BENJAMIN COOKE
(1734–1793)

A CHRISTMAS ODE
FOR SOLOISTS, CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA

EDITED BY ANDREW PINK
UCL
2007
Cover image:

*Benjamin Cooke* by William Skelton (1763–1848), after an unknown artist.
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This 2007 edition of Benjamin Cooke’s *A Christmas Ode* is a revision of the version that was first prepared in 1999 as part of the dissertation submitted by the editor for an MA Music degree, awarded 2000 by APU (Cambridge). That edition was used to give the Ode its first modern performance in Chelmsford Cathedral, Essex, on 18 December 1999, where it was presented by the Chelmsford Singers and the Essex Baroque Orchestra, conducted by Peter Holman. Indeed, the impetus to produce a performing edition of the Ode came from Peter Holman himself, who was then teaching courses in Editing & Transcription, and Performance Practice at APU.

Until 1999 knowledge of Cooke’s Ode was restricted to scholars of English eighteenth-century music, with the only copy a manuscript in the library of the Royal College of Music in London (shelf mark 806.01a). That manuscript was made in 1859 by William Henry Husk, who was the librarian of the Sacred Harmonic Society, and is bound into a single volume along with Cooke’s orchestral anthem ‘The Lord in his wrath’. The Ode is prefaced by the following statement by Husk:

> This ode was scored by me from a set of separate parts formerly belonging to the composer and now in the library of The Sacred Harmonic Society. The original score (with which this has been collated) now belongs to Mr James Turle, organist of Westminster Abbey. The music was composed at Vauxhall Sep’t 2nd 1763 and was Perform’d for the first time on the 15th Sep’t 1763 at the Academy [of Ancient Music] & updated for the next Thursday 22nd Sep’t. It obtained considerable favour and seems to have been often updated. The composer has noted at the end of the score in addition to the above mentioned the following performances viz -at the Foundling Hospital Dec’ 27th 1763 - at Mr Treadway's house - at Colonel Bonham's - at a meeting at Wills’ Coffee House - at the Foundling Hospital Dec’ 27th 1764 at the Academy Sep’t 5th and 12th 1765, Dec’ 26th 1771 and January 2nd 1772. (These are distinguished as "bene") - Dec’ 2nd and 29th 1774 and Dec’ 17th 1784. The poem was the production of Taylor White.

> Mr W H. Husk.
> Librarian, Sacred Harmonic Society, January 1859.

The edition presented here was prepared from the 1999 version, making use of the same notation software package called Noteworthy Composer. The occasional limitations of Noteworthy Composer that are evident here – the problems of barring large musical forces, infelicitous pagination, and the necessity of adding many editorial suggestions by hand – are not significant enough to delay making this edition freely available, via UCL Eprints <www.eprints.ucl.ac.uk>, to the many people who have enquired about it in the years since 1999. That said, a replacement of this edition is in hand, using Sibelius software to overcome such minor infelicities, and it will be made freely available via UCL Eprints in mid-2008.
SCORING

Voices
Chorus – Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass
Soloists – Soprano I, Soprano II, Alto, Tenor, Bass

Orchestra
Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola I
Viola II*
Cello
Double Bass
Flute [or descant/tenor recorder] I #
Flute [or descant/tenor recorder] II#
Oboe I
Oboe II
Bassoon I
Bassoon II+
French Horn I
French Horn II
Organ

* In no. 4 Recitative.
+ In no. 4 Recitative, and the final note of the last movement.
# In no. 7 Trio when Oboe I/II are tacet.
ODE FOR CHRISTMAS

by

TAYLOR WHITE

This is the month
In which our Saviour Christ was born.

In cheerful songs your tribute pay
To celebrate th'auspicious day.
The sacred Prophet knew of old
In mystic strains His birth fore'told,
When th'appointed time is run
A Virgin shall conceive a Son.
From Jesse's root a branch shall rise
And with its fragrance fill the skies.
His skill shall purge the visual ray
The sightless eye shall see the day.
Th'obstructed paths of sound he'll clear
And bid new music charm the ear.
The dumb shall sing, the lame shall go
And bound exulting like the roe.
In chains shall Death be ever bound
And Hell's grim tyrant feel the wound.
But lo! How humble is His bed
Around the cattle take their rest
And weary swains in sleep are laid
Unmindful of the heav'nly guest.

