

TWO CAROLS

for SATB Chorus



Elinor A. Armsby

1. I Sing of a Maiden
2. Tidings True

Hildegard Publishing Company®

About Two Carols

These two carols were written in 2002, on the occasion of my fifth season with the First United Methodist Church of Germantown. The previous Christmas season, the choir and I had performed Benjamin Britten's beloved *Ceremony of Carols* and thus I had the wonderful texts from that work still in my head. I decided to set the poem "I Sing of a Maiden" as a gift to the choir. I wanted to give my setting a very different feel from that of Britten so I chose to set this text in a hushed, intimate mood as if sung in the manger to the infant Jesus. Soprano and tenor solo phrases alternate with choral punctuation between.

After I wrote "I Sing of a Maiden", I wanted to write a second carol for the choir to perform with it. For balance, I found a second poem from around the same period in a contrasting mood and style. "Tidings True" for me evoked a very joyous and lively spirit that called for dance-like rhythms and shifting meters. Although conceived as a set, the two carols may be performed together or separately, and in any order.

About the Composer

Elinor A. Armsby has served as a choral director for over 20 years. She has worked with many choirs of varying ages and abilities including college and high school students, church choirs and community choruses. She holds a Bachelor's degree in music from Indiana University and a Masters degree from Temple University. Ms. Armsby has also been involved in music publishing for many years. She served on the staff of Theodore Presser Company from 1994 to 2005 and became president of the Hildegard Publishing Company in 2007.

I Sing of a Maiden

15th Century English Carol

Elinor A. Armsby
2002

Slowly, with rubato

Soprano *mf*
I sing of a maid - en that is ma - ke - les:

Alto *mf*
I sing of a maid - en that is ma - ke - les:

Tenor *mf*
I sing of a maid - en that is ma - ke - les:

Bass *mf*
I sing of a maid - en that is ma - ke - les:

Piano (for reh. only)

5 *mp* *Solo*
King of kings to her son she chez. He

mp
King of all kings to her son she chez.

mp
King of kings to her son she chez.

mp
King of all kings to her son she chez.

9

Tutti
p

came al so stille there his mo - der was, He came al so
 He came al so
 He came al so
 He came al so
 He came al so

13

mp
Solo
mp

stille there his mo - der was that
 stille there his mo - der was that
 stille there his mo - der was As dew in Ap - rille that
 stille there his mo - der was that

Tidings True

Joyfully

mf

Soprano
Ti - dings true there be - come newe Bles - sed be Je -

Alto
Ti - dings true there be - come newe Bles - sed be Je -

Tenor
Ti - dings true there be - come newe Ble - sed be Je -

Bass
Ti - dings true there be - come newe Bles - sed be Je -

Piano
(for reh. only)

5

su Ti - dings true told there is true Je - su to be born of a

su Ti - dings true, born of a

su Ti - dings true told there is true Ti - dings

su Ti - dings true Ti - dings true