

The First Nowell (Bob Chilcott)

Note: Key of D major suggested here for ease of playing.
For original key of F major, add Capo on 3rd fret. 6/8 time.

Intro first time only:

[nc] | D A/D | G/D A/D |
D A/D | G/D A/D |
1. The first Now-ell the angels did say was to
D A/D | G/D A/D |
certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in
D A/D | G/D A/D |
fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a
Bm E7 | A7sus4 A7 |
cold winter's night that was so deep.

Em7 A7sus4 A7 | F#m Bsus4 B |
Nowell, No-well, Nowell, No-well,
Em7 D/F# | G6 A7sus4 | D [Fine] A/D | G/D A/D
Born is the King of Is - - - ra - el.

2. They looked up and saw a star shining
in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light, and
so it continued both day and night:

Refrain

3. 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:

Refrain

4. This star drew nigh to the north-west; over
Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay right
over the place where Jesus lay.

Refrain

5. Then entered in those Wise Men three, full
reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence, their
gold and myrrh and frankincense:

Refrain

6. Then let us all with one accord sing
praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought, and
with his blood humankind hath bought:

Refrain

Words: Traditional English carol of Cornish origin

Music: Bob Chilcott (A new commission from the Church of England) 2023

