

We saw Thee not when Thou didst come

J. Stainer, 1840-1901

Credo
88.88.88

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves, a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody in the treble clef starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The bass line consists of a series of chords: G2-Bb2-Eb3, G2-Bb2-Eb3, G2-Bb2-Eb3, and G2-Bb2-Eb3. There are dynamic markings of 'f' (forte) above the first and third measures, and a fingering '5' above the fourth measure.

The second system of musical notation consists of two staves, a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The key signature has two flats. The melody in the treble clef starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The bass line consists of a series of chords: G2-Bb2-Eb3, G2-Bb2-Eb3, G2-Bb2-Eb3, and G2-Bb2-Eb3. There are dynamic markings of 'f' (forte) above the first and third measures.

The third system of musical notation consists of two staves, a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The key signature changes to one flat (B-flat). The melody in the treble clef starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The bass line consists of a series of chords: G2-Bb2-Eb3, G2-Bb2-Eb3, G2-Bb2-Eb3, and G2-Bb2-Eb3. There is a dynamic marking of 'f' (forte) above the first measure.

We saw Thee not when Thou didst come
To this poor world of sin and death;
Nor yet beheld Thy cottage home,
In that despisèd Nazareth.
But we believe Thy footsteps trod
Its streets and plains, Thou Son of God.

We have not seen the billowy sea
Grow calm and still at Thy command,
Nor the dim orbs again to see,
Beneath the healing of Thine hand:
But we believe the Fount of light
Again could give those eyeballs sight.

We did not see the armed throng
Steal to the garden's midnight shade,
And watch the palm-tree's boughs among,
Then quail beneath Thy glance afraid:
But we believe—Almighty love
Alone could such dark moments prove.

We did not see the darkness veil
With sudden gloom the noon-day skies;
Nor the fierce soldier's cheek grow pale;
And priestly mockery veil their eyes;
When the proud Roman owned the power
Of heaven, 'twas in that awful hour.

We stood not by the empty tomb,
Where late Thy sacred body lay;
Nor sat within that upper room,
Nor met Thee on the open way.
But we believe that angels said,
“Why seek the living with the dead?”

We did not mark the chosen few,
When Thou didst through the clouds ascend,
First lift to Heaven their wondering view,
Then to the earth all prostrate bend;
But we believe that mortal eyes
Beheld that journey to the skies;

Anne R. Richter