

Four Selden Carols

1. As I lay upon a night (Alma redemptoris mater)

Text: Selden MS. (B.26, ff.18 and B. 26, f.18v)* Music by Ronald Center
(edited by Barry Peter Ould)

mp

SOPRANO
As I lay up - on a night, For sooth I

mp

ALTO
As I lay up - on a night, For sooth I

mp

TENOR
As I lay up - on a night, For sooth I

mp

BASS
As I lay up - on a night, For sooth I

Piano
mp
for rehearsal only

7

p

saw a seem - ly sight. I be - held a bird so

p

saw a seem - ly sight. I be - held a bird so

p

saw a seem - ly sight. I be - held a bird so

p

saw a seem - ly sight. I be - held a bird so

p

*Words attributed to John Dunstable (c. 1390-1453)

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14

bright; A child she bare up - on her knee. Her look - ing was so

bright; A child she bare up - on her knee. Her look - ing was so

bright; A child she bare up - on her knee. Her look - ing was so

bright; A child she bare up - on her knee. Her look - ing was so

20

love - ly, Her sem-blance was so sweet; Of all my care and sor - row She

love - ly, Her sem-blance was so sweet; Of all my care and sor - row She

love - ly, Her sem-blance was so sweet; Of all my care and sor - row She

love - ly, Her sem-blance was so sweet; Of all my care and sor - row She

25

mp

may my ba - lys* beat. As I lay up - on a night,

mp

may my ba - lys* beat. As I lay up - on a night,

mp

may my ba - lys* beat. As I lay up - on a night,

mp

may my ba - lys* beat. As I lay up - on a night,

mp

*alleviate my troubles

31

p

For sooth I saw a seem - ly sight I be -

p

For sooth I saw a seem - ly sight I be -

p

sooth I saw a seem - ly sight I be -

p

For sooth I saw a seem - ly sight I be -

38

-held a bird so bright; A child she bare up - on her knee. Her

-held a bird so bright; A child she bare up - on her knee. Her

-held a bird so bright; A child she bare up - on her knee. Her

-held a bird so bright; A child she bare up - on her knee. Her

45

look - ing was so love Her sem-blance was so sweet; Of all my care and

look - ing was so love ly, Her sem-blance was so sweet; Of all my care and

look - ing was so love - ly, Her sem-blance was so sweet; Of all my care and

look - ing was so love - ly, Her sem-blance was so sweet; Of all my care and

p mp

p mp

p mp

p mp

p mp

50

sor - row She may my ba - lys beat. As I lay up - on a

sor - row She may my ba - lys beat. As I lay up - on a

sor - row She may my ba - lys beat. As I lay up on a

sor - row She may my ba - lys beat. As lay up - on a

56

night, For sooth I saw a seem - ly sight.

night, sooth I saw a seem - ly sight.

night, For sooth I saw a seem - ly sight.

night, For sooth I saw a seem - ly sight.

2. Let us all be glad together (Omnes una gaudeamus)

Text: Selden MS. (B. 26, f. 11) c. 1450

Music by Ronald Center
(edited by Barry Peter Ould)

SOPRANO *mp*
Let us all be glad to - ge - ther! Let us all be

ALTO *mp*
us all be

TENOR *mp*
Let us all be

BASS *mp*
Let us all be

Piano *mp*
for rehearsal only

5 *mf*
glad to - ge - ther! From mo - ther maid He springs to - day Who

mf
glad to - ge - ther! From mo - ther maid He springs to - day Who

mf
glad to - ge - ther! From mo - ther maid He springs to - day Who

mf
glad to - ge - ther! From mo - ther maid He springs to - day Who

mf

10

lights up with _____ un - dy - ing ray. Took His bo - dy from the maid _____

lights up with _____ un - dy - ing ray. Took His bo - dy from the maid _____

lights us with _____ un - dy - ing ray. Took His bo - dy from the maid _____

lights us with _____ un - dy - ing ray. Took His bo - dy from the maid _____

And with _____ his dwel - ling made. _____ From mo - ther maid _____

And with _____ us His dwel - ling made. _____ From mo - ther maid _____

And with _____ us His dwel - ling made. _____ From mo - ther maid _____

And with _____ us His dwel - ling made. _____ From mo - ther maid _____

15

And with _____ his dwel - ling made. _____ From mo - ther maid _____

And with _____ us His dwel - ling made. _____ From mo - ther maid _____

And with _____ us His dwel - ling made. _____ From mo - ther maid _____

And with _____ us His dwel - ling made. _____ From mo - ther maid _____

20 *mf*

— He springs to - day Who lights us with _____ un - dy - ing ray.

— He springs to - day Who lights us with _____ un - dy - ing ray.

— He springs to - day Who lights us with _____ un - dy - ing ray.

