

# OCP Choral Series

## A Virgin Most Pure

Assembly, SATB Choir, Descant, Keyboard, and Solo Instrument

English Traditional Carol  
Arranged by Christopher Walker

INTRO *Rustically* (♩ = ca. 144)

Instrument

Keyboard



### VERSES



Solo 1. A vir - gin most pure as the proph - ets do  
Men 2. In Beth - le - hem Jew - ry a cit - y there  
Women 3. But when they had en - tered the cit - y so  
All 4. Then they were con - strain'd in a sta - ble to

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From the collection IN FAITH, IN HOPE Songbook #12749 Compact Disc #12750

1. tell, hath brought forth a ba - by, as it hath be -  
 2. was, where Jo - seph and Ma - ry to - geth - er did  
 3. fair, a num - ber of peo - ple so might - y was  
 4. lie, where hors - es and ass - es they used for to

1. fell; to be our Re - deem - er from death, hell and  
 2. pass, and there to be tax - éd with man - y one  
 3. there, that Jo - seph and Ma - ry, whose sub - stance was  
 4. tie; their lodg - ing so sim - ple they took it no

1. sin, which Ad - am's trans - gres - sion had wrap - ped us in.  
 2. more, for Cae - sar com - mand - ed the same should be so.  
 3. small, could find in the inn there no lodg - ing at all.  
 4. scorn, but a - gainst the next morn - ing our Sav - ior was born.

## REFRAIN

**Instrument**  
*f*

**Descant**  
*f*

**Soprano/Alto**  
*f*

**Tenor**  
*f*

**Bass**

Aye, and there - fore\_\_\_ be\_\_\_ mer - ry, re - joice, re - joice, set

Aye, and there - fore\_\_\_ be\_\_\_ mer - ry, re - joice, and be you mer - ry, set

Aye, and there - fore\_\_\_ be\_\_\_ mer - ry, re - joice, be mer - ry, set

sor - row, set sor - row a - side; our\_\_\_

sor - row\_\_\_ a - side; Christ\_\_\_ Je - sus\_\_\_ our\_\_\_

sor - row, set sor - row a - side; our

Sav - ior was born at this tide.

Sav - ior was born at this tide.

Sav - ior was born at this tide. Re -

The first system of the musical score consists of four staves. The top two staves are vocal lines in treble clef, with lyrics "Sav - ior was born at this tide." The bottom two staves are piano accompaniment in treble and bass clefs. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The piano part features a steady accompaniment with some melodic lines in the right hand.

1-3 *D.S.* Final *rit.*

1-3 *D.S.* Final

1-3 *D.S.* Final

joyce, re - joice, re - joice! joyce!

1-3 *D.S.* Final *rit.*

The second system of the musical score continues from the first. It features three vocal lines and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are "joyce, re - joice, re - joice! joyce!". The system includes performance directions: "1-3" (first three measures), "D.S." (Da Capo), "Final", and "rit." (ritardando). The piano accompaniment includes a section with a "rit." marking. The key signature remains one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C).

# A Virgin Most Pure

SOLO INSTRUMENT

English Traditional Carol  
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§ VERSES 1-4

*mf*

15

REFRAIN

*f*

*mf*

1-3

*D.S.*

*rit.*

Final

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## Performance Notes

Altos may sing the melody with the sopranos, as notated, or alternately, support the tenors on their line. The verses may be divided among the groups marked, or sung by the complete choir.

Added interest can come through the use of the instrumental part, which can be played up an octave for variety. A string bass or bass guitar may be added to the first beat of each measure. Percussion can also add color: add Indian bells on the first beat of alternate bars and a tambourine in the refrain.

This carol may be heard on the OCP Publications recording, "In Faith, In Hope," edition 12750.

—Christopher Walker

# Assembly Edition

## A VIRGIN MOST PURE

English Traditional Carol

Verses



1. A vir - gin most pure as the proph - ets do
2. In Beth - le - hem Jew - ry a cit - y there
3. But when they had en - tered the cit - y so
4. Then they were con - strain'd in a sta - ble to



1. tell, hath brought forth a ba - by, as it hath be -
2. was, where Jo - seph and Ma - ry to - geth - er did
3. fair, a num - ber of peo - ple so might - y was
4. lie, where hors - es and ass - es they used for to



1. fell; to be our Re - deem - er from death, hell and
2. pass, and there to be tax - ed with man - y one
3. there, that Jo - seph and Ma - ry, whose sub - stance was
4. tie; their lodg - ing so sim - ple they took it no



1. sin, which Ad - am's trans - gres - sion had wrap - ped us in.
2. more, for Cae - sar com - mand - ed the same should be so.
3. small, could find in the inn there no lodg - ing at all.
4. scorn, but a - gainst the next morn - ing our Sav - ior was born.

Refrain



Aye, and there - fore be mer - ry, re - joice, and be you



mer - ry, set sor - row a - side; Christ Je - sus our



Sav - ior was born at this tide.