

Born Tonight

SATB with Piano or SATB a cappella

Words by Ben Johnson (1573-1637)

Music by Mitchell Covington ASCAP

Brightly ♩ = 92

Piano
ad lib.

f

2 *f* (2nd verse *mp*)

I sing the Birth was born to - night, the Auth - or both of life and
(The) Son of God, th'E - ter - nal King, That did us all sal - va - tion

f (2nd verse *mp*)

I sing the Birth was born to - night, the Auth - or of -
(The) Son of God, th'E - ter - nal King, That did sal - va - tion

f (2nd verse *mp*)

I sing the Birth was bom to - night, the Auth - or both of life and
(The) Son of God, th'E - ter - nal King, That did us all sal - va - tion

f (2nd verse *mp*)

I sing the Birth was born to - night, the Auth - or both of life and
(The) Son of God, th'E - ter - nal King, That did us all sal - va - tion

2 (2nd verse *mp*)

Ben Johnson (c.1573-1637) was a poet and actor who had a lasting effect on English literature. As a young man he was put in prison for manslaughter, having killed a man in a duel. While in prison he converted to Roman Catholicism. He was released through the intervention of the church, forfeiting all his property and receiving a brand on his thumb. Johnson was a friend, rival, admirer and critic of William Shakespear. He wrote several tragedies and contributed to the importance of the *court masque*. Perhaps his best known poem is "To Celia," which begins, "Drink to me only with thine eyes..." and has been set to music by many composers throughout the centuries.

6

light; bring, The an - gels did so sound it, And He
 And freed the soul from dan - ger; He

light; bring, The an - gels did so sound it, And He
 And freed the soul from dan - ger; He

light; bring, The an - gels did so sound it, And He
 And freed the soul from dan - ger; He

light; bring, The an - gels did so sound it, And He
 And freed the soul from dan - ger; He

6

div.

9

like the rav - ished shep-herds said, whom the whole world could not take, Who saw the light and were a - Earth did
 The Word, which Heav'n and Earth did

like the shep-herds said, whom the world could not take, Who saw the light and were a - Earth did
 The Word, which Heav'n and Earth did

like the shep-herds said, whom the world could not take, Who saw the light and were a - Earth did
 The Word, which Heav'n and Earth did

like the shep-herds said, whom the world could not take, Who saw the light and were a - Earth did
 The Word, which Heav'n and Earth did

9

mp
unis.
mf

12 *f* *2nd time, poco rit.* 1. *mp* 2. *mp*

fraid, make, Yet searched and then they found it! The man - ger! The
 Was laid now in a

8 *f* *2nd time, poco rit.* 1. *mp* 2. *mp*

fraid, make, Yet searched and then they found it! The man - ger! The
 Was laid now in a

f *2nd time, poco rit.* 1. *mp* 2. *mp*

fraid, make, Yet searched and then they found it! The man - ger! The
 Was laid now in a

12 *f* *2nd time, poco rit.* 1. 2.

15 **Slower, Legato** ♩ = 69

Fa - ther's wis - dom willed it so, The Son's o - be - dience we all

Fa - ther's wis - dom willed it so, The Son's o - be - dience we all

Fa - ther's wis - dom willed it so, The Son's o - be - dience we all

Fa - ther's wis - dom willed it so, The Son's o - be - dience we all

Slower, Legato ♩ = 69

15 *mp*

18

know, Both wills were one in sta - ture, And as that wis-dom had de -

know, Both wills were one in sta - ture, And as that wis-dom had de -

know, Both wills were one in sta - ture And as that wis-dom had de -

know, Both wills were one in sta - ture And as that wis-dom had de -

18

22

creed, The Word was now made flesh in - deed, And

creed, The Word was now made flesh in - deed, And

creed, The Word was now made flesh in - deed, And

creed, The Word was now made flesh in - deed, And

22

A Tempo ♩ = 96

25 *rit.* *f*
 took on Him our earth - ly na - ture! What com - fort by Him do we

took our earth - ly na - ture! What com - fort by Him do we

took on Him our earth - ly na - ture! What com - fort by Him do we

took on Him our earth - ly na - ture! What com - fort by Him do we

A Tempo ♩ = 96

25 *f*

28
 win, Who made him - self the price of sin? To

win, Who made the price of sin? To

win, Who made him - self the price of sin? To

win, Who made him - self the price of sin? To

28

to see this Babe all In - no - cence,

31 make us heirs of glo - ry, to see this In - no - cence, A

make us heirs of glo - ry, To see this In - no - cence, A

8 make us heirs of glo - ry, To see this Babe all In - no - cence,

make us heirs of glo - ry, To see this Babe all In - no - cence,

31

mar - tyr born in our de - fense, a mar - tyr born, The Word, which heav'n and earth did

35 *rit.*

mar - tyr born in our de - fense, a mar - tyr born, The Word, which heav'n and earth did

rit.

8 A mar - tyr born in our de - fense, The Word which Heav'n and Earth did

rit.

A mar - tyr born in our de - fense, The Word which Heav'n and Earth did

35

39 *f* *a tempo* *mf* *rit.* *Fine*

make! Can man for-get the sto-ry? Can man for-get the sto-ry?

make! Can man for-get the sto-ry? Can man for-get the sto-ry?

make! Can man for-get the sto-ry? Can man for-get the sto-ry?

make! Can man for-get the sto-ry? Can man for-get the sto-ry?

Alternate Ending:

The following passage may replace measure 42 above.

43 Solo or small group: *mf* *Freely* *rit. al fine*

I sing the birth was born to - night, Can man for-get the sto - ry?

ry? Mm, Mm, the sto - ry?

ry? Mm, Mm, the sto - ry?

ry? Mm, Mm, the sto - ry?

ry? Mm, Mm, the sto - ry?

ry? Mm, Mm, the sto - ry?

43 *a tempo* *mf*