

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

US-American Carol

Text: Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1849

Richard Storrs Willis, 1850

It came up-on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old. From

6

an - gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold: "Peace

10

on the earth good will to men from heav'n's all gra - cious King." The

14

world in sol - emn still - ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.

18

musical notation for the fifth system of the piece, continuing the piano accompaniment.

25

Musical notation for measures 25-30. The system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The melody in the treble clef starts with a quarter note G4, followed by eighth notes A4-B4, quarter notes C5-B4, and a half note A4. The bass clef accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern: G3-A3-B3-C4-D4-E4-F4-G4.

31

Musical notation for measures 31-34. The treble clef staff continues the melody with quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5. The bass clef staff continues the eighth-note accompaniment. The system concludes with a double bar line.

35

Musical notation for measures 35-40. The treble clef staff features a more complex melody with eighth and quarter notes, including a sharp sign (#) on the F5 line. The bass clef staff continues the eighth-note accompaniment with some rests.

41

Musical notation for measures 41-45. The treble clef staff continues the melody with quarter and eighth notes. The bass clef staff continues the accompaniment. The system concludes with a double bar line.

46

Musical notation for measures 46-51. The treble clef staff continues the melody with quarter and eighth notes. The bass clef staff continues the accompaniment. The system concludes with a double bar line.

System 1: Treble and bass clefs. Treble clef contains a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, and a sustained chord. Bass clef contains a bass line with eighth notes and a chord with a sharp sign.

57

System 2: Treble and bass clefs. Treble clef contains a melodic line with eighth notes and a chord. Bass clef contains a bass line with eighth notes and a chord with a sharp sign.

63

System 3: Treble and bass clefs. Treble clef contains a melodic line with eighth notes and a chord. Bass clef contains a bass line with eighth notes and a chord with a sharp sign.

69

System 4: Treble and bass clefs. Treble clef contains a melodic line with eighth notes and a chord. Bass clef contains a bass line with eighth notes and a chord with a sharp sign.

75

System 5: Treble and bass clefs. Treble clef contains a melodic line with eighth notes and a chord. Bass clef contains a bass line with eighth notes and a chord with a sharp sign.

81

System 6: Treble and bass clefs. Treble clef contains a melodic line with eighth notes and a chord. Bass clef contains a bass line with eighth notes and a chord with a sharp sign.

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to men
From heaven's all-gracious King" –
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel-sounds
The blessed angels sing.

But with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love song which they bring; –
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing!

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing; –
Oh, rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on
By prophet bards foretold,
When, with the ever circling years
Shall come the age of gold;
When Peace shall over all the earth,
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song,
Which now the angels sing.