



# ST. THOMAS MORE CHORAL SERIES

## Leader In Starlight

Assembly, Cantor, SAB Choir, and Keyboard

Based on Numbers 24

Bill Tamblyn

**VERSE 1**

*mf*

Cantor

1. I see him— though not now; be - hold him— though he is not

Keyboard

*p legato*

*chaconne*

1. here. A star will come from the house of Ja - cob, and a

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1. scep - ter rise \_\_\_\_\_ from Is - ra - el.

**VERSE 2**

*p sotto voce*

2. Mas - ter of dreams: Jo - seph of E - gypt! Mas - ter of dreams: fa - ther of

2. Mo - ses! of dreams: Ba - laam of Peth - or! En - chant - ers!

**VERSE 3**

Cantor

*mp*

2. A - ra - bian Ma - gi! 3. Why are you so

Choir/Assembly

*p*

I see him— though not now; be -

*pp*

3. cer - tain? You are not Jew, but a - li - en!

hold him— though he is not here. A star will

hold him— though he is not here. A star will

hold him— though he is not here. A star will

**VERSE 4**

*f*

3. We dis - be - lieve then, as now! 4. O -

come from the house of Ja - cob, and a scep - ter rise

come from the house of Ja - cob, and a scep - ter rise

4. - pen — our eyes now! Wake us from

— from Is - ra - el.

This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics: "4. - pen — our eyes now! Wake us from". The second staff is another vocal line with lyrics: "— from Is - ra - el.". The piano accompaniment is shown in the third and fourth staves, with dynamics *f* and *pp*. A *mp* dynamic is marked above the first vocal staff. A triplet of eighth notes is indicated above the final measure of the first vocal staff.

4. sleep! — Why are we blind? Why do we

This system contains the next two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics: "4. sleep! — Why are we blind? Why do we". The second staff is another vocal line. The piano accompaniment is shown in the third and fourth staves. Dynamics *f* and *pp* are present. Triplet markings are shown above the final two measures of the top vocal staff.

Cantor

4. fail to see our own?

Soprano/Assembly

Alto/Bass

I see him—

Nothing to

This system contains the final two staves of music. The top staff is for the Cantor with lyrics: "4. fail to see our own?". The second staff is for Soprano/Assembly with lyrics: "I see him—". The third staff is for Alto/Bass with lyrics: "Nothing to". The piano accompaniment is shown in the fourth and fifth staves, with dynamics *f* and *pp*. A *p* dynamic is marked above the Soprano/Assembly staff.

VERSE 5

*p*

5. Lead - er in star - light!

though not now; be - hold him— though he is not

touch! (Yet I know you are here!)

5. Born here a - mong us.

here. A star will come from the house of Ja - cob,

Noth - ing to see, (noth - ing to fear!) A voice cries

5. Star - king! Star - king! Star -  
and a scep - ter rise from Is - ra - el.  
from Ra - mah! Which way to turn? Which way to turn?

*f* *mf* *p*  
*f* *mp*  
*f* *pp*

Cantor  
5. - king of Da - vid's line.  
Alto/Bass *p* Which way to turn? (Back to *pp*  
*senza cresc.*

*sotto voce pp* *molto rit.*

5. I see him— though he is not here.

dreams? Back to dreams? Back — to dreams?)

*molto rit.*

## Performance Notes

In *The Birth of the Messiah* (Doubleday), Raymond E. Brown, SS, suggests that the passage from Numbers quoted as the first four lines of the poem have a Messianic interpretation. “In the Judaism before Jesus’ time, this passage had already been applied to the Messiah, the anointed king” (pp 195 op.cit).

I took these lines as a focus for my poem on dreams and our failure to recognize their value as revelation.

—B.T.

## Assembly Edition

### LEADER IN STARLIGHT

Based on Numbers 24

Bill Tamblin

**VERSES 1 & 2: Cantor**

1. I see him—though not now;  
behold him—though he is not here.  
A star will come from the house of Jacob,  
and a scepter rise from Israel.
2. Master of dreams: Joseph of Egypt!  
Master of dreams: father of Moses!  
of dreams: Balaam of Pethor!  
Enchanters! Arabian Magi!

**REFRAIN: Assembly**



I see him - though not now;      be- hold him - though he is not  
here.      A star will come from the house of Ja - cob,  
and a scep - ter rise      from Is - ra - el.

**VERSES 3 & 4: Cantor**

3. Why are you so certain?  
You are not Jew, but alien!  
We disbelieve then, as now!
4. Open our eyes now!  
Wake us from sleep!  
Why are we blind?  
Why do we fail to see our own?

**REFRAIN: with Choir**

Nothing to touch!  
(Yet I know you are here!)  
Nothing to see,  
(nothing to fear!)  
A voice cries from Ramah!  
Which way to turn?  
(Back to dreams?)

**VERSE 5: Cantor**

5. Leader in starlight!  
Born here among us.  
Star-king of David's line.  
I see him—though he is not here.

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