While the bright signal from on high
Asserts His kindred to the sky.
Conducted by Thy mystic star
Kings of the East come to adore.
Loaded with treasures from afar
The choicest of Arabia's store.
Gold, frankincense and myrrh, they bring
Their tribute to the heav'nly king.
Angelic hymns Thy natal day
Proclaim'd to the responsive rocks.
While list'ning to the joyful lay
The watchful shepherds tend their flocks.
Glory to God, the strain began
And on Earth peace, goodwill t'wards men.
Oceans shall fail, the skies decay
Earth consume, rocks melt away.
But fix'd, Thy word shall e'er remain,
Thy truth eternal as Thy reign.
EDITORIAL COMMENTARY

i. Sinfonia

bb. 14/15 cello

Changed from

\[ \text{Music staff image} \]

to match the viola.

b. 32 violin I

First note raised an octave to be consistent with oboe 2

b. 40 violin I

Sustained tutti A, as in oboe 1, inserted under the solo violin

b. 42 oboe I

Changed from

\[ \text{Music staff image} \]

to match violin 1.

b. 52 violin I

Grace note added

b. 108 oboe I, oboe II, violin I.

Last note lowered one tone to C

b. 109 double bass

Second note lowered a fifth to follow cello part

2. Chorus: This Is The Month

b. 21 viola

Last note raised a minor third to G

b. 47 horn II in F

Lowered an octave to remain below horn I

b. 86 soprano II and organ r.h.

Lowered a tone to avoid a harsh fourth with the bass
b. 125 violin II

Second note B lowered a tone to A

3. Duetto: In Cheerful Songs Your Tribute Pay

bb. 24/25 oboe I

Changed from 

4. Recitative. The Sacred Prophet Knew Of Old

b. 3 alto

Grace note added before the last note

b. 9 bass

Grace note added before the last note

b. 17 bassoon II

First four notes lowered a fourth to match the pitch of the bass

b. 18 bassoon II

First four notes lowered a fifth to match the pitch of the bass

b. 26 cello

Last four notes raised from C sharp to E in order to be consistent with the viola

b. 43 bass

Grace note added

b. 49 violin I

F sharp replaced by F natural since an F sharp would be redundant in this line

5. Song: But Lo! How Humble Is His Bed

b. 10 violin II

Chords added to respect similar passages at bb. 2 & 7

b. 23 cello

Last note raised a third to be consistent with the viola
b. 24 bassoon

Last note lowered a third to be consistent with the cello/bass

b. 32 violin II

Grace note added in beat three to be consistent with violin 1

b. 35 violin I

Addition of C sharp in beat 3

b. 35 viola

Addition of E natural in beat 3

b. 38 violin 2

Last note lowered a minor third to G sharp

b. 45 bassoon

Quavers 2, 3, 4 & 6, 7, 8 slurred in the original
Quaver 5 marked with staccato in the original
Staccato marks made consistent with the other staccato markings at this point

b. 45 violin I

Quavers 1, 2, 3, 4 marked staccato to make them consistent with the other parts

b. 46 cello & bass

First note lowered a major third to make it consistent with the bassoon

b. 53 solo voice

First note lowered a major third

b. 72 violin II

Quavers 2–8 lowered a tone

6. Song: Conducted By Thy Mystic Star

b. 28 violin II

Sharp sign removed from the third note E
b. 37 viola

Natural added to match the cautionary accidentals in the two violin parts

b. 40 violin II

Minim rest across beats 2 & 3 replaced with crotchet notes to match beats 1 & 4

b. 69 oboe II

Minim B on beats 3 & 4 changed to be consistent with oboe I

b. 64 violin II

Sharp sign removed from the first note G

7. Trio: Angelic Hymns Thy Natal Day Proclaim

b. 27 tenor

Three minims changed to match the rhythm of the alto

b. 56 cello & double bass

Raised a tone to A

8. Chorus: Glory To God

b. 6 oboe II

Three crotchets altered to be consistent with oboe II

b. 42 cello

First note lowered a fifth

b. 42 double bass

Altered from

\[\text{Note}\]

to be rhythmically consistent with the cello/viola/bassoon

b. 43 double bass

Altered from

\[\text{Note}\]

to be rhythmically consistent with the cello/viola/bassoon
b. 48 tenor

C natural inserted

9. Chorus: Oceans Shall Fail

b. 21 bassoon

Altered from ...

