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From the SelectedWorks of Keith D Rowley

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## How Far Is It to Bethlehem? - 2-part Choir

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# A Nativity Song

(How Far Is It to Bethlehem?)  
for 2-Part Choir and Piano

Words by  
Frances Chesterton

Music by  
Keith D Rowley

$\text{♩} = 72$



*mf*

The piano introduction consists of two staves. The right hand plays a series of chords and single notes in a 6/8 time signature, while the left hand plays a simple bass line. The music is marked *mf*.

5 Part 1 10

*mf* How far is it to Beth - le - hem? Shall we find the sta - ble room

Part 2

*mf* Not ve - ry far.



This system contains two vocal parts and piano accompaniment for measures 5 through 10. Part 1 (Soprano) and Part 2 (Alto) sing the lyrics. The piano accompaniment supports the vocal lines with chords and a steady bass line. The dynamic is *mf*.

14

Lit by a star? Can we see the lit - tle Child,

Is he with - in?



This system contains two vocal parts and piano accompaniment for measures 11 through 14. The vocal parts continue the lyrics. The piano accompaniment features some arpeggiated chords. The dynamic is *mf*.

19

If we lift the wood - en latch May we go in?



This system contains two vocal parts and piano accompaniment for measures 15 through 19. The vocal parts conclude the lyrics. The piano accompaniment ends with a final chord and a fermata. The dynamic is *mf*.

24 *mf* 28

May we stroke the crea-tures there, Ox, ass, or sheep? May we peep like them and see

32

Je - sus a - sleep? If we touch His ti - ny hand Will he a - wake?

37

Will He know we've come so far Just for His sake?

42 *f* *p* 46

Great kings have pre-cious gifts And we have naught, Lit - tle smiles and lit - tle tears

50

Are all we brought. For all wea - ry child - ren Ma - ry must weep,

55

Here, on his bed of straw, Sleep, child - ren sleep.

no rit.

60 *ff*

God in His Mo - thers arms, Babes in the byre,

64 *p* rit.

Sleep, as they sleep who find Their heart's de - sire.