# The Coventry Carol

Arrangement for treble solo and SATBB choir

Andrew Downes

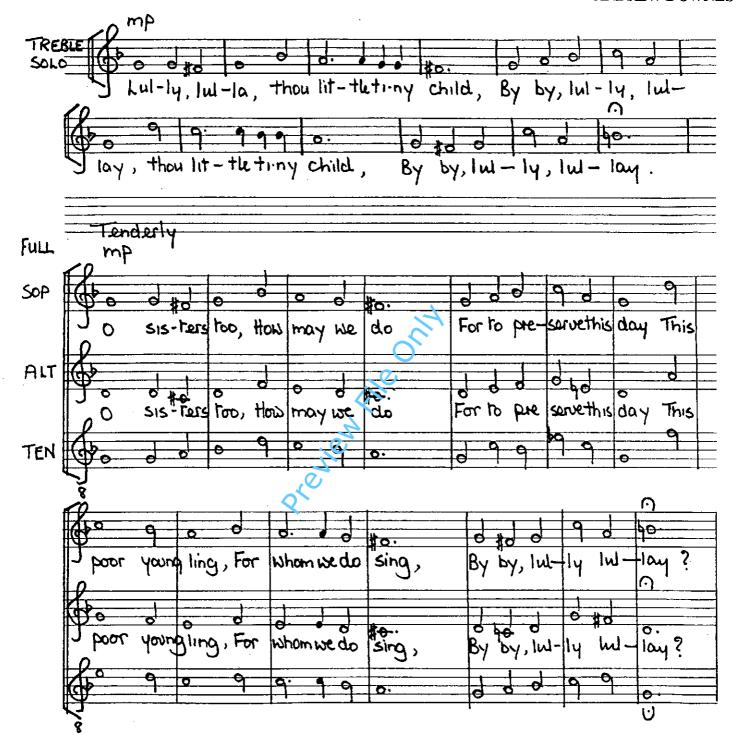
# LYNWOOD MUSIC

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**ANDREW DOWNES** 



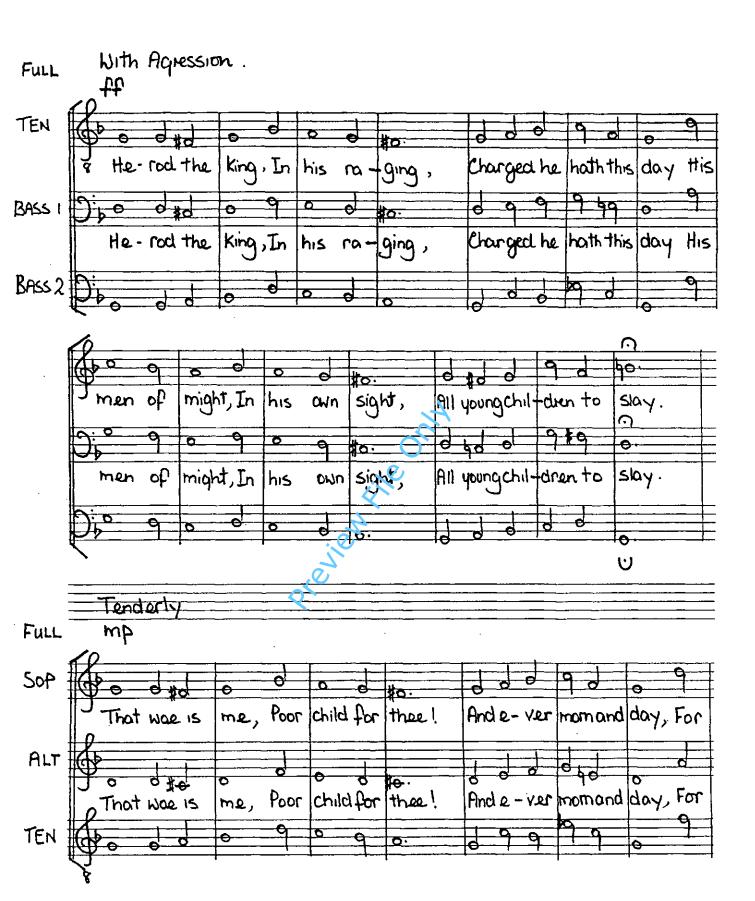
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#### ANDREW DOWNES: THE COVENTRY CAROL (1979) Opus 18(ii)

Duration 4'

This arrangement for treble solo and SATBB Choir was commissioned by Roy Massey and the Choir of Hereford Cathedral. It was first performed there in December 1979. It was subsequently recorded by the Clent Hills Singers, conducted by the composer, for the cassette, "Christmas in the Forest" (© 1989 Forest Music).

"The melody is taken from the rough facsimile of a 1591 manuscript, published by Thomas Sharp in his "Dissertation on the Pageants at Coventry" (1825), which is the only surviving source of the carol. It is likely, however, that the carol was in existence much earlier than this, and was performed as part of the Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors during the 15th century. I have chosen, therefore, to harmonise the carol in a style which more befits this earlier period than does the 1591 version." - Andrew Downes

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