

O Poor Little Jesus

American traditional carol

Arranged by Christopher Willcock

Expressively (♩ = ca. 66)

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

Piano

mp

mp

mp *legato*

mp

mp

1. O _____
2. O _____
3. Come _____ down, _____

mp *legato*

mp

1. poor lit - tle Je - sus, _____ world _____ gon - na break your heart. There'll be
2. Ma - ry she the moth - er. _____ Ma - ry she bow down and cry, For there's
3. all you ho - ly an - gels. _____ Sing round him with your gold - en harps, For some-

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1. no place to lay — your head, — my Lord. — } O — poor lit-tle Je - sus.
 2. no place to lay — his head, — my Lord. — }
 3. -day he will die — to save — this world. — }

Performance Notes

O POOR LITTLE JESUS

The text of this American traditional carol picks up some of the ambiguity surrounding Jesus' birth: joy at his coming mixed with acknowledgment of his future death. This realization should guide the performance. The setting is for SATB choir alternating between accompanied and *a cappella* verses. The singing should be well sustained and responsive to the rise and fall of the melodic shape of the phrases. While the dynamic never moves above the moderately soft, the tone should remain intensely expressive.

WHAT YOU GONNA CALL THIS PRETTY LITTLE BABY

An *a cappella* setting for SATB choir of this American traditional carol. The rocking harmonies should be sung with great smoothness and without lapsing into sentimentality. Sustained breathing and consciousness of phrase shapes are needed to interpret the spirit of this lullaby. A soprano voice will sing the first part of the short verses over the choir's sustained chords, then the choir picks up the end of each verse in a softly, expressive phrase. The verses are sung without interruption; the refrain is only at the beginning and at the end.

—C.W.

What You Gonna Call Your Pretty Little Baby?

American traditional carol

Arranged by Christopher Willcock

REFRAIN: *Slowly* (♩ = ca. 66)

Soprano
Alto

What you gon-na call your pret-ty lit-tle ba-by, What you gon-na call your

Tenor
Bass

Oo ————— What you gon-na call your

pret-ty lit-tle ba-by, What you gon-na call your pret-ty lit-tle ba-by, Born, born in Beth-le-hem? — *Fine*

pret-ty lit-tle ba-by, Oo ————— Born, — born in Beth-le-hem? —

VERSES

S Solo *mf* All *p* *D.C. after Verse 3*

1. Some say — one thing, I'll say — — n-uel, }
 2. Some call him one thing, I'll call him — sus, } Born, born in Beth-le-hem. —
 3. Sweet lit-tle ba-by born in a man-ger, }

A *mp* *p*

Oo ————— Born, — born in Beth-le-hem. —

T *mp* *p*

B