

# Now the Most High is Born

James Ryman (late 15th c.)

David Evan Thomas

**Simply** ♩ = 69 - 76 (v. 1: solo v. 2: tutti)

*solo p*

**C H O R U S I**

S Up-on a night an aun-gell bright And a - none  
bright A sign of

A v. 1: solo v. 2: tutti *p*

T And a - none  
A sign of

B

**Simply** ♩ = 69 - 76 (v. 1: solo v. 2: tutti)

*pp*

**C H O R U S II**

S Pas - to - ri - bus ap - par - ru - it,  
Hii val - de ti - mu - e - runt:

A

T

B

**Simply** ♩ = 69 - 76

For rehearsal only

...appeared to the shepherds.  
They were exceedingly afraid.

5

S right, thurgh God - des might, For  
blis to us it is, *mf*

A right, thurgh God - des might, For  
blis to us it is, *mf*

T *v. 1: solo v. 2: tutti* *mf*  
For

B

5

S *p*  
Lux mag - na il - lis cla - ru - it:  
Hec lux quam hii vi - de - runt:

A *v. 1: solo v. 2: tutti* *p*  
Lux mag - na il - lis cla - ru - it:  
Hec lux quam hii vi - de - runt:

T

B

5

*A great light shone upon them.  
The light which they saw.*

9

S love of us, *p* Nunc na-tus est Al - tis-si-mus. *mf* (Scrip - ture

A love of us, *p* Nunc na-tus est Al - tis-si-mus. *mf* (Scrip - ture

T love of us, *p* Nunc na-tus est Al - tis-si-mus. *mf* (Scrip - ture

B *v. 1: solo* *v. 2: tutti* *p* Nunc na-tus est Al - tis-si-mus. *mf* (Scrip - ture

9

S *mp* (Scrip - ture se - ith thus) *mf* For love of us, \_\_\_\_\_

A *mp* (Scrip - ture se - ith thus) *mf* For love of us, \_\_\_\_\_

T *v. 1: solo* *v. 2: tutti* *mp* (Scrip - ture se - ith thus) *mf* For love of us, \_\_\_\_\_

B *v. 1: solo* *v. 2: tutti* *mf* For love of us, \_\_\_\_\_

9

*Now the Most High is born.*

14

S *p* 1. *tutti p*  
 se - ith thus) Nunc na-tus est Al - tis - si - mus. And of that light that was so

A *p* 1.  
 se - ith thus) Nunc na-tus est Al - tis - si - mus.

T *p* 1.  
 se - ith thus) Nunc na-tus est Al - tis - si - mus.

B *p* 1.  
 se - ith thus) Nunc na-tus est Al - tis - si - mus.

14

S *p* 1.  
 — Nunc na-tus est Al - tis - si - mus.

A *p* 1.  
 — Nunc na-tus est Al - tis - si - mus.

T *p* 1.  
 — Nunc na-tus est Al - tis - si - mus.

B *p* 1.  
 — Nunc na-tus est Al - tis - si - mus.

14

*p* 1.  
 — Nunc na-tus est Al - tis - si - mus.

Con brio

*poco rall.*

19 2.

S na - tus est Al - tis - si - mus. *f* Nowe lete us singe with an - gel -

A na - tus est Al - tis - si - mus. *f* Nowe lete us singe with an - gel -

T na - tus est Al - tis - si - mus. *f* Nowe lete us singe with an - gel -

B na - tus est Al - tis - si - mus. *f* Nowe lete us singe with an - gel -

*poco rall.*

19 2.

S na - tus est Al - tis - si - mus. *f* Nowe lete us singe

A na - tus est Al - tis - si - mus. *f* Nowe lete us singe

T na - tus est Al - tis - si - mus. *f* Nowe lete us singe

B na - tus est Al - tis - si - mus. *f* Nowe lete us singe

*poco rall.*

19 2.