to follow cello/bass line.

b. 38 organ

Altered from

to remain consistent with the voices

b. 45 violin II

Fourth beat altered from

b. 62 violin II/organ

G tied to next bar to be consistent with oboe 2

b. 68 oboe I

Last note raised a tone

b. 74 oboe I/violin I

Natural sign inserted before the last note

b. 103 violin I

F natural inserted

b. 104 violin I

Sharp sign removed from third note F

b. 115 bass voice/tenor voice

Dotted minim changed to minim and crotchet rest to match woodwind/soprano/alto
**Clefs: Voice Parts**

Alto and tenor clefs are modernised for those voices.

**Clefs: Horn parts**

I have transposed the horn parts into C

Chorus: This Is The Month

Originally in F using the alto clef.

Song: Conducted By Thy Mystic Star

Originally in D using the alto clef.

Chorus: Glory To God

Originally in D using the alto clef.

Chorus: Oceans Shall Fail

Originally in G minor/G major using an F clef where the f is placed on the middle line of the stave.

All other editorial changes to the music are either enclosed within square brackets [ … ] or in the case of editorial slurs and ties are shown as a dotted line. In the separate performance material for soloists, chorus and orchestra, these editorial slurs are shown as solid lines crossed through with a short vertical dash.

**Text and Spelling**

There are two sources for the text. One is the score made by William Henry Husk, in the library of the Royal College of Music, London (shelf mark 806.01a), and the other is a word book of 1768, printed for the Academy of Ancient Music, now in the British Library, London (shelf mark 1488.cc.2.). Where there is a difference I have followed Husk’s version of the text. The score by Husk calls the solo at no.5 ‘song’, and gives no form for the solo at no.6. I have called both solo items ‘song’.

Andrew Pink
UCL
September 2007
Ia. Overture 'May be used instead of the Sinfonia'

Benjamin Cooke (1734-1793)

Copyright © 2007 Andrew Pink
1. Sinfonia

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2. Chorus: This Is The Month.

Oboe 1

Oboe 2

Bassoon

1st Horn in F

2nd Horn in F

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Soprano 1

This is the month. This is the month.

Soprano 2

Alto

This is the month. This is the month. This is the

Tenor

This is the month. This is the month. This is the

Bass

This is the month. This is the month. This is the

Organ

This is the month. This is the

Violoncello

Bass.

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This is the month. This is the month. This is the month. This is the month. This is the month. This is the month. This is the month. This is the month.
month. This is the month in which our Saviour

month

This is the month in which our Saviour

d this is the month in which our Saviour

This is the month, the month in which our Saviour

[cresc]
This is the month.
This is the month.
This is the month.
This is the month.
This is the month.
This is the month.
This is the month.
This is the month.
This is the month.
This is the month.
This is the month. This is the month in which our Sa-

This is the month. This is the month in which our

This is the month in which our

This is the month in which our
Saviour Christ was born, our Saviour
Saviour Christ was born, our Saviour
Saviour Christ was born.
Saviour Christ was born.
Saviour Christ was born.
the month in which our Saviour,
the month in which our Saviour,
the month in which our Saviour,
the month in which our Saviour Christ
the month in which our Saviour Christ
our Saviour Christ was born. This is the
our Saviour Christ was born. This is the
our Saviour Christ was born. This is the
our Saviour Christ was born.
This is the month. This, this is the month. This is the month, this is the month. This is the month, is the month.

This is the month. This, this is the month. This is the month, this is the month. This is the month, is the month.
This is the month, the month in which our Saviour
month, is the month, the month in which our Saviour
This is the month, the month in which our Saviour
month.
Christ was born. This month,
Christ was born. This month,
Christ was born. This month,
Christ was born. This month,
Christ was born. This month,
3. Duetto: In Cheerful Songs Your Tribute Pay

In cheerful songs your tribute pay
to celebrate auspicious day, to

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Celebrate the auspicious day.

cheerful songs your tribute pay. In cheerful songs your
cheerful songs your tribute pay. In...
tribute pay. In cheerful songs your
tribute pay. In cheerful songs your

tribute pay, your tribute pay. In cheerful songs your
tribute pay,

tribute pay, your tribute pay,

 Operating the final day, th'aus-pi-cious day,

 to celebrate th'aus-pi-cious day, th'aus-pi-cious day.
[NB repeat the chorus (No 2 This Is The Month)]
4. Recitative: The Sacred Prophet Knew Of Old

The sacred Prophet knew of old, in mystic strains His birth foretold.

