

About this work

The Christmas season opens a portal in time through which words and melodies from many centuries flow into our busy modern lives. In *A Blest Messiah Born*, Larry Shackley skillfully blends some of the most beloved ancient carols into a fresh, captivating retelling of the story of Jesus' birth. It begins with God's eternal plan of redemption (*Of the Father's Love Begotten*), then starts the Christmas story with the Annunciation (*Gabriel's Message*). Along the way, Larry presents delightful new settings of favorite carols such as *The Friendly Beasts*, *What Child is This?*, *Ding Dong! Merrily on High*, and *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*.

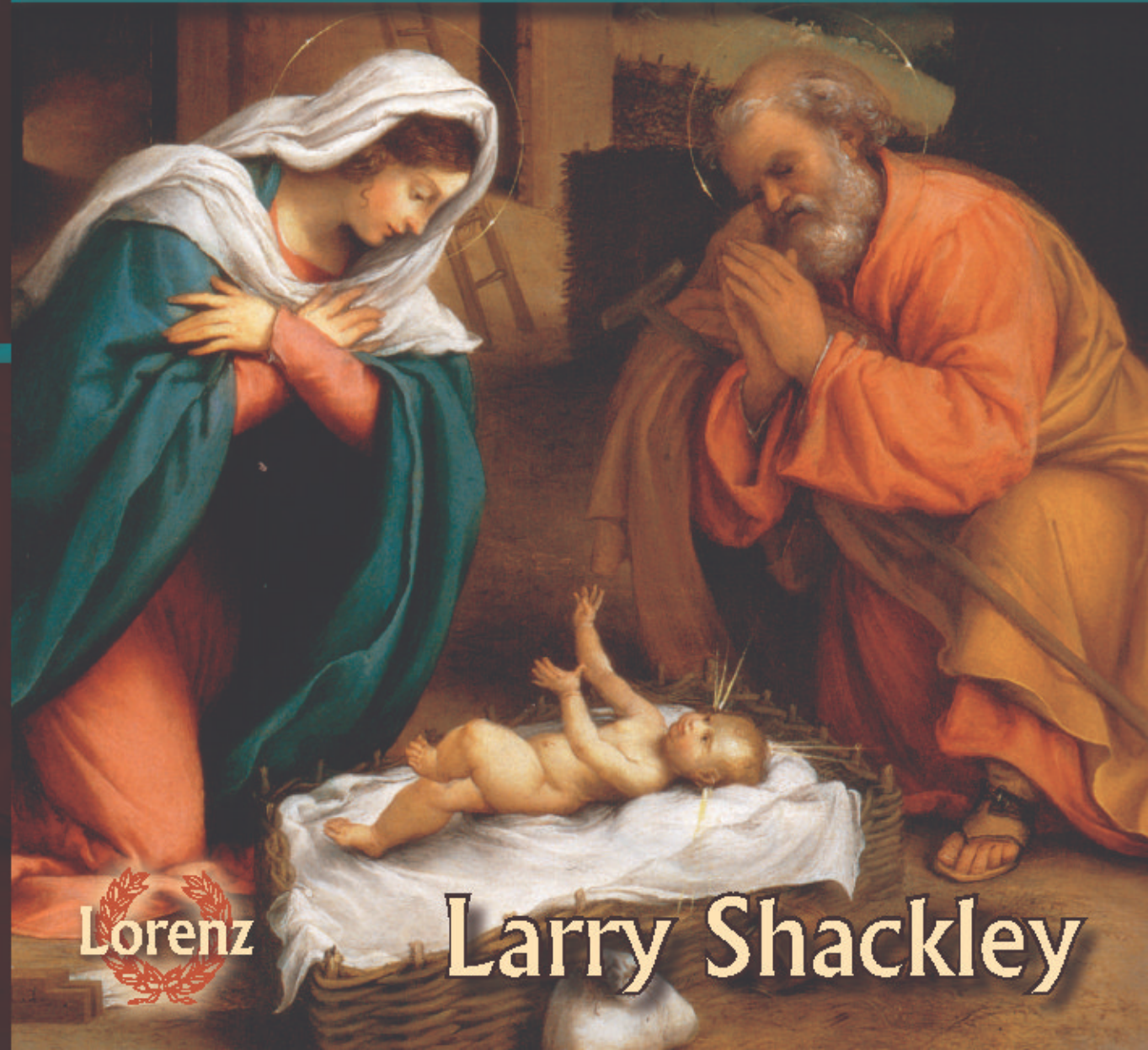
A Blest Messiah Born contains rich moments of reflection as well as high-spirited rejoicing. It is enhanced by hints of Renaissance rhythms and melodies and further set off by the optional instrumentation for chamber ensemble. The lyrics of the carols flow together with the poetic narration to portray the events of the nativity story. Some of the movements may be performed by soloists, and *The Friendly Beasts* can even be presented by a children's choir. The entire work also lends itself to simple staging, adding characters in each number to build a living manger scene.

Performance time: approximately 30 minutes

SATB

A Blest Messiah Born

The Christmas Story
Through Timeless Carols



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