

405-302

Gold and Spices
SATB *a cappella*

Alison Willis

Gold and Spices

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Gold and Spices

Music by
Alison Willis

Sarah
MacDonald
Choral series

 Selah Publishing Co.

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“Gold and Spices” was written for Reading Phoenix Choir in 2018. The choir sings from memory and this influenced the use of patterns and repetitions within the piece, particularly the opening motif.

The text is taken from Christina Rossetti’s beautiful poem “They Have Brought Gold and Spices” (1852) which tells of the three Kings and is therefore particularly suited to carol services, Epiphany and All Saints.

The piece fluctuates between excitement at the arrival of the kings with their wondrous gifts, incense and precious stuffs and ivory and more reflective sections wondering what the singer can possibly bring instead.

Gold and Spices was premiered at Reading Minster (UK) by the Reading Phoenix Choir as part of their Carol Concert in December 2019.

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Christina Rossetti (1830–1894)

Alison Willis

Joyfully ♩ = 80

f

S. They have brought gold, _____ they have brought

A. *f* They have brought gold, _____

T. *f* They have brought gold, _____

B. *f* They have brought gold, _____

for rehearsal

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4

gold and spi - ces, they have brought gold and spi - ces

they have brought gold and spi - ces, gold and spi - ces

— they have brought gold and spi - ces, gold and spi - ces

They have brought gold

6

mp to my King, in - cense and pre - cious gifts and i - vo - ry,

mp to my King, in - cense and pre - cious gifts and i - vo - ry,

mp to my King, in - cense and pre - cious gifts and i - vo - ry,

mp to my King, in - cense and pre - cious gifts and i - vo - ry,

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5

10

pre - cious gifts and i - vo - ry, gold and spi - ces to my King —

pre - cious gifts and i - vo - ry, gold and spi - ces to my King —

pre - cious gifts and i - vo - ry, gold and spi - ces to my King —

pre - cious gifts and i - vo - ry, gold — to my King —

14

poco meno mosso

p legato (A)

(ng). Oh ho - ly Mo - ther mine, what can I bring so that my

(ng). Oo So that my

(ng). Oo So that my

(ng). Oo So that my

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6

18

mf Lord may deign to look on me? Oh ho-ly Mo-ther mine, *f* what can I

mf Lord may deign to look on me? Oo

mf Lord may deign to look on me? Oo

mf Lord may deign to look on me? Oo

Tempo primo

22 *mf* bring? They have brought gold, **B**

mf They have brought gold,

mf They have brought

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7

25

they have brought gold and spi - ces,

they have brought gold and

gold, they have brought

mf They have brought gold,

This block contains the musical notation for measures 25 and 26. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment, and a bass line. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present in the bass line.

27

they have brought gold and spi - ces to my King

spi - ces, gold and spi - ces to my King

gold and spi - ces, gold and spi - ces to my King

They have brought gold, to my King

This block contains the musical notation for measures 27 through 30. It continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment from the previous block. The key signature remains three sharps and the time signature is 4/4.

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8

30

(ng). They sing a swee - ter song than I can sing, a sweet - er song than

(ng). They sing a swee - ter song than I can sing, a swee - ter song than

(ng). They sing a swee - ter song than I can sing, a swee - ter song than

(ng). They sing a swee - ter song than I can sing, a swee - ter song than

34

I can sing. Mo - ther mine what can I bring? — I, bound on

I can sing, Mo - ther mine what can I bring? —

I can sing, Mo - ther mine what can I bring? —

I can sing, Mo - ther mine what can I bring? —

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9

38 **C**

earth, weep for my tres - pas - sing. They sing the
Weep for my tres - pas - sing.
Weep for my tres - pas - sing.
Weep for my tres - pas - sing.

42 *mf*

song of love in heav'n, set free. Then
Song of love in heav'n, set free.
Song of love in heav'n, set free.
Song of love in heav'n, set free.

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10

47

D

an - swered me my Mo - ther, _____ and her voice _____

mf Mo - ther, and her voice _____

mf Mo - ther, _____ and her voice _____

mf Mo - ther, _____ and her voice _____

51

p _____ spake to my heart and an - swered in my heart. _____

p _____ spake to my heart and an - swered in my heart. _____

p _____ spake to my heart and an - swered in my heart. _____

p _____ spake to my heart and an - swered in my heart. _____

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55 **E** $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$ *poco accel.* **mf** *cresc.* 11

Sing, saith he to the hea - vens, Sing, Sing, saith he to the Sing,

58

sing, saith he to the earth! Re - joice! sing, saith he to the hea - vens, sing, saith he to the earth! Re - sing, sing,

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12

Tempo primo

61

Re - joice! They have brought
hea - vens, sing saith he to the earth!
joice! Re - - - joice!
to the earth!

64

gold, they have brought gold and spi - ces.
They have brought gold, they have brought gold and
They have brought gold, they have brought
They have brought gold,

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system (measures 61-63) includes vocal staves for Soprano, Alto, and Tenor/Bass, and a piano accompaniment. The second system (measures 64-66) also includes vocal staves and piano accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Tempo primo'. Dynamics include 'f' (forte). A large watermark 'for review only' is placed diagonally across the page.

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13

67 *dim. al fine*
They have brought gold, _____ they have brought
dim. al fine
spi - ces. They have brought gold, _____
dim. al fine
gold and spi - ces. They have brought gold, _____
dim. al fine
they have brought gold and spi - ces. They have brought gold, _____

70
gold and spi - ces, they have brought gold and spi - ces,
they have brought gold and spi - ces, they have brought gold and
_____ they have brought gold and spi - ces, they have brought
_____ They have brought gold, _____

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14

73 *p*

they have brought gold and spi - ces, to my King,
spi - ces, gold and spi - ces to my King,
gold and spi - ces, gold and spi - ces to my King,
They have brought gold, _____ to my King

76 *pp Allargando*

What _____ can I _____ bring? _____ (ng) _____
What _____ can I _____ bring? _____ (ng) _____
What _____ can I _____ bring? _____ (ng) _____
What _____ can I _____ bring? _____ (ng) _____

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15

They have brought gold and spices to my King,
incense and precious gifts and ivory;
Oh holy Mother mine, what can I bring
so that my Lord may deign to look on me?
They sing a sweeter song than I can sing,
I, bound on earth, weep for my trespassing.
They sing the song of love in heaven, set free.
Then answered me my Mother, and her voice
spake to my heart and answered in my heart:
Sing, saith he to the heavens, to earth, Rejoice!

—Christina Rossetti, 1852, alt.

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