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oin-ted time is run a Vir-gin shall con-ceive a Son.
From Je-sse's root a branch shall rise
Andante

and with its fragrance fill the skies, with its fragrance

fill the skies. His skill shall...
purge the visual ray. The sightless eye shall see the
day. Th'obstructed paths of sound he'll clear and bid new music charm the
ear, new music, and bid new music

charm the ear, bid new music
Andante Moderato

Recit (Bass)

The dumb shall sing. The lame shall go and

bound exulting like the roe.
In chains shall Death be ever bound and Hell's grim tyrant feel the wound.
But lo! how humble, how
humble is His bed, how humble. But lo! how humble is His bed. A-

round the cattle take their rest
and wea-ry swains in sleep are laid, and wea-ry

swains in sleep are laid. A-round the ca-ttle take their
rest and weary swains in sleep are laid, unmindful,

unmindful, unmindful of the
While the bright signal from on high, while the bright signal from on high asserts His
kin-dred, as-serts His kin-dred, as-serts His kin-dred, His
kin-dred to the sky, His kin-dred to the sky.
While the bright signal from on high,
while the bright signal from on
high asserts His kin-dred,
His kindred, asserts His kindred to the sky.
Conducted by Thy mystic star
Kings of the East come to adore

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load-ed with trea-sures from a-far, load-ed with trea-sures from a-far.

Con-duc-ted by Thy my-stic star.
Kings of the East come to adore, Kings, Kings of the East come to adore
load-ed with treas-ures from a-far,
load-ed with
bi'a's store. Gold, frank-in-cense and myrrh. Gold,
frankincense and myrrh. Gold, frankincense and myrrh. They bring their
tribute to the heavenly king.

The choicest of A
ra bia's store. Gold, frank-incense and myrrh. Gold, frank-incense and myrrh. They bring their
tribute to the heav'n ly king, their tribute to the heav'n ly king.
Natal day proclaim'd to the responsive
Natal day proclaim'd to the responsive
Natal day proclaim'd to the responsive

rocks
rocks.
rocks.

Angelic hymns
Angelic hymns, Angelic hymns,
-lic hymns Thy natal day proclaimed to the
gelic hymns Thy natal day proclaimed
gelic hymns Thy natal day proclaimed to the

responsive rocks.
proclaim'd to the responsive rocks. An
responsive rocks, to the responsive rocks An
While listening to the joyful rocks.

While listening to the joyful rocks.

While listening to the joyful

joyful lay the watchful shepherds

joyful lay the watchful shepherds

joyful lay the watchful shepherds
shepherds tend their flocks

shepherds tend their flocks

shepherds tend their flocks List'ning

shepherds tend their flocks f tend their flocks.
God. Glory to God. Glory to God.

God. Glory to God. Glory to God.

God. Glory to God. Glory to God.

God. Glory, Glory, Glory to God.
God the strain began.

God the strain began.

God the strain began.

And on and on

And on
And on Earth peace, peace on Earth
And on Earth peace, peace, peace on Earth
Peace good-will on Earth, on Earth peace, peace, peace
Earth, pp peace, good-will towards men.
Earth, pp peace, good-will towards men.
Earth, pp peace, good-will towards men, towards 
peace good-will good-will towards
Earth, pp peace, good-will towards
Earth, pp
Glo - ry,  Glo - ry to God.

Glo - ry to God, to God.

Glo - ry to God.  Glo - ry to God.

Glo - ry  Glo - ry

Glo - ry to God.

Glo - ry to God.
Glo - ry, Glory to God.
Glo - ry, Glory to God.
Glo - ry, Glory to God.
Glo - ry, Glory to God.
Glo - ry,        Glo - ry to God
Glo - ry,        Glo - ry to God
Glo - ry,        Glo - ry to God,
Glo - ry Glo - ry to God
Glo - ry,        Glo - ry to God,
and on Earth peace, on Earth peace,
and on Earth peace, on Earth peace,
good will, good will,
and on Earth peace on Earth peace

good will, good will,
peace, peace, good will t'wards men. Good-

peace, peace, good will t'wards men. Good-

peace, peace, good will t'wards men. Good-

peace, peace, good will t'wards men. Good-

peace, peace, good will t'wards men. Good-
- will t'wards men.
- will t'wards men.
- will t'wards men.
- will t'wards men.
- will tow'rds men.

