

# Long Years Ago in Bethlehem

Kate Whiting Patch (1870–1909), alt.

Clare Sawyer Reed

$\text{♩} = 110$

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano accompaniment is divided into two staves: the upper staff for the right hand and the lower staff for the left hand. The score is divided into four systems. The first system contains the first two lines of the vocal melody and the first two lines of the piano accompaniment. The second system contains the next two lines of the vocal melody and the next two lines of the piano accompaniment. The third system contains the next two lines of the vocal melody and the next two lines of the piano accompaniment. The fourth system contains the final two lines of the vocal melody and the final two lines of the piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 110. The piece concludes with a *rit.* (ritardando) marking.

1. Long years a - go in Beth - le - hem, The gen - tle mo - ther mild Held  
2. Ah, let the love which made that day So won - drous sweet and pure, Glad -

close a - gainst her hap - py breast The lit - tle Christ - mas Child; From Heav' n the an - gels  
- den and bless this Christ - mas tide, A - like for rich and poor. Then may we hear the

lean - ing sang Good will and peace on earth! And king and shep - herd, side by side,  
an - gel song, Which He, the un - de - filed, Heard for His first sweet cra - die song,

*rit.*

Hailed the Christ - Child's birth.  
Je - sus the Christ - mas Child.

*rit.*