

# WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS

CHRISTMAS C.M.

Nahum Tate

George F. Handel

The musical score is written for voice and basso continuo in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a basso continuo line in the bass clef. The vocal line is marked 'mel.' and includes measure numbers 1 through 13. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line, with some words hyphenated across lines. The basso continuo line provides harmonic support with chords and single notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of measure 13.

mel. 2 3 4

1. While shep- herds watched their flocks by night, All seat - ed on the  
2. "Fear not," said he; for might - y dread Had seized their troub- led  
3. "To you, in Da - vid's town, this day Is born, of Dav - id's  
4. "The heav'n - ly Babe you there shall find To hu - man view dis -  
5. "All glo - ry be to God on high, And to the earth be

5 6 7 8

ground The an - gel of the Lord came down And glo - ry shone a -  
mind, "Glad ti - dings of great joy I bring, To you and all man -  
line, The Sav - ior, who is Christ the Lord; And this shall be the  
played, All mean - ly wrapped in swath - ing bands, And in a man - ger  
peace; Good - will hence - forth from heav'n to men Be - gin and nev - er

9 10 11 12 13

round, And glo - ry shone a - round.  
kind, To you and all man - kind.  
sign, And this shall be the sign;  
laid, And in a man - ger laid."  
cease, Be - gin and nev - er cease!" A - - MEN.