

CAROLS
SATB unaccompanied

OXFORD

JOHN RUTTER
WAS I THE LAMB?

John Rutter

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09/05/2024



for Benjamin Nicholas and the Choir of Merton College, Oxford
in celebration of the Revd Canon Dr Simon Jones's twentieth year as Chaplain

Was I the lamb?

M. R. Bratcher

JOHN RUTTER

Gently flowing ♩ = 63

SOLO SOPRANO

mp *cresc.* *mf*

SOPRANO Was I the lamb who woke that night When an-gels sang and all was

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

4

S. bright, And slow-ly raised my sleep-y head Out of my warm and shel-tered

mp 3

8

FULL SOPRANOS

S. bed? Was I the lamb who was a - stray Till ho-ly star did light my

A. *p* *cresc.* *mp*
Mm *mm*

T. *p* *cresc.* *mp*
Mm *mm*

B.

p *mp*

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Duration: 3¼ minutes
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13 *p dolce*

way, And gent-ly then the shep-herds bore Safe in their arms to the sta-ble

p dolce

And gent-ly then the shep-herds bore Safe in their arms to the

p dolce

And gent-ly then the shep-herds bore Safe in their arms to the

p dolce

Mm And gent-ly then the shep-herds bore Safe in their arms to the

17 *mp* *cresc.*

door? Nn nn

mp *cresc.*

sta - ble door? Nn

mf dolce

sta - ble door? Was I the lamb who saw the kings Bear the first gifts that Christ-mas

mp *cresc.*

sta - ble door? Nn

*1st basses can join with tenors from here to bar 27.



22 *mf* *mp* *p*

mf *mp* *p*

mf *mp* *p*

brings To set be - fore a ba-by born That first and pre - cious Christ-mas

mf *mp* *p*

mf *mp* *p*

26 **Poco più animato** **stringendo** *p cresc.* *mp cresc.*

Was I the lamb who kept his vi - gil As God's ho - ly mo-ther

p cresc. *mp cresc.*

Was I the lamb who kept his vi - gil As God's ho - ly mo-ther

p cresc. *mp cresc.*

morn? Was I the lamb who kept his vi - gil As God's ho - ly mo-ther

✓ *pp dolce* *mp cresc.*

that Christ-mas morn? As God's ho - ly mo-ther

Poco più animato **stringendo** *p cresc.* *mp cresc.*



31 **poco a poco rilassando**

mf dim. *p*

slept, And as her sin - gle tear did fall She dreamed that he would re-deem us

mf dim. *p*

slept, And as her sin - gle tear did fall She dreamed he would re -

mf *p*

slept, Mm mm mm mm mm

mf *p*

slept, Mm mm mm mm mm

poco a poco rilassando

mf dim. *p*

slept, Mm mm mm mm mm

35 **rit. a tempo, sempre rilassando** **Tempo I ♩ = 63**

all, re-deem us all.

- deem us all, re-deem us all, re - deem us all.

mm re - deem us all.

mm mm Ah

rit. a tempo, sempre rilassando **Tempo I ♩ = 63**

all, re-deem us all.



39 ***CHOIR I**
unis. mp

S. *mp*
 A. *mp*

Was I the lamb a - mid the hay Be-side the man - ger where he

mp

***CHOIR II**

S. *p*
 A. *p*
 T. *p*
 B. *p unis.*

Ah *ah*

Ah *ah*

Ah *ah*

Ah *ah*

mp
(p)

*If a Choir 1/Choir 2 split is not practicable, the Choir 1 part up to the third beat of bar 43 could be sung by a small semi-chorus or by the soprano soloist plus a tenor or bass soloist.



43

lay, _____ Who curled where Ma - ry's feet had trod, _____ And bowed my

_____ Who curled where Ma - ry's feet had trod, _____ And bowed my

_____ Who curled where Ma - ry's feet had trod, _____ And bowed my

_____ Who curled where Ma - ry's feet had trod, _____ And bowed my

_____ Who curled where Ma - ry's feet had trod, _____ And bowed my



46

SOLOSOPRANO

mp *p* *rall.*

Was I the lamb, — was I the lamb? —

rall.

CHOIRS I and II

p *dim.* *pp*

S. head be-fore the Lamb of God? *Mm* *mm.*

A. head be - fore the Lamb of God? *Mm* *mm*

T. head be-fore the Lamb of God? *Mm* *mm*

B. head be - fore the Lamb of God? *Mm* *mm*

p *unis.* *pp*

p *pp* *rall.*

X851 Was I the lamb? RUTTER

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