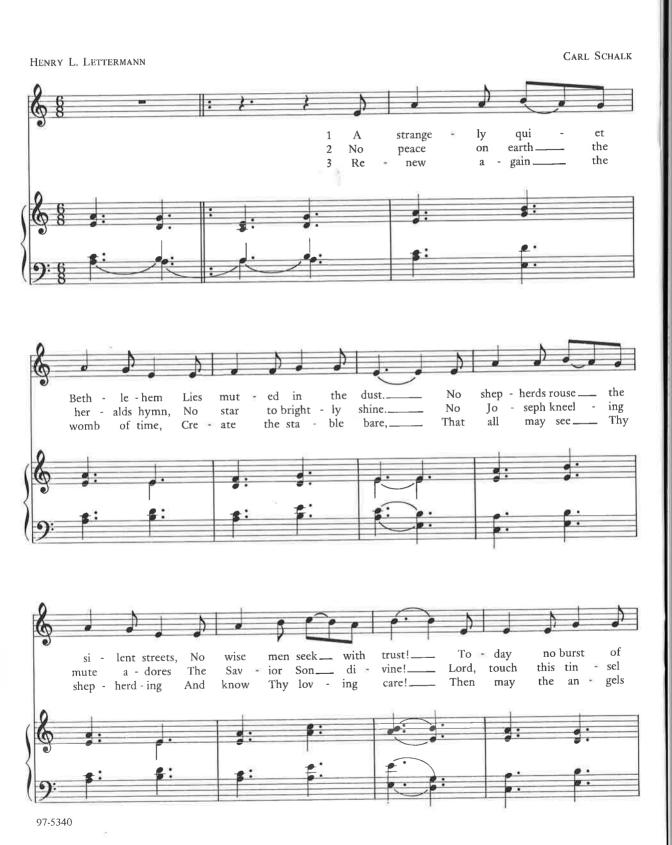


## The Timeless Gift

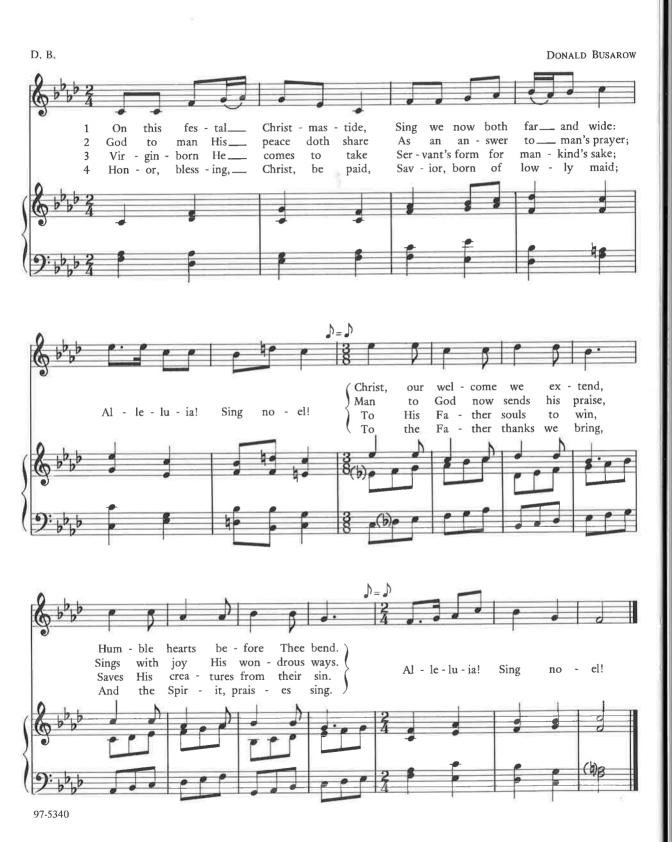














Five people are required for full realization of this piece, though as few as three can adequately perform it. Entire group sings verse "Be joyful... today" followed by person 1 singing refrain 1 (alone). Entire group repeats verse. Person 2 sings refrain 2 with person 1 singing refrain 1, together. Entire group repeats verse. Person 3 (male) sings refrain 3 together with persons 1 and 2 singing refrains 1 and 2 (three refrains simultaneously). Entire group repeats verse, etc.