— He springs to - day Who lights us with _____ un - dy - ing ray.

mf

25 *mp*

So us may He all _____ ite _____ Hou - sing in His end - less light. _____

mp

Hou - sing in His end - less light. _____

mp

Hou - sing in His end - less light. _____

mp

Hou - sing in His end - less light. _____

mp

30

mf

From mo - ther maid _____ He springs to - day Who lights us with _____

mf

From mo - ther maid _____ He springs to - day Who lights us with _____

mf

From mo - ther maid _____ He springs to - day Who lights us with _____

mf

From mo - ther maid _____ He springs to - day Who lights us with _____

mf

35

p

un - dy - ing ray. He is come our souls to save _____ Up - on the cross our

p

un - dy - ing ray. He is come our souls to save _____ Up - on the cross our

p

un - dy - ing ray. He is come our souls to save _____ Up - on the cross our

p

un - dy - ing ray. He is come our souls to save _____ Up - on the cross our

p

41

price He gave _____ From mo-ther maid _____ He springs to - day Who lights us with _____

price He gave _____ From mo-ther maid _____ He springs to - day Who lights us with _____

price He gave _____ From mo-ther maid _____ He springs to - day Who lights us with _____

price He gave _____ From mo-ther maid _____ He springs to - day Who lights us with _____

price He gave _____ From mo-ther maid _____ He springs to - day Who lights us with _____

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

47

— un - dy - ing ray. Let us all be glad to - ge - ther.

— un - dy - ing ray. Let us all be glad to - ge - ther.

un - dy - ing ray. Let us all be glad to - ge - ther.

un - dy - ing ray. Let us all be glad to - ge - ther.

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

3. Of a rose singè we

Text: Selden MS. (B. 26, f.9v) c. 1450

Music by Ronald Center

(edited by Barry Peter Ould)

Slowly and tenderly
mf

SOPRANO
Of a rose sin-gè we: Mi-ste-ri-um mi-ra-bi-le. This rose is

ALTO
Of a rose sin-gè we: Mi-ste-ri-um mi-ra-bi-le. This rose is

TENOR
Of a rose sin-gè we: Mi-ste-ri-um mi-ra-bi-le. This rose is

BASS
Of a rose sin-gè we: Mi-ste-ri-um mi-ra-bi-le. This rose is

Piano
mf
for rehearsal only

6

rail - ed on a rys,* He hath brought the Prince of prys,* And in this ti-mè sooth it is,

rail - ed on a rys,* He hath brought the Prince of prys,* And in this ti-mè sooth it is,

rail - ed on a rys,* He hath brought the Prince of prys,* And in this ti-mè sooth it is,

rail - ed on a rys,* He hath brought the Prince of prys,* And in this ti-mè sooth it is,

*railed on a rys = set on a branch

* = peace

11 *mp* *mf*

Vi - ri si - ne se - mi - ne. Of a rose sin - gè we: Mi - ste - ri - um mi - ra - bi -

mp *mf*

Vi - ri si - ne se - mi - ne. Of a rose sin - gè we: Mi - ste - ri - um - ra - bi -

mp *mf*

Vi - ri si - ne se - mi - ne. Of a rose sin - gè we: Mi - ste - ri - um mi - ra - bi -

mp *mf*

Vi - ri si - ne se - mi - ne. Of a rose sin - gè we: Mi - ste - ri - um mi - ra - bi -

17

-le. This rose is red of col - our bright, Through whom our jo - yè did a -

-le. This rose is of col - our bright, Through whom our jo - yè did a -

This rose is red of co - lour bright, Through whom our jo - yè did a -

-le. This rose is red of col - our bright, Through whom our jo - yè did a -

21

-light, Up-on a bles-sèd Christ-mas night. Cla - ro Da - vid ger - mi - ne. Of a

-light, Up-on a bles-sèd Christ-mas night. Cla - ro Da - vid ger - mi - ne. Of a

-light, Up-on a bles-sèd Christ-mas night. Cla - ro Da - vid ger - mi - ne. Of a

-light, Up-on a bles-sèd Christ-mas night. Cla - ro Da - vid ger - mi - ne. Of a

mp mf

mp mf

mp mf

mp mf

mp mf

mp mf

26

rose sin-gè we: Mi-ste-ri - um mi-ra-bi - le. Of this_ rose was Christ y - bore, To save man-

rose sin-gè ri - um mi-ra-bi - le. Of this_ rose was Christ y - bore, To save man-

rose sin-gè we: Mi-ste-ri - um mi-ra-bi - le. Of this_ rose was Christ y - bore, To save man-

rose sin-gè we: Mi-ste-ri - um mi-ra-bi - le. Of this_ rose was Christ y - bore. To save man-

mp mf

mp mf

mp mf

mp mf

32

mp

-kind that was for-lore, And us al - lè from sin-nès sore, Pro-phe - ta - rum car - mi-ne.

mp

-kind that was for-lore, And us al - lè from sin-nès sore, Pro-phe - ta - rum car - mi-ne.

mp

-kind that was for-lore, And us al - lè from sin-nès sore, Pro-phe - ta - rum car - mi-ne.

mp

-kind that was for-lore, And us al - lè from sin-nès sore, Pro-phe - ta - rum car - mi-ne.

