

About the composer



Tracey Craig McKibben earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from Pensacola Christian College, where she studied with Daniel Nagy and Daisy de Luca Jaffe. She has taught piano in both school and studio settings, instilling in students of all ages a love of music as well as the technical proficiency to achieve their dreams. Several of her students are now teaching music professionally. Tracey began composing and arranging while in college and has developed a lifelong passion for creating music. She is a member of ASCAP.

Tracey has served in many church music leadership roles including music director, director for both adult and children's choirs, pianist, accompanist, and handbell director.

Her choral and piano works are published by Neil A. Kjos Music Company, Lorenz, Lillenas, Easy Choir Music, and Celebrating Grace. She also has many self-published works available online.

Tracey lives in Dayton, Ohio, with her husband and son. She also has a step-daughter and two eccentric, but lovable, cats. When not composing or teaching, she enjoys hiking with family and friends, jogging, and cycling. She is also an avid reader and knitter.

Lyrics

That First Christmas Night

Before that first Christmas night,
Earth lay in darkness, searching for her light.
The prophets told of one who would be king,
And all hearts longed for the kingdom he would bring.

And on that night, we heard love's song.
And on that night, love's pow'r was strong.
Breaking chains that held us for so long.
Our Jesus came, the pow'r of love reclaimed us, that first Christmas night.

And on that first Christmas night, when God came down to earth,
Love's most glorious sight.
The angels sang of peace and of great joy
And shepherds ran to see the baby boy.

And on the night when angels sang to all the world
A wondrous star shone in the sky.
It led the Eastern kings who brought myrrh and gold,
To kneel before the Lord most high.

In memory of my uncle, Richard Craig

That First Christmas Night

for Mixed Choir (SAB) with Piano

Words and Music by
Tracey Craig McKibben (ASCAP)

Gently (♩ = 88)

Piano

p *mp*

Pedal harmonically throughout

The piano introduction consists of two staves in 4/4 time. The right hand starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic, playing a series of chords and moving lines. The left hand provides a steady accompaniment. The dynamic shifts to mezzo-piano (*mp*) in the second measure. A hairpin crescendo is shown over the first two measures. The instruction 'Pedal harmonically throughout' is written below the bass staff.

mf

This section of the piano accompaniment continues from the previous system. It features a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The right hand has a melodic line with some sustained notes, while the left hand continues with a rhythmic accompaniment. A hairpin crescendo is also present.

4

7

Soprano, Alto unison
mp

Be-fore that first Christ-mas

This system contains the vocal entry for the Soprano and Alto parts. The vocal line is written on a single staff and begins at measure 7. The lyrics are 'Be-fore that first Christ-mas'. The piano accompaniment continues below, with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. A hairpin crescendo is shown over the vocal entry.

Duration: ca. 4:20

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10 SA
 night, The pro-phets
 Bass unison *mp*
 earth lay in dark - ness, search-ing for her light.

13
 told of one who would be king, and all hearts

15
 longed for the king-dom he would bring. And on that night, we heard love's_

mf