

Birjina gaztettobat zegoen

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Sabine Baring-Gould / GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

The musical score is written for piano in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of two staves each. The melody is primarily in the right hand, featuring a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some longer phrases in the left hand. The piece concludes with a final chord in the right hand and a sustained bass note in the left hand.

1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Ma_ry."
"Most highly favoured lady!" Gloria!

2. "For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold."
"Most highly favoured lady!" Gloria!

3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleaseth God!" she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."
"Most highly favoured lady!" Gloria!

4. Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn;
and Christian folk throughout the world will
ever say:
"Most highly favoured lady!" Gloria!

Inspiration: Luke 1: 26-38, 46; "Angelus ad virginem", 13th or 14th cent. Latin carol; translated as "Birjina gaztettobat zegoen", Basque carol.

Lyrics: 10.10.12.10; Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924, in "The University Carol Book", 1922.

Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE; traditional Basque carol melody; harmonized by Charles Edgar Pettman, 1866-1943.