

Born Tonight

SATB with Piano or SATB a cappella

Words by Ben Johnson (1573-1637)

Music by Mitchell Covington (ASCAP)

Brightly ♩ = 92

Piano ***f***

The musical score for 'Born Tonight' is presented in two systems. The first system shows the piano introduction in D major, 4/4 time, marked 'Brightly' with a tempo of ♩ = 92. It features a treble and bass staff with a forte (f) dynamic. The second system contains four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in 2/4 time and feature a 4-measure rest followed by the lyrics. The piano accompaniment is in 2/4 time and includes a 4-measure rest. The lyrics are: 'I sing the Birth was born to - night, the auth-or both of life and (The) Son of God, th'E - ter - nal King, That did us all sal - va - tion'. The piano accompaniment includes a 4-measure rest and a 3-measure rest. The score is marked with a forte (f) dynamic and a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic for the 2nd verse.

f (2nd verse, *mp*)

I sing the Birth was born to - night, the auth-or both of life and
(The) Son of God, th'E - ter - nal King, That did us all sal - va - tion

f (2nd verse, *mp*)

I sing the Birth was born to - night, the auth - or of
(The) Son of God, th'E - ter - nal King, That did sal - va - tion

f (2nd verse, *mp*)

I sing the Birth was born to - night, the auth-or both of life and
(The) Son of God, th'E - ter - nal King, That did us all sal - va - tion

f (2nd verse, *mp*)

I sing the birth was born to - night the auth-or both of life and
(The) Son of God, th'E - ter - nal King, That did us all sal - va - tion

f (2nd verse, *mp*)

I sing the birth was born to - night the auth-or both of life and
(The) Son of God, th'E - ter - nal King, That did us all sal - va - tion

Ben Johnson (c.1573-1637) was a poet and actor who had a lasting effect on English literature. As a young man he was put in prison for manslaughter, having killed a man in a duel. While in prison he converted to Roman Catholicism. He was released through the intervention of the church, forfeiting all his property and receiving a brand on his thumb. Johnson was a friend, rival, admirer and critic of William Shakespeare. He wrote several tragedies and contributed to the importance of the *court masque*. Perhaps his best known poem is "To Celia," which begins, "Drink to me only with thine eyes..." and has been set to music by many composers throughout the centuries.

6

light; The an - gels did so sound it, And
fraid, And freed the soul from dan - ger; He

light; The an - gels did so sound it, And
fraid, And freed the soul from dan - ger; He

8 light: The an - gels did so sound it, And
fraid, And freed the soul from dan - ger; He

light: The an - gels did so sound it, And
fraid, And freed the soul from dan - ger; He

6

div.

like the rav-ished shep-herds said,
whom the whole world could not take,

9

like the shep-herds said, Who saw the light and were a -
whom the world could not take, The Word, which Heav'n and Earth did

mp unis.

like the shep-herds said, Who saw the light and were a -
whom the world could not take, The Word, which Heav'n and Earth did

mp

8 like the shep-herds said, Who saw the light and were a -
whom the world could not take, The Word, which Heav'n and Earth did

mp

like the shep-herds said, Who saw the light and were a -
whom the world could not take, The Word, which Heav'n and Earth did

mp

9

mf

12 *f* 2nd time, poco rit. 1. *mp* 2. *mp*

man make, Yet searched and then they found it! The man - ger! The

Was laid now in a

f 2nd time, poco rit. 1. *mp* 2. *mp*

fraid, make, Yet searched and then they found it! The man - ger! The

Was laid now in a

8 *f* 2nd time, poco rit. 1. *mp* 2. *mp*

fraid, make, Yet searched and then they found it! The man - ger! The

Was laid now in a

f 2nd time, poco rit. 1. *mp* 2. *mp*

fraid make, Yet searched and then they found it! The man - ger! The

Was laid now in a

12 *f* 2nd time, poco rit. 1. *mp* 2. *mp*

12 *f* 2nd time, poco rit. 1. *mp* 2. *mp*

15 Slower, Legato ♩ = 69

Fa - ther's wis - dom willed it so, The Son's o - be - dience we all

Fa - ther's wis - dom willed it so, The Son's o - be - dience we all

8 Fa - ther's wis - dom willed it so, The Son's o - be - dience we all

Fa - ther's wis - dom willed it so, The Son's o - be - dience we all

15 Slower, Legato ♩ = 69

15 Slower, Legato ♩ = 69

18

know, Both wills were one in sta - ture, And as that wis-dom had de -

know, Both wills were one in sta - ture, And as that wis-dom had de -

8 know, Both wills were one in sta - ture, And as that wis-dom had de -

know Both wills were one in sta - ture, And as that wis-dom had de -

18

Piano accompaniment for measures 18-21, featuring arpeggiated chords and flowing eighth-note patterns in both hands.

22

creed, The Word was now made flesh _____ in-deed, And

creed, The Word was now made flesh _____ in - deed, And

8 creed The Word was now made flesh _____ in - deed, And

creed, The Word was now made flesh _____ in - deed, And

22

Piano accompaniment for measures 22-25, featuring arpeggiated chords and flowing eighth-note patterns in both hands.

A Tempo ♩ = 96

25 *rit.* *f*

took on Him our earth - ly na - ture! What com - fort by Him do we

took on Him our earth - ly na - ture! What com - fort by Him do we

took on Him our earth - ly na - ture. What com - fort by Him do we

took on Him our earth - ly na - ture. What com - fort by Him do we

25 A Tempo ♩ = 96 *f*

28

win, Who made him - self the price of sin? To make us heirs of glo -

win, Who made the price of sin? To make us heirs of glo -

win, Who made him - self the price of sin? To make us heirs of glo -

win, Who made him - self the price of sin? To make us heirs of glo -

28

32 to see this Babe all in - no - cence,
ry, to see this in - no - cence, A mar - tyr born in
ry, to see this in - no - cence, A mar - tyr born in
8 ry, to see this babe all in - no - cence, A
ry, to see this babe all in - no - cence, A

32

36 our de-fense, a mar - tyr born, the Word which heav'n and earth did
our de-fense, a mar - tyr born, the Word which heav'n and earth did
8 mar - tyr born in our de-fense, the Word which heav'n and earth did
mar - tyr born n our de-fense, the Word which heav'n and earth did

36

39 *f* *a tempo* *mf* *rit.*

make! Can man for-get the sto - ry? Can man for-get the sto -

make! Can man for-get the sto - ry? Can man for-get the sto

8 make! Can man for-get the sto - ry? Can man for-get the sto -

make! Can-man for-get the sto - ryt? Can man for-get the sto -

39 *a tempo*

42 Solo *mf* *Slower, Freely* *rit. al fine*

I sing that birth was born to - night, Can man for-get the sto - ry?

ry? Mm, Mm the sto - ry?

ry? Mm. Mm the sto - ry?

8 ry? Mm, Mm the sto - ry?

ry? Mm, Mm the sto - ry?

42 *rit. al fine* *a tempo*