Allegro

Oboe 1

Oboe 2

Bassoon

1st Horn in G

2nd Horn in G

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Soprano 1

Soprano 2

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Organ

Violoncello

Bass

Oceans shall fail, the skies decay, Earth

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consume, rocks melt away. Oceans shall
consume, rocks melt away. Oceans shall
rocks melt away. Ocean shall
Earth consume, rocks melt away. Oceans shall
Earth consume, rocks melt away. Oceans shall
fail, the skies decay,
fail, the skies decay,
fail, the skies decay,
fail, the skies decay,
melt away.
melt away.
melt away.
melt away.
melt away.
Earth consume, rocks melt away. But
fix'd  Thy word,  Thy word shall e'er re-main.
But fix'd Thy word, Thy word shall e'er remain,

But fix'd Thy word, Thy word shall e'er remain,

But fix'd Thy word, Thy word shall e'er remain,

But fix'd Thy word, Thy word shall e'er remain,
e'er remain, fix'd Thy word shall e'er remain.
e'er remain, fixed Thy word shall e'er remain.
e'er remain, fix'd Thy word shall e'er remain.
e'er remain, fix'd Thy word shall e'er remain.
e'er remain, fix'd Thy word shall e'er remain.
e'er remain, fix'd Thy word shall e'er remain.
Thy truth eternal as Thy reign.
as Thy reign, eternal as Thy reign.
as Thy reign,
Thy truth eternal,
Thy truth eternal, Thy truth eternal as Thy reign,
Thy truth eternal, Thy truth eternal as Thy reign,
thought eternal as Thy reign, eternal as Thy reign.
truth eternal, Thy truth eternal as Thy reign.

Thy reign.

Thy reign.

Thy reign.

Thy reign.

Thy reign.

Thy reign.
truth eternal, Thy truth eternal as Thy reign.
Thy truth eternal, Thy truth eternal as Thy reign. Thy
truth eternal, truth eternal, eternal as Thy reign. Thy
truth eternal, Thy truth eternal as Thy reign. Thy
reign.
truth eternal as Thy reign,

reign, eternal as Thy reign,

reign, eternal as Thy reign,

truth eternal as Thy reign.
Thy truth eternal,
and fix'd Thy word shall
and fix'd Thy word shall
and fix'd Thy word.
truth e-ter-nal, fix'd Thy word. Thy

e'er re-main, fix'd Thy word, fix'd Thy

e'er re-main. Thy truth e-ter-nal,

Thy truth e-ter-nal, Thy truth e-ter-nal
truth e-ter-nal, Thy truth e-ter-nal,

Thy truth e-ter-nal shall e'er re-main. Thy

Thy word, fix'd Thy word shall e'er re-main. Thy

fix'd Thy word. Thy word shall e'er re-main. Thy

fix'd Thy word. Thy truth e-ter-nal, truth e-ter-nal,
truth eternal as Thy reign. Thy truth eternal
truth eternal as Thy reign. Thy truth eternal
truth eternal as Thy reign. Thy truth eternal
truth eternal as Thy reign. Thy truth eternal
and fix'd Thy word.
Thy
and fix'd Thy word, Thy
and fix'd Thy word, Thy
and fix'd Thy word, Thy
word shall e'er remain,  
fix'd Thy word shall e'er remain,
word shall e'er remain,  
fix'd Thy word.
word shall e'er remain,  
fix'd Thy word shall e'er remain.
Thy word shall e'er remain,  
fix'd Thy word shall e'er remain,
word.  Thy truth - e - ter - nal, Thy truth e-
e - ter - nal, fix'd Thy word, fix'd Thy word. Thy truth e-
Thy truth e - ter - nal as Thy reign. Thy truth e-
fix'd Thy word shall e'er re - main. Thy truth e-
- ter - nal as Thy reign shall e'er re - main. Thy truth e-
ternal as Thy reign. Thy truth e-ternal as
ternal as Thy reign. Thy truth e-ternal as
ternal as Thy reign. Thy truth e-ternal as
ternal as Thy reign. Thy truth e-ternal as
Thy reign.

Thy reign.

Thy reign.

Thy reign.