

Carol of the Birds
for SATB choir and clarinet

3 minutes

Brooke Joyce (2015)

Premiered by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Decorah, IA (2015)

Program Note:

This is a setting of the traditional French carol, with unison singing on the first two verses, and a 4-part chorale for the final verse. It was composed in memory of Pastor Joan Mau, who loved French culture and traditional music and this carol in particular.

Whence comes this rush of wings afar,
Following straight the Noel star?
Birds from the woods in wondrous flight,
Bethlehem seek this Holy Night.

"Tell us, ye birds, why come ye here,
Into this stable, poor and drear?"
"Hast'ning we seek the newborn King,
And all our sweetest music bring."

Angels and shepherds, birds of the sky,
Come where the Son of God doth lie;
Christ on earth with man doth dwell,
Join in the shout "Noel, Noel."