

BY-BY  
LULLAY

JASON THOMS

A CHRISTMAS CAROL  
For SATB Voices

For Joel Navarro and Capella, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

# BY-BY, LULLAY

Anonymous, ca. 1500

Jason Thoms

$\text{♩} = 108$   
*mp*

*S*  
 1. The oth - er night I saw a light! A ht as

*A*  
*mp*  
 1. The oth - er night I saw a ht as

*T*  
*mp*  
 1. The oth - er night I star as bright as

*B*  
*mp*  
 1. The oth - er ht! A star as bright as

*for rehearsal only*

## Notes

“By-by, Lullay” is one of a group of three Christmas carols; the other settings are “King of Kings” (G-6995) and “Christmas Bells” (G-6997). These compositions were created over a number of years as a project to write choral pieces that sounded fresh and new, featuring strong and powerful texts. “By-by, Lullay” was the first of the three pieces to be written. The anonymous fifteenth-century text grabbed my attention because of its simple yet poignant message. The phrase “by-by, lullay” has a slightly different intent in each stanza: first, it is Mary’s lullaby to the child; second, it is Mary asking the child to bless her; and lastly, it is a call to all of us to come to the manger and sing to our Christ. The choir is encouraged to linger on the harmonically lush final chords of the piece.

—Jason Thoms

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day! And e'er a - mong a maid - en sung: "By - by, ba - by,  
day! And e'er a - mong a maid - en sung: "By - by, ba - by,  
day! And e'er a - mong a maid - en sung: ba - by,  
day! And e'er a - mong a maid - en - by,

8

lul - lay, -  
lul -  
lul - lay, lul -  
lul - lay,