The First Noël

17th Century English Carol
Music from W. Sandy's "Christmas Carols"

Moderately slow

The first Noël, the angel did say,
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
On a cold winter's night that was so deep. No-
They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the East, beyond them far.
And so the earth gave great light
And so it continued both day and night.

And by the light of that same star,
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Then entered in those wise men three,
Full reverently upon their knee;
And offered there in His presence,
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.