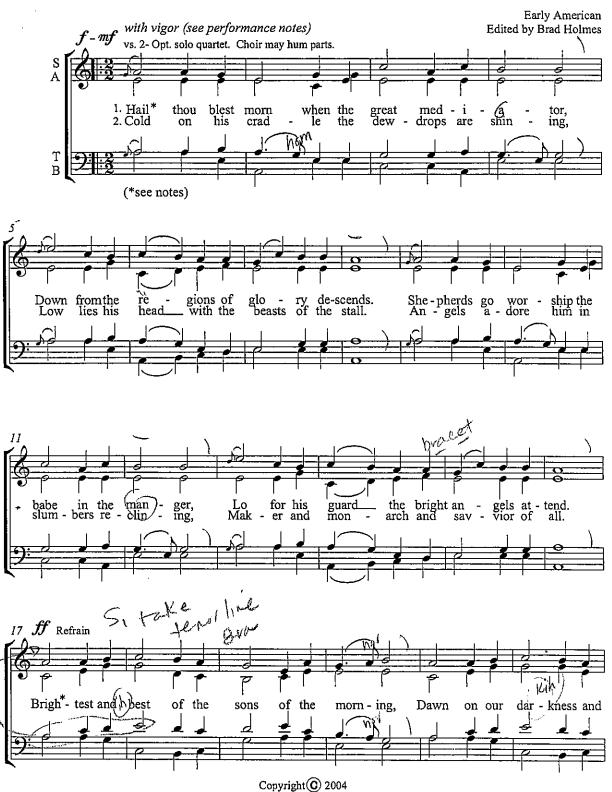
Star In The East

SATB

Daniel Read (1785) arr. Brad Holmes

Star in the East

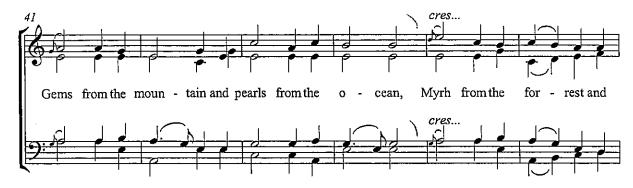


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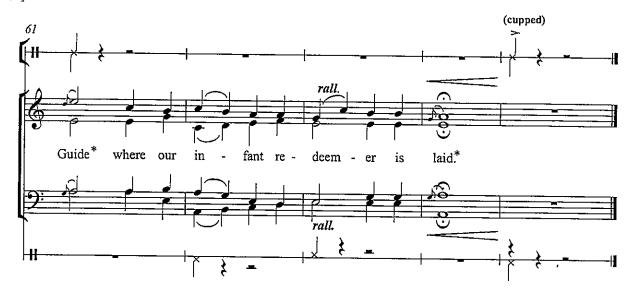






(1. Edom- ancient near-east region. Possibly used because of reference to wise men in Obadiah, vs. 8.)





Performance Notes:

The direct simplicity of music from the shape-note tradition suggests a straightforward approach to singing. An unrefined vocal technique may be an advantage in the singing of this common music. Trained singers are encouraged to experiement with various methods to achieve an 'unlearned' sound. A bright, forward and vigorous tone is evident at present day shape-note conventions. Scooping accents (indicated by grace notes) are customary though they have a markedly different character than similar scooping of current pop music.

- (*) Indicates places where singers may choose to glide through the diphthong to a secondary vowel. Scooping may precede this diphthong glide.
- (+) A few sopranos may double the tenor part in their own octave. Some tenors may also double the soprano part down an octave. The resulting six-part texture may be used for contrast at the discretion of the director.

The director is encouraged to find ways to add variety to the music. For this purpose, dynamics have been added with the understanding that in the shape-note tradition, louder is usually better. Contrast may also be achieved by singing verses with solo voices. The choir may hum a verse. Parts may be dropped for a section. The rare addition of claps or stomps gives the music a rhythmic vibrancy recalling the Gaelic roots of some early American music. One rhythmic possibility is notated. Draw ideas from the text as you experiement with tone and texture.