

David Sadler

I sing of a maiden

Carol for SATB voices

for my wife Sherlee
I sing of a maiden

Words: Anon. 15th century

David Sadler

Tempo 1: Very gentle (2 in a bar)

$\text{♩} = \text{c.}52 - 56$

SOPRANO *mp*
I sing of a mai - den That is make - less. King of all

ALTO *mp*
I sing of a mai - den_ That is make - less. King of all

TENOR *mp*
I sing of a mai - den That is make - less. King of all

BASS *mp*
I sing of a mai - den That is make - less. King of all

Tempo 1: Very gentle (2 in a bar)

$\text{♩} = \text{c.}52 - 56$

Piano *mp*
(rehearsal only)

Brief notes about the text and performance:

Most old spellings have been modernised. 'Kings' replaces 'kinges', 'still' and 'April' displace 'stille' and 'Aprille', and 'grass' is substituted for 'gras'.

'Makeless' means 'matchless' or 'priceless', 'a' to sound as in 'father'.

Ches' is an old spelling of 'chose'.

Some versions of the poem have 'There' instead of 'Where' in verse 2.

'Bower' and 'flower' in verse 3 should be sung as one syllable - 'bow'r' and 'flow'r' - rather than the two syllables as in speech.

In any performance there should be a sense of the gentle two-beat flow throughout, as well as expression in which there is a discernible sense of awe at this miraculous birth.

6

kings, of all kings To her son she ches. He

kings, of all kings To her son she ches. He

kings, of all kings To her son she ches. He

kings, of all kings To her son she ches. He

12

came all so still Where his mother was, As dew in

came all so still Where his mother was, As dew in

came all so still Where his mother was, As dew in

came all so still Where his mother was, As dew in

A - pril That fal - leth, fal - leth on the grass. He

A - pril That fal - leth, fal - leth on the grass. He

A - pril That fal - leth, fal - leth on the grass. He

A - pril That fal - leth, fal - leth on the grass. He

pp

came all so still To his moth-er's bower, As dew in A - pril That

came all so still To his moth-er's bower, As dew in A - pril That

came all so still To his moth-er's bower, As dew in A - pril That

came all so still To his moth-er's bower, As dew in A - pril That

pp

Tempo 2 (slower - still in 2) and sung as a whisper

$\text{♩} = 40$

5

30

ppp

fal - leth on the flower. He came all so still Where his moth-er

ppp

fal - leth on the flower. He came all so still Where his moth-er

ppp

fal - leth on the flower. He came all so still Where his moth-er

ppp

fal - leth on the flower. He came all so still Where his moth-er

Tempo 2 (slower - still in 2) and sung as a whisper

$\text{♩} = 40$

ppp

36

lay, As dew in A - pril That fal-leth on the spray.

lay, As dew in A - pril That fal-leth on the spray.

lay, As dew in A - pril That fal-leth on the spray.

lay, As dew in A - pril That fal-leth on the spray.

6 **Tempo 1**

42 *mf*

Mo - ther and mai - den was ne - ver none but she; Well may such a

mf

Mo - ther and mai - den was ne - ver none but she; Well may such a

mf

Mo - ther and mai - den was ne - ver none but she; Well may such a

mf

Mo - ther and mai - den was ne - ver none but she; Well may such a

Tempo 1

Tempo 2

47 *f* *rit.*

la - dy God's mo-ther be, God's mo-ther be.

f *rit.*

la - dy God's mo-ther be, God's mo-ther be.

f *rit.*

la - dy God's mo-ther be, God's mo-ther be.

f *rit.*

la - dy God's mo-ther be, God's mo-ther be.

Tempo 2 *rit.*