

**Bring a torch, Jeanette,
Isabelle!**
(Un flambeau!)

Stuart R Palmer



Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabelle! (*Un flambeau!*)

Traditional French, C17th Provence
tr. Stuart R Palmer

Traditional French
arr. Stuart R Palmer

♩ = 56 With driving energy

Soprano

Alto

Tenor *f*

Bass *f*

Organ (or piano)

p flute

solo

Bring a torch!__

Bring a torch!__

9

S. *mp*

A.

T.

B.

Org.

gamba

Un flam - beau, Jea - nette, Is - a - bel - le, un flam - beau! Cou - rons au ber - ceau!

19

S. *mf* Bring a torch, Jea-

A. *mf* Bring a torch, Jea-

T. *mf* Bring a torch, Jea-

B. *mf* Bring a torch, Jea-

Org. *mp* flute *p*

29

S. -nette, Is-a - bel-le, bring a torch! Let's run to the stall! Christ is here, good folk of the

A. -nette, Is-a - bel-le, bring a torch! Let's run to the stall! Christ is here, good folk of the

T. -nette, Is-a - bel-le, bring a torch! Let's run to the stall! Christ is here, good folk of the

B. -nette, Is-a - bel-le, bring a torch! Let's run to the stall! Christ is here, good folk of the

Org.

38

S. vill-age, Je-sus is born; we hear Ma-ry's call. Ah! Beau-ti-ful is the Mo-ther.

A. vill-age, Je-sus is born; we hear Ma-ry's call. Ah! Beau-ti-ful is the Mo-ther.

T. vill-age, Je-sus is born; we hear Ma-ry's call. Ah! Beau-ti-ful is the Mo-ther.

B. vill-age, Je-sus is born; we hear Ma-ry's call. Ah! Beau-ti-ful is the Mo-ther.

Org.

48

S. Ah! Beau-ti-ful is the Child.

A. Ah! Beau-ti-ful is the Child. *mp* Bring a torch!—

T. Ah! Beau-ti-ful is the Child.

B. Ah! Beau-ti-ful is the Child.

Org.

solo

57 *mp*

S. Bring a torch!___

A.

T. *f* Who comes here, comes

B.

Org. gamba

65

S.

A.

T. knock-ing so loud-ly, who comes here? Who comes to our board? Op - en up!_ We'll

B. *f* Who comes here, comes knock-ing so loud-ly, who comes here? Who

Org. flute

73

S.

A.

T.

B.

Org.

82

S.

A.

T.

B.

Org.

92

S. Child sleeps so sound-ly, it is wrong, this out - cry to make! Sil-ence now! Speak

A. *p* It is wrong, the Child sleeps so sound-ly, it is wrong, this

T.

B.

Org.

flute

100

S. on-ly in whis-pers: the slight-est noise, and Je-sus may wake!_ Hush!

A. out-cry to make! Si - lence now, or Je-sus may wake! Hush!

T.

B.

Org.

108

S. *Won-der-ful is his slum - ber. Hush! See how he sleeps and smiles.*

A. *Won-der-ful is his slum-ber. Hush! See how he sleeps and smiles.*

T. *8*

B. *8*

Org.

117

S. *p* *Bring a torch!__*

A. *p* *Bring a torch!__*

T. *p* *Bring a torch!__*

B. *p* *Bring a torch!__*

Org. *solo*

125

S. *mp* Soft-ly now, come in-to the

A. *mp* Soft-ly now, come in-to the

T. *mp* Soft-ly now, come in-to the

B. *mp* Soft-ly now, come in-to the

Org. *flute* Soft-ly now, come in-to the

136

S. sta-ble, soft-ly now, come see his fair form. Clo - ser still, his char-ming ap - pear-ance

A. sta-ble, soft-ly now, come see his fair form. Clo - ser still, his char-ming ap - pear-ance

T. sta-ble, soft-ly now, come see his fair form. Clo - ser still, his char-ming ap - pear-ance

B. sta-ble, soft-ly now, come see his fair form. Clo - ser still, his char-ming ap - pear-ance

Org. sta-ble, soft-ly now, come see his fair form. Clo - ser still, his char-ming ap - pear-ance

145

S. how pure and white! How ro-sy and warm! Ah! Beau-ti-ful is the Mo - ther.

A. how pure and white! How ro-sy and warm! Ah! Beau-ti-ful is the Mo-ther.

T. how pure and white! How ro-sy and warm! Ah! Beau-ti-ful is the Mo-ther.

B. how pure and white! How ro-sy and warm! Ah! Beau-ti-ful is the Mo - ther.

Org.

154

S. Ah! Beau-ti-ful is the Child. Bring a *mf*

A. Ah! Beau-ti-ful is the Child. Bring a torch!— *mf*

T. Ah! Beau-ti-ful is the Child. Bring a *mf*

B. Ah! Beau-ti-ful is the Child. Bring a torch!— *mf*

Org. solo

164

S. *mp*
torch!___ *Un flam - beau, Jea-nette, Is-a - bel - le, un flam-*

A.

T. *8*
torch!___

B.

Org. *gamba*

174

S. *mf* *f*
- beau! Cou - rons au ber - ceau! Cou - rons au ber ceau!___

A. *mf* *f*
Cou - rons au ber - ceau!___

T. *8* *f*
Un flam - beau!___

B. *f*
Un flam - beau!___

Org. *soft diap.* *mp* *soft diap.* *solo*

Composer's notes

There are many different translations of this old French carol, some of which bear very little relation to the original text. I have tried to keep as close as possible to the source material, while also striving for good English.

Performance notes

There is tension: the men are excited; the women are trying to calm them down for the sake of the baby. A compromise is reached – and then in the closing bars the women get caught up in the excitement too!

Bars 11-18 and 169-176 could be sung by a solo voice if a sufficiently strong singer is available. Please remember that, in French, the name Jeanette would have a soft "Zh" sound. Finally, resist the temptation to speed up: the words and music themselves already convey a sufficient sense of urgency!

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It is expected that musicians will make suitable adjustments to vocal disposition and use of instruments to suit their own circumstances. Any alteration which goes beyond such limits must be qualified as an "arrangement" by yourself.

Feedback

Comments on the music are welcomed. It would also be good to hear of performances taking place and to receive copies of any recordings made.

Contact and downloads

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