



## *The Music Makers*

*(New liturgical music for amateur and professional choirs)*

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With the Millennium still in everyone's mind, it is arguably more appropriate than ever that children should learn and celebrate the real meaning of Christmas and its origins. With this in mind, two of the founding partners of ***The Music Makers*** have joined forces to produce a Nativity Play designed to be performed in schools and churches by and for children.

# "The First Christmas"

A Nativity Play  
in Words, Music, Song & Dance

Devised and Written by Jeremy de Satgé  
(based on the Gospels of SS Luke & Matthew)  
Music by Michael Gryspeerdt

The beauty of this Nativity Play is its flexibility as it can be performed using whatever resources are available. It is aimed that this play should be performed by children from Junior to Senior schools. **It is also unusual in that it is written entirely for children to perform - singers, dancers and musicians.**

The play received its premiere in **Southwark Cathedral** in December 1999 as part of Woman's Weekly Magazine's Christmas celebration. Gilly Sinclair, Editor of Woman's Weekly, said of the play: "*The First Christmas was hugely enjoyable. Woman's Weekly readers, who saw the children of the Cathedral School of St. Saviour & St. Mary Overie Southwark perform this musical nativity, loved every minute of it; it's a fantastic celebration of this special story.*"

There have been several productions of the play since its premiere, including at St. George's Cathedral, Southwark, the London Oratory School and Tewkesbury Abbey. In 2003 The Music Makers signed a contract with GIA Music of Chicago, licensing GIA to publish and sell the play throughout the USA and Canada.

Musically the play offers: 2 Choruses, 2 Group songs, 2 Solo songs, 1 Duet and 3 Dances. The minimum accompaniment needed is a piano - the score is easy to play for somebody with Grade V. The full score, however, includes parts for recorder and/or flute, clarinet, violin, ‘cello, untuned & tuned percussion which should be played as available.

The play includes a Narrator who may be played either by an older child or parent/teacher. The girl to play Mary should be someone a little older and someone who should also be able to sing well. Joseph's only song is the Duet.

The dance routines give scope for imaginative choreography. The music of each of the three dances reflects the movement of animals concerned.

**The “Full Pack” contains 12 scripts, 2 piano & vocal scores, a full score and a set of instrumental parts. This costs £100 to include performing rights for one season.**

**The “Piano Pack” consists of 12 scripts and 2 piano & vocal scores and costs £70 to include performing rights for one season.**

<i>Dramatis Personae</i>		<i>Musical Numbers</i>
(in order of appearance)		(in order)
Narrator	Courtier to King Herod	Opening Chorus “Come and listen..”
Angel Gabriel	Shepherds	Mary’s Song (Magnificat) “My heart..”
Mary	Angels	Mary & Joseph Duet “Twinkle, twinkle”
Elizabeth	Sheep	Dance of the Animals
Joseph	Goats	Song of the Angels “Glory to God..”
Chief Shepherd	A pair of Turtle Doves	Shepherds’ Song “Sleep now little child..”
Simeon	Two Young Pigeons	Turtle Dove and Pigeon Dance
Melchior	Camels	Simeon’s Song (Nunc Dimittis) “ I have waited.”
Caspar	Donkeys	Dance of the Camels
Balthazar	Hens	Final Chorus “Time to go now”
King Herod		

A demonstration CD of the music of the play is available upon request. Alternatively, the score may be viewed and listened to by visiting our website and (if necessary) downloading a small piece of software (instructions on the site).

For more information please do not hesitate to contact us.