

I Sing the Birth (Ich besinge die Geburt)

English lyrics: Ben Jonson (1572–1637)

German translation: Constance Stöhs, © Helbling

M. Edward Elgar (1857–1934)

Allegretto

Soprano (S)
Alto (A)
Tenor (T)
Bass (B)
Klavier/Piano (für die Probe/for rehearsal)

Al - - - le - lu ia!
I sing the birth was
Halleluja!
Ich besinge die Geburt,

Tenor (T)
Alto (A)
Tenor (T)
Bass (B)

born to-night, th' thor both
geboren ward heute Abend
the an - gels so did
die Engel verkündeten es so.

Soprano (S)
Alto (A)
Tenor (T)
Bass (B)

emper
le - lu - ia!
And like the rav - ish'd
und it.
Al - - - le - lu - ia!

Halleluja!
Und wie die entzückten

*) These passages should be sung in a very free manner, without any rigid adherence to tempo. They may be taken by solo voices if desired. / *Die Passagen sollen sehr frei gesungen werden, ohne starres Festhalten am Tempo. Sie können nach Wunsch von Solostimmen ausgeführt werden.*

12
A shep - herds said, who saw the light, and were a-fraid, yet search'd and true, they
Hirten sagten, *die das Licht sahen und ängstlich waren,*
rit.

16
S a tempo
Al - - - - le - lu - ia
A found in.
T Al - - - - le divisi
B Al - - - - le - lu - ia! The Son of God, th'E -
B fanden. *Halleluja!* Der Sohn Gottes, der e -

20
B ter - - - - al - - - - allarg.
wige König, that did us salva - va - tio bring, and freed the soul from
der *brach* *und die Seele befreite von der*

24
S a tempo
f Al - - - - le - lu - ia! f Δ Δ
A - - - - le - lu - ia! He whom the whole world
T - - - - le - lu - ia! He whom the whole world
B dan - ger. f Δ Δ
He whom the whole world
Gefahr. *Halleluja!* Er, den die ganze Welt

28

could not take, the word, which heav'n and earth did make, was now laid in a
 could not take, the word, which heav'n and earth did make, was now laid in a
 dim.
 could not take, the word, which heav'n and earth did make, was now laid in a
 m.
 could not take, the word, which heav'n and earth did make, was now laid in a

nicht dulden konnte, das Wort, welches Himmel und Erde erschuf, wurde jetzt gelegt in eine

rit.
 dim.

32

man - ger. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!
 man - ger. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!
 man - ger. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

Krippe. Halleluja! Halleluja!

a tempo

mf 37 *pp*

Al - - - - le - lu - ia!

mf *pp*

Al - - - - le - lu - ia!

mf *pp* *quarto* *lo*

The Fa - ther's wis - dom

mf

Al - - - - le - lu -

Halleluja!

Die Weisheit des Vaters

Halleluja!

Die Weisheit des Vaters

T

40
will'd it so, the So o - be - dience know no No, both wills were in one
wollte es so, *der Gehorsam* *kannte* *nein,* *beider Willen waren im*

S

44
a f P rit.
le lu ia!
Al *- - - le - lu - ia!* *And as that wis - dom*

A

pp
quasi Solo
mf

T

s

B

pp
Al - - - - le - lu - ia!

Einklang. **Halleluja!** **Und wie diese Weisheit**

Einklang.

Halleluja!

Und wie diese Weisheit

64

poco allarg.
dim.

in - no - cence, a mar - tyr born in our de-fence; ca - for-get this
 in - no - cence, a mar - tyr born in our de-fence; ca - for-get this
 in - no - cence, a mar - tyr born in our de-fence; ca - for-get this
 in - no - cence, a mar - tyr born in our de-fence; ca - for-get this

Unschuld, *ein Märtyrer, für unsre Sünden geb* kann der Mensch vergessen diese

68

più lento
pp

sto - ry? Al - - - le - lu - ia! Al - - le - lu - ia!
 sto - ry? - - - lu - ia, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 sto - ry? Al - - - le - lu - ia, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 sto - ry? - - - le - lu - ia, Al - - le - lu - ia!

Geschichte? *Halleluja,* *Halleluja!*

rit.