

Star in the East

The musical score for 'Star in the East' is presented in four staves. The first staff is labeled 'Part A' and contains a melody of eighth and quarter notes. The second staff is labeled 'Part B' and begins with a repeat sign, followed by a melody of quarter and eighth notes. The third and fourth staves continue the melody with various note values and rests.

1. Hail the blessed morn, see the great Mediator,
Down from the regions of glory descend!
Shepherds go worship the babe in the manger,
Lo, for his guard the bright angels attend.

Chorus:

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid,
Star in the east the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

2. Cold on his cradle the dew drops are shining,
Cold lies his head with the beasts of the stall,
Angels adore him, in slumbers reclining,
Wise men and shepherds before him do fall.

Chorus

3. Say, shall we yield him in costly devotion,
Odours of Eden and offerings divine,
Gems from the mountain and pearls from the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine.

Chorus

4. Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gold we his favour secure,
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Chorus

"Star in the East" is from **The Southern Harmony**, pg. 16. The source of the first verse is unknown. The chorus and verses 2 through 4 are the first four verses of the Epiphany hymn "Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning" by Reginald Heber, Vicar of Hodnet, Shropshire in 1811. This became the most popular Christmas carol in the Southern hymnals. The southern Calvinists must not have known of the Episcopal origins of the lyrics.

It is included in **The New Oxford Book of Carols** (#84).