

This is the month

Anthem and dance

albionis music services

Words by John Milton

inspection copy only
(from *On the morning of Christ's Nativity* - 1629)

Music by Brian Collins

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Text

This is the Month and this the happy morn
Wherein the Son of Heav'n's eternal King,
Of wedded Maid and Virgin Mother born,
Our great Redemption from above did bring;
For so the holy Sages once did sing,
That he our deadly forfeit should release,
And with his father work a perpetual peace.

That glorious Form, that Light unsufferable,
And that far-beaming blaze of Majesty,
Wherewith he wont at Heav'n's high Council-Table
To sit the midst of Trinal Unity,
He laid aside; and here with us to be,
Forsook the Courts of everlasting Day,
And chose with us a darksome House of mortal Clay.

Say Heav'nly Muse, shall not thy sacred vein
Afford a Present to the Infant God?
Hast thou no verse, no hymn or solemn strain
To welcome him to this his new abode,
Now while the Heav'n by the Sun's team untrod
Hath took no print of the approaching light,
And all the spangled host keep watch in squadrons bright?

See how from far upon the Eastern rode
The Star-led wizards haste with odours sweet,
O run, prevent them with thy humble ode,
And lay it lowly at his blessed feet;
Have thou the honour first, thy Lord to greet,
And join thy voice unto the Angel Quire,
From out his secret Altar toucht with hallowed fire.

All spellings and punctuation are taken from the *Everyman* edition of Milton's collected poems (ed. Wright 1956/1976). The piece should be performed in the manner of a "West-gallery" anthem – the congregation facing the music if desired – and, the high-flown language aside, should be sung extravagantly and with the minimum of fuss, unaccompanied or, ideally, with the lines doubled on appropriate instruments e.g. clarinet, bassoon, cello, horn, fiddle, serpent ...

These four verses constitute Milton's prologue to the poem and, as such, this setting could be sung as an introit or as the first anthem/carol. Alternatively use the individual verses at different points in a service.

Choose one of the alternative rhythms for "unsufferable" in bar 2. They are not intended to be sung simultaneously! The 5-syllable version may seem far-fetched but it thereby rhymes with "Table" in bar 8. I'd like to know if that pronunciation is more accurate for Milton's time.

You could perform the anthem without the dance; you could play the music for the dance and not have any dancing; you could get away with two out of three but why not try for full marks?

This is the month

Words by John Milton (1608-1674)
(from ON THE MORNING OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY)

Brian Collins

Lustily ♩ = 100-108

* "unsufferable" – see introductory note

f

S

This is the Month and this the hap-py morn_ Where - in the Son of Heav'ns e - ter - nal King, Where-in the Son of Heav'ns e - ter -
That glor - ious Form, that Light un - suff(e)-ra - ble,* And that far-beam - ing blaze of Ma-jes - ty, And that far-beam - ing blaze of Ma -
Say Heav'n - ly Muse, shall not thy sac - red vein _ Af - ford a Pres - ent to the In - fant God? Af - ford a Pres - ent to the In -
See how _ from far up - on the East-ern rode _ The Star-led Wiz - ards haste with odours sweet, The Star-led Wiz - ards haste with od -

A

This is the Month and this the hap-py morn_ Where-in the Son of Heav'ns e - ter -
That glor - ious Form, that Light un - suff - er - a - ble,* And that far-beam - ing blaze of Ma -
Say Heav'n - ly Muse, shall not thy sac - red vein _ Af - ford a Pres - ent to the In -
See how from far up - on the East-ern rode _ The Star-led Wiz - ards haste with od -

T

This is the Month and this the hap-py morn_ Where - in the Son of Heav'ns e - ter - nal King, Where-in the Son of Heav'ns e - ter -
That glor - ious Form, that Light un - suff(e)-ra - ble,* And that far-beam - ing blaze of Ma-jes - ty, And that far-beam - ing blaze of Ma -
Say Heav'n - ly Muse, shall not thy sac - red vein _ Af - ford a Pres - ent to the In - fant God? Af - ford a Pres - ent to the In -
See how _ from far up - on the East-ern rode _ The Star-led Wiz - ards haste with odours sweet, The Star-led Wiz - ards haste with od -

