

# Mary had a Baby, yes Lawd

Traditional Spiritual

arr. Paul Carey

Rubato ♩ = 60

*mf* *poco*

Baritone Solo\*  
(or small group)

Ma-ry had a ba-by, yes Lawd, Ma-ry had a ba-by, yes my Lawd,

Soprano

*p*

yes Lawd, yes my Lawd,

Alto

*p*

yes Lawd, yes my Lawd,

Temor

*p*

yes Lawd, yes my Lawd,

Bass

*p*

yes Lawd, yes my Lawd,

Rubato ♩ = 60

Piano

*mf* *p* *mf* *p*

(piano for rehearsal only)

The musical score is for the spiritual 'Mary had a Baby, yes Lawd', arranged by Paul Carey. It is in 4/4 time and the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The tempo is marked 'Rubato' with a quarter note equal to 60 beats. The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains the vocal parts: Baritone Solo (marked with an asterisk and 'or small group'), Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The Baritone Solo part begins with a melody in the bass clef, marked 'mf' and 'poco'. The other vocal parts enter with 'yes Lawd, yes my Lawd,' in the second measure, marked 'p'. The second system contains the piano accompaniment, with both treble and bass staves. The piano part begins with a melody in the bass clef, marked 'mf', and then provides harmonic support for the vocalists with chords in both hands, marked with dynamics 'mf' and 'p'. A note '(piano for rehearsal only)' is written below the piano part.

\* soloist strongly preferred over group; please reference  
Paul Robeson's historical recording

Mary had a Baby, yes Lawd- Carey

5

Bar. solo

Ma-ry had a ba - by, Ma-ry had a ba - by, de peo - ple keep a - com - in' an' de

S

mm, \_\_\_\_\_

A

mm, \_\_\_\_\_

T

mm, \_\_\_\_\_

B

mm, \_\_\_\_\_

Pno.

5

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Mary had a Baby, yes Lawd- Carey'. The score is for a Baritone solo and a four-part vocal choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) with piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The Baritone solo part is marked 'Bar. solo' and begins with a measure number of 5. The vocal parts are marked with 'S', 'A', 'T', and 'B' respectively. The piano part is marked 'Pno.' and also begins with a measure number of 5. The lyrics are: 'Ma-ry had a ba - by, Ma-ry had a ba - by, de peo - ple keep a - com - in' an' de'. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, slurs, and dynamic markings like 'mm,'.

8 *poco*

Bar. solo

train done gone. Star keep a-shin - in', yes Lawd, star keep a-shin - in',

S

ah, yes Lawd, ah,

A

ah, yes Lawd, ah,

T

ah, yes Lawd, ah,

B

ah, yes Lawd, ah,

Pno.

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a four-part vocal harmony of the hymn 'Mary had a Baby, yes Lawd- Carey'. The score is arranged for Baritone Solo (Bar. solo), Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B), and Piano (Pno.). The music is in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps) and 4/4 time. The Baritone Solo part begins at measure 8 and features a melodic line with a 'poco' marking above it. The vocal parts (S, A, T, B) enter at measure 8 with a rest, then sing the lyrics 'ah, yes Lawd, ah,' in the following measures. The Piano accompaniment provides harmonic support, with the right hand playing chords and the left hand playing a bass line similar to the Baritone Solo part. The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines, and the lyrics are placed below the corresponding vocal staves.

12

Bar. solo

yes my Lawd, star keep a - shin - in', stood a - bove de sta - ble, de

S. I

S

yes my Lawd, ah, de

A

yes my Lawd, ah,

T

8

yes my Lawd, ah,

B

yes my Lawd, ah,

Pno.

12

The musical score is written for a Baritone soloist and a vocal quartet (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) with piano accompaniment. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The score begins at measure 12. The Baritone soloist's part is in the bass clef. The vocal parts are in the treble clef. The piano accompaniment is in both treble and bass clefs. The lyrics are: 'yes my Lawd, star keep a - shin - in', stood a - bove de sta - ble, de'. The Soprano part has a 'S. I' marking above the second measure. The Tenor part has an '8' marking below the first measure. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand.

15 *f*

Bar. solo

peo - ple keep a - com - in' an' de train done gone.

*mf*

S

peo - ple keep a - com - in' an' de train done *mp* gone.

*mp*

A

*mp*

T

8

*mp*

B

*mp*

15

Pno.

*mp*

Mary had a Baby, yes Lawd- Carey

6  
19

*unis.*

S  
Where was he born, — yes Lawd, where was he born, — yes my Lawd,

A  
Where was he born, — yes Lawd, where was he born, — yes my Lawd,

T  
*mp*  
Where did they lay him, yes Lawd, where did they lay him,

B  
*mp*  
Where did they lay him, yes Lawd, where did they lay him,

Pno.

23

*mf*

S  
born in a sta-ble, laid in a man-ger, de peo-ple keep a-com-in' an' de train done gone.

A  
*mf*  
born in a sta-ble, laid in a man-ger,

T  
*mf*  
yes my Lawd, laid in a man-ger, de peo-ple keep a-com-in' an' de train done gone.

B  
*mf*  
yes my Lawd, laid in a man-ger,

Pno.

*mf*