37

mf

Of a rose sin-gè we: Mi-ste - ri - um mi - ra - bi - le. This rose, of

mf

Of a rose sin-gè we: Mi-ste - ri - um mi - ra - bi - le. This rose, of

mf

Of a rose sin-gè we: Mi-ste - ri - um mi - ra - bi - le. This rose, of

mf

Of a rose sin-gè we: Mi-ste - ri - um mi - ra - bi - le. This rose, of

42

flowe - rès she is___ flow - er She would not___ fade in a - ny show - er; To sin - ful

flowe - rès she is___ flow - er She would not___ fade___ in a - ny show - er; To sin - ful

flowe - rès is___ flower would not___ fade in a - ny show - er; To sin - ful

flowe - rès is___ flower would not___ fade in a - ny show - er; To sin - ful

46

men she sent suc - cour,___ Mi - ra ple - ni - tu - di - ne. Of a rose sin - gè *mf*

men she sent suc - cour,___ Mi - ra___ ple - ni - tu - di - ne. Of a rose sin - gè *mf*

men she sent suc - cour,___ Mi - ra ple - ni - tu - di - ne. Of a rose sin - gè *mf*

men she sent suc - cour,___ Mi - ra ple - ni - tu - di - ne. Of a rose sin - gè *mf*

51

we: Mi-ste - ri - um mi - ra - bi - le. This rose— is so fair of hue, in maide Ma-

we: Mi-ste - ri - um mi - ra - bi - le. This rose— is so fair of hue, in maide Ma-

we: Mi-ste - ri - um mi - ra - bi - le. This rose— is so fair of hue, in maide Ma-

we: Mi-ste - ri - um mi - ra - bi - le. This rose— is fair of hue, in maide Ma-

56

-ry that is so true, Y-born was He Lord of vir-tue, Sal - va-tor si - ne cri - mi-ne. *mp*

-ry that is so true, Y-born was He Lord of vir-tue, Sal - va-tor si - ne cri - mi-ne. *mp*

that is so true, Y-born was He Lord of vir-tue, Sal - va-tor si - ne cri - mi-ne. *mp*

-ry that is so true, Y-born was He Lord of vir-tue, Sal - va-tor si - ne cri - mi-ne. *mp*

4. This day

Text: Selden MS. (B. 26, f. 23v) c. 1450

Music by Ronald Center

(edited by Barry Peter Ould)

Poco lento
mf very tenderly

SOPRANO
A heav'n - ly song, I dare well say, Is sung in earth to man this day. This

ALTO
A heav'n - ly song, I dare well say, Is sung in earth to man this day. This

TENOR
A heav'n - ly song, I dare well say, Is sung in earth to man this day. This

BASS
A heav'n - ly song, I dare well say, Is sung in earth to man this day. This

Piano
Poco lento
mf for rehearsal only

5

is the song that ye shall hear, God is come from His em-pire, And is made man with

is the song that ye shall hear, God is come from His em-pire, And is made man with

is the song that ye shall hear, God is come from His em-pire, And is made man with

is the song that ye shall hear, God is come from His em-pire, And is made man with

10

mf

high de-sire, This day. An heav'n-ly song, I dare well say, Is sung in earth to

mf

high de-sire, This day. An heav'n-ly song, I dare well say, Is sung in earth to

mf

high de-sire, This day. An heav'n-ly song, I dare well say, Is sung in earth to

mf

high de-sire, This day. An heav'n-ly song, I dare well say, Is sung in earth to



The piano accompaniment for measures 10-14 consists of two staves. The right hand plays a series of chords, primarily triads and dyads, in a steady rhythm. The left hand provides a bass line with some moving eighth notes and rests. The overall texture is simple and accompanimental.

15

man this day. He took our kind all of a maid, By ox and ass he

man this day. He took our kind all of a maid, By ox and ass he

man this day. He took our kind all of a maid, By ox and ass he

man this day. He took our kind all of a maid, By ox and ass he



The piano accompaniment for measures 15-19 continues with a similar texture to the previous section. The right hand features chords that support the vocal melody, while the left hand maintains a consistent bass line with occasional eighth-note movement.

28

in my mind, That He who all may loose and bind, Would be laid by bea-stès un-kind, This

in my mind, That He who all may loose and bind, — Would be laid by bea-stès un-kind, This

in my mind, That He who all may loose and bind, — Would be laid by bea-stès un-kind, This

in my mind, That He who all may loose and bind, Would be laid by bea-stès un-kind, — This

33

day. — An heav'n - ly song, I dare well say, Is sung in earth to

day. — An heav'n - ly song, I dare well say, Is sung in earth to

day. — An heav'n - ly song, I dare well say, Is sung in earth to

day. — An heav'n - ly song, I dare well say, Is sung in earth to

37

man this day. He is a Lord and by na - ture A mai - den's breast He

man this day. He is a Lord and by na - ture A mai - den's breast He

man this day. He is a Lord and by na - ture A mai - den's breast He

man this day. He is a Lord and by na - ture A mai - den's breast He

41

sucked full pure. Hea - ven and earth are in His cure, This day.

sucked full pure. Hea - ven and earth are in His cure, This day.

sucked full pure. Hea - ven and earth are in His cure, This day.

sucked full pure. Hea - ven and earth are in His cure, This day.