

I wonder as I wander

Words and original music by
JOHN JACOB NILES
 arranged by John Rutter

Gently flowing

SOLO VOICE (or FULL SOPRANOS)

mp



1. I won-der as I wan-der out un-der the sky, How Je-sus, the Sa-viour, did



come for to die. For poor or-ner-y peo-ple like you and like I: I won-der as I

FULL SOPRANOS

p



wan-der, Out un-der the sky. 2. When Ma-ry birthed Je-sus, 'twas



pp



pp Lul - - la - by,



pp Lul - - la, lul - la - by,



in a cows' stall, With wise-men and far-mers and shep-herds and all.



p lul - la - by, lul - - - la, lul - la - by,



p lul - la - by, lul - - - - - la - by. But



pp



pp Lul - - - la, lul - la - by. But *p*

The American singer and musical folklorist John Jacob Niles first published *I wonder as I wander* in his 1934 collection of ballads called *Songs of the Hill Folk*, which was a fruit of visits to the Appalachian mountains. Although *I wonder as I wander* was influenced by the style of folk-song found in that region, Niles later admitted to having written it himself. It quickly gained popularity from Niles's own solo performances and from recordings and choral arrangements. More recently it has gained a place in the carol repertory in many countries; the present setting, for unaccompanied choir with solo voice, dates from 1981.

Performance hints: There should be a lilting, almost conversational flow in delivering this ballad-like carol, always with the sense of the text uppermost. The recommended pronunciation of 'Lullaby' is 'Loo-la-by'.

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