

THE FIRST NOEL

(1833)

Traditional English Carol
Arrangement by WAYNE M. GRIMMER

With exaltation

Intro

Verses

Tenor Lead

Bari Bass

1 No - el, 2 No - el, 3 No - el, 4 No - el.

1. The -
2. They -

No - el, No - el.

5 first No - el, the an - gel did say, Was to
look - ed up and saw a star Shin - ing

6 7 8

9 cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; In
in the east, be - yond them far, And

10 11 12

The First Noel

fields _____ where_ they lay_ keep - ing their sheep, On a
to _____ the_ earth, it_ gave_ great light, And_

cold win - ter's night_ that was_ so deep. Chorus
so it con - tin - ued both day_ and night. No -

el, _____ No - el, No - el, _____ No - el, _____

Born is the King_ of Is - ra - el.

1st time: to ms. 1
2nd time: to Tag

Tag freely

Musical score for the tag section of "The First Noel", measures 29-32. The score is written for a single voice line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are: "Born is the King of Is - ra - el." The melody is simple and homophonic, with a final cadence on a whole note G4. Measure numbers 29, 30, 31, and 32 are indicated above the staff. A small number '8' is written below the first measure.

Performance Notes

This arrangement of "The First Noel" first appeared in the BHS songbook, *Yuletide Favorites, Vol. II*. Newly available along side this stand-alone edition are re-voiced versions for SSAA/female (BHS #211963/DL) and SATB/mixed (BHS #211964/DL) voices. Each version is available worldwide in print or as a PDF digital download at shop.barbershop.org.

Wayne Grimmer has worked as a Music Educator and Music Editor for the Barbershop Harmony Society and is involved directly with the Nashville music community. Grimmer earned his Bachelor's Degree in music education and a Master's Degree in music composition and arranging from Five Towns College in New York. Upon graduating, Wayne taught at Five Towns for several years before moving to Nashville. Wayne is the principal arranger and lead singer of his quartet 'Round Midnight, and his published arrangements include "Fight Song," "All About that Bass," "Sing" by Pentatonix, and Maroon 5's "Sugar."

This arrangement was created specifically to be easily accessible and require little to no rehearsal time to prepare. Keep the focus on the lyric and keep the tempo moderately steady throughout. Grimmer's simple introduction is a lovely way to begin, but also serves as a tasteful turnaround figure, setting this arrangement apart from a typical hymn-like treatment. You may also choose to make the repeat of the introduction optional and instead go directly back to the 2nd verse at ms. 5 after the chorus.

As a final note: Questions about the contest suitability of this or any song/arrangement should be directed to the judging community and measured against current contest rules. Ask *before* you sing.