*f*



27 *f*

S to that blis. For love of us (Scrip-*f*ture

A to that blis. For love of us (Scrip-*f*ture

T to that blis. For love of us (Scrip-*f*ture

B to that blis. For love of us (Scrip-*f*ture

27 *f*

S blis U - bi par - tus est vir - gi - nis,

A blis U - bi par - tus est vir - gi - nis,

T blis U - bi par - tus est vir - gi - nis,

B blis U - bi par - tus est vir - gi - nis,

27

*Where the child of the Virgin is.*

31

S  
se - ith thus)

A  
se - ith thus) *p*  
Nunc na - tus,

T  
se - ith thus)

B  
se - ith thus)

S  
*mp*  
For love of us (Scrip- ture se - ith thus)

A  
*mp* *p*  
For love of us (Scrip- ture se - ith thus) na -

T  
*mp* *p*  
For love of us (Scrip- ture se - ith thus) na -

B  
*mp*  
For love of us (Scrip- ture se - ith thus)

31



35 *p* *mp* *f* *ff*

S na - tus, Nowe na - tus, na - tus, nunc

A na - tus, na - tus, *mp* na - tus, *f* na - tus, *ff* nunc,

T *mp* *f* *ff*

8 na - tus, na - tus, nunc

B *mp* *f* *ff*

na - tus, na - tus, nunc,

35 *p* *mf* *ff*

S na - tus, na - tus, nunc,

A *mf* *ff*

- tus, na - tus, na - tus, nunc

T *mf* *ff*

8 - tus, na - tus, na - tus, na - tus, nunc

B *p* *mf* *ff*

na - tus, na - tus, nunc

35

41 *p* *f*

S na - tus est Al - tis - si - mus.

A *mp* *f*  
nunc na - tus est Al - tis - si - mus.

T *p* *f*  
na - tus est Al - tis - si - mus.

B *mp* *f*  
nunc na - tus est Al - tis - si - mus.

41 *mp* *f*

S nunc na - tus est Al - tis - si - mus.

A *p* *f*  
na - tus, nunc na - tus est Al - tis - si - mus.

T *p* *f*  
na - tus, nunc na - tus est Al - tis - si - mus.

B *p* *f*  
na - tus est Al - tis - si - mus.

41

### Now the Most High is Born

Upon a night an aungell bright  
*Pastoribus apparruit,*  
 And anone right, thurgh Goddes might,  
*Lux magna illis claruit:*  
 For love of us  
 (Scripture seith thus)  
*Nunc natus est Altissimus.*

And of that light that was so bright  
*Hii valde timuerunt:*  
 A sign of blis to us it is,  
*Hec lux quam hii viderunt:*  
 For love of us  
 (Scripture seith thus)  
*Nunc natus est Altissimus.*

Nowe lete us singe with angelis,  
*"Gloria, in altissimis!"*  
 That we may come unto that blis  
*Ubi partus est virginis,*  
 For love of us  
 (Scripture seith thus)  
*Nunc natus est Altissimus.*  
 -James Ryman (later 15<sup>th</sup> c.)

James Ryman was a Franciscan monk when he was ordained subdeacon in Canterbury Cathedral in 1476. He left one volume of poems, which is preserved in Cambridge University Library. Written partly in Ryman's own hand, it is described as a "book of hymns and songs composed by friar James Ryman of the Order of Minors to the praise of almighty God and of his most holy mother Mary and of all Saints, A.D. 1492." All of the 166 poems are of a religious nature and in English, but many, like "Now the Most High is Born," are macaronic, that is, they mix English and Latin.

David Evan Thomas has been honored with two McKnight Foundation Artist Fellowships, an Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and commissions from the Minnesota Orchestra and Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. Born in Rochester, New York in 1958, Thomas studied at Northwestern University, Eastman School of Music, and with Dominick Argento at the University of Minnesota. His music is published by ALRY, ECS, MorningStar, Augsburg Fortress, Tritone-Tenuto and several other publishers. Thomas lives in Minneapolis. More: [www.davidevanthomas.com](http://www.davidevanthomas.com).