



# **I wonder as I wander**

*for SATB divisi a cappella*

**John Jacob Niles**  
**Arrgt. Jean-Christophe Rosaz**



# I wonder as I wander

Words: John Jacob NILES  
based on a fragment he heard in Murphy, Cherokee County, North Carolina  
Arrgt. Jean-Christophe Rosaz

$\text{♩} = 120$

*sempre cresc. dim.*  
*dolcissimo legato passing by like a cloud*

Soprano 1 Ah! Ah!

Soprano 2 *dolcissimo legato passing by like a cloud*  
Ah!

Alto 1 *dolcissimo legato passing by like a cloud sempre cresc. dim.*  
Ah!

Alto 2 *dolcissimo legato passing by like a cloud sempre cresc. dim.*  
Ah!

Ténor *solo mp*  
8 I won - der as I wan - der, I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the

Basse

6

S 1 Ah! Ah!

S 2 *little notes sempre leggiero*  
Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah!

A 1 Ah! Ah!

A 2 *little notes sempre leggiero*  
Ah! Ah!

T *tutti*  
8 sky, How Je - sus the Sa - viour did come for to die For poor ord'-n'ry peo - ple like

B *mp*  
For poor ord'-n'ry peo - ple like

13

*mp* *poco rit.* *a tempo* solo *p*

S 1 I won-der as I wan-der out un-der the sky. *bocca chiusa* 2) When

S 2 Ah! Ah! I won-der as I wan-der the sky. *bocca chiusa*

A 1 I won-der as I wan-der the sky. *bocca chiusa*

A 2 Ah! I won-der as I wan-der the sky. *bocca chiusa*

T 8 you and like I; I won-der as I wan-der out un-der the sky. Ah! *dolcissimo*

B you and like I; I won-der as I wan-der the sky. Ah! *dolcissimo*

20

*più presente* *a due*

S 1 Ma-ry birth-ed Je-sus, 'twas in a cow's stall, With wise men and farm-ers and she-pherds and gli altri *più presente*

S 2 Ah!

A 1 *dolcissimo sempre cresc. dim.* Ah! *più presente*

A 2 *dolcissimo sempre cresc. dim.* Ah! Ah! *più presente*

T 8 *legato passing by like a cloud sempre cresc. dim.* Ah! *più presente*

B *legato passing by like a cloud sempre cresc. dim.* Ah! *più presente*

27 *tutti cresc.* *p*

S 1 all; But high from the hea-vens a star's light did fall, And the pro-mise of a - ges it *p*

S 2 Ah! But high from the hea-vens a star's light did fall, And the pro-mise of a - ges Div. *p*

A 1 Ah! And the pro-mise of a - ges *p*

A 2 Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah! And the pro-mise of a - ges *p*

T Ah! And the pro-mise of a - ges Div. *p*

B *little notes sempre leggiero* Ah! Ah! And the pro-mise of a - ges Div. *p*

34 *a tempo* *pp* *p*

S 1 then did re - call. Oh! Ah! *pp* *p*

S 2 it did re - call. Oh! Ah! *pp* *p*

A 1 it did re - call. Oh! 3)If Je - sus had want - ed for a - ny wee thing, A *pp* *mf* (tutti) *p*

A 2 it did re - call. Oh! Ah! *pp* *p*

T Div. then did re - call. Ah! *p* *mf* (tutti)

B it did re - call. 3)If Je - sus had want - ed for a - ny wee thing, A *pp* *mf* (tutti)

41

*mp* *mf*

S 1 Ah! Ah!

S 2 Ah! Ah!

A 1 *f* star in the sky or a bird on the wing, Or all of God's an - gels in heav'n for to

A 2 *f* star in the sky or a bird on the wing, Or all of God's an - gels in heav'n for to

T *mp* *mf* A star on the wing, in heav'n to

B *f* star in the sky or a bird on the wing, Or all of God's an - gels in heav'n for to

48

*f* *mf* *mf* *mp*

S 1 He sure-ly could have it 'cause he was the King. He was the King.

S 2 Div. *f* *mf* He sure-ly could have it 'cause he was the King. He was the King.

A 1 *f* *mf* *mp* sing, He sure-ly could have it 'cause he was the King. He was the King, he

A 2 *f* *mf* *mp* sing, He sure-ly could have it 'cause he was the King. He was the King, he

T *f* *mp* sing, He sure-ly could have it 'cause he was the King. he

B Div. *f* *mp* sing, He sure-ly could have it 'cause he was the King. he

*poco rit. a tempo Coda*

55

*p* *solo mp*

*bocca chiusa* *as I*

*p* *bocca chiusa*

*solo mp* *tutti in rilievo*

was the King, I won-der out un-der the sky,

*p* *bocca chiusa*

was the King,

*p* *solo mp*

*bocca chiusa* I won-der...

*solo mp* *tutti in rilievo*

was the King, as I wan-der, out un-der the sky,

62

*tutti mf* *poco a poco dim. e rall.* *solo ad lib.*

wan-der I won-der as I wan-der, out un-der the sky, un-der the sky!

*mp*

I wan-der, un-der the sky!

*mp*

I wan-der, un-der the sky!

*mp*

I wan-der, un-der the sky!

*p*

the sky!

*p* the sky!

1 I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,  
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die  
for poor ordinary people like you and like I;  
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

2 When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall  
with wise men and farmers and shepherd and all.  
but high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,  
and the promise of ages it did then recall.

3 If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,  
a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,  
or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,  
he surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

1 Je me demande, en errant sous le ciel,  
pourquoi Jésus le Sauveur est venu mourir  
pour des gens ordinaires comme vous et comme moi ;  
Je me demande, en errant sous le ciel.

2 Quand Marie a donné naissance à Jésus, c'était dans une étable  
avec des mages, des fermiers, des bergers et tout le reste.  
Mais du haut du ciel de Dieu, la lumière d'une étoile est tombée,  
et elle a alors rappelé la promesse des siècles.

3 Si Jésus avait voulu la moindre petite chose,  
une étoile dans le ciel, ou un oiseau en vol,  
ou tous les anges de Dieu au ciel pour chanter,  
il l'aurait certainement eue, car il était le Roi.