B

This is the Month and this the hap - py morn _ Where-in the Son of Heav'ns e - ter -
That glor - ious Form, that Light un - suf - fer - a - ble,* And that far-beam - ing blaze of Ma -
Say Heav'n - ly Muse, shall not thy sac - red vein _ Af - ford a Pres - ent to the In -
See how from far up - on the East-ern rode _ The Star-led Wiz - ards haste with od -

f



- nal King, Of wed - ded Maid and Vir - gin Moth - er born, Our great Re - demp - tion from a - bove did bring,
- jes - ty, Where - with he wont at Heav'ns high Coun - cel - Ta - ble To sit the midst of Tri - nal Un - i - ty,
- fant God? Hast thou no verse, no hymn or sol - emn strein To wel - come him to this his new ab - ode,
- ours sweet, O run, pre - vent them with thy hum - ble ode, And lay it low - ly at his bles - sed feet;



- nal King, Of wed - ded Maid and Vir - gin Moth - er born, Our great Re - demp - tion from a - bove did bring,
- jes - ty, Where - with he wont at Heav'ns high Coun - cel - Ta - ble To sit the midst of Tri - nal Un - i - ty,
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Our great Re - demp - tion from a - bove did bring; _____ For so the ho - ly Sa - ges once did
 To sit the midst of Tri - nal Un - i - ty, _____ He laid a - side; and here with us to
 To wel - come him to this his new ab - ode, _____ Now while the Heav'n by the Suns team un -
 And lay it low - ly at his bles - sed feet; _____ Have thou the hon - our first, thy Lord to

Our great Re - demp - tion from a - bove did bring; _____ For so the ho - ly Sa - ges once did sing, _____ That
 To sit the midst of Tri - nal Un - i - ty, _____ He laid a - side; and here with us to be, _____ For -
 To wel - come him to this his new ab - ode, _____ Now while the Heav'n by the Suns team un - trod, _____ Hath
 And lay it low - ly at his bles - sed feet; _____ Have thou the hon - our first, thy Lord to greet, _____ And

Our great Re - demp - tion from a - bove did bring; _____ For so the ho - ly Sa - ges
 To sit the midst of Tri - nal Un - i - ty, _____ He laid a - side; and here with
 To wel - come him to this his new ab - ode, _____ Now while the Heav'n by the Suns
 And lay it low - ly at his bles - sed feet; _____ Have thou the hon - our first, thy Lord to greet, _____ And

Our great Re - demp - tion from a - bove did bring; _____ For so the ho - ly Sa - ges once did sing, _____ That
 To sit the midst of Tri - nal Un - i - ty, _____ He laid a - side; and here with us to be, _____ For -
 To wel - come him to this his new ab - ode, _____ Now while the Heav'n by the Suns team un - trod, _____ Hath
 And lay it low - ly at his bles - sed feet; _____ Have thou the hon - our first, thy Lord to greet, _____ And

No rit. in any verse!

Musical staff with treble clef and key signature of one sharp (F#).

sing, That he our dead - ly for - feit should re - lease, And with his Fath - er grant us a per - pet - ual peace.
be, For - sook the Courts of ev - er - last - ing Day, And chose with us a dark - som House of mor - tal Clay.
- trod Hath took no print of the ap - proach - ing light, And all the spang - led host keep watch in squad - rons bright?
greet, And join thy voice un - to the An - gel Quire, From out his se - cret Al - tar toucht with hal - lowd fire.

Musical staff with treble clef and key signature of one sharp (F#).

he our dead - ly for - feit should re - lease, And with his Fath - er grant us a per - pet - ual peace.
- sook the Courts of ev - er - last - ing Day, And chose with us a dark - som House of mor - tal Clay.
took no print of the ap - proach - ing light, And all the spang - led host keep watch in squad - rons bright?
join thy voice un - to the An - gel Quire, From out his se - cret Al - tar toucht with hal - lowd fire.

Musical staff with treble clef and key signature of one sharp (F#).

once did sing, That he our dead - ly for - feit should re - lease, And with his Fath - er grant us a per - pet - ual peace.
us to be, For - sook the Courts of ev - er - last - ing Day, And chose with us a dark - som House of mor - tal Clay.
team un - trod Hath took no print of the ap - proach - ing light, And all the spang - led host keep watch in squad - rons bright?
Lord to greet, And join thy voice un - to the An - gel Quire, From out his se - cret Al - tar toucht with hal - lowd fire.

Musical staff with bass clef and key signature of one sharp (F#).

he our dead - ly for - feit should re - lease, And with his Fath - er grant us a per - pet - ual peace.
- sook the Courts of ev - er - last - ing Day, And chose with us a dark - som House of mor - tal Clay.
took no print of the ap - proach - ing light, And all the spang - led host keep watch in squad - rons bright?
join thy voice un - to the An - gel Quire, From out his se - cret Al - tar toucht with hal - lowd fire.

Piano accompaniment musical staff with grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and key signature of one sharp (F#).

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