

# What star is this, with beams so bright

Adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

Puer Nobis  
L.M.

The first system of the musical score consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in the key of D major. The treble staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The bass staff begins with a bass clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The music is written in a simple, homophonic style with chords and single notes. There are two fermatas above the first and fourth measures of the treble staff.

The second system of the musical score continues the two-staff format from the first system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The music continues with chords and single notes. There is a fermata above the second measure of the treble staff. The system concludes with a double bar line.

What star is this, with beams so bright,  
More beautiful than the noonday light?  
It shines to herald forth the King,  
And Gentile to His crib to bring.

True spake the prophet from a-far  
Who told the rise of Jacob's star:  
And eastern sages with amaze  
Upon the wondrous token gaze.

The guiding star above is bright:  
Within them shines a clearer light,  
And leads them on with power benign  
To seek the Giver of the sign.

O Jesus, while the star of grace  
Impels us on to seek thy face,  
Let not our slothful hearts refuse  
The guidance of thy light to use.

To God the Father, heav'nly Light,  
To Christ, revealed in earthly night,  
To God the Holy Ghost we raise  
Our equal and unceasing praise.

Charles Coffin