

Miles to Go Before I Sleep

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

Robert Frost - 1922

Larry Nickel

Leggiero ♩ = 60

mp like falling snow

pedal freely

The piano introduction consists of two staves. The right hand plays a series of chords and eighth notes, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The tempo is marked 'Leggiero' with a quarter note equal to 60 beats per minute. The dynamic is mezzo-piano (mp). The instruction 'pedal freely' is written below the left hand.

unison - S.A. or solo

A

mp

Whose woods these are— I think I know. My little horse's head I hear— Ears that make the woods laugh through the trees; He

The first system of the vocal score shows the vocal line starting at measure 6. The piano accompaniment continues from the introduction. The lyrics are: "Whose woods these are— I think I know. My little horse's head I hear— Ears that make the woods laugh through the trees; He". The dynamic is mezzo-piano (mp).

will not see me stop - ping by the woods, so my little horse must think it queer. To watch his woods fill up with snow.

The second system of the vocal score shows the vocal line continuing from measure 11. The piano accompaniment continues. The lyrics are: "will not see me stop - ping by the woods, so my little horse must think it queer. To watch his woods fill up with snow." The dynamic is mezzo-piano (mp).

S.A.

B

mf

My lit-tle horse must think it queer— To stop with-out a farm-house near a village, though; He

The third system of the vocal score shows the vocal line starting at measure 15. The piano accompaniment continues. The lyrics are: "My lit-tle horse must think it queer— To stop with-out a farm-house near a village, though; He". The dynamic is mezzo-forte (mf).

20 *mp*

tween the woods and fro-zen lake The dark-est ev' - ning of the year.

24 *poco rit.* **C** *a tempo*

S. *mf* But I have prom - is - sep, And

A. *mf* But I have pro - es to keep, And

poco rit. *a tempo*

mp

28

S. miler to go be - fore I sleep.

A. to go be - fore I sleep.

ppp

Ped.

4

32

D

S. *mf* He gives his har - ness bells a shake To

A. *mf* He gives his har - ness a shake To

pp *pp*

mf

36

S. ask if there is some mis-take. the on-ly oth - er sound's the sweep Of eas-y

A. ask if there is some mis-take. Of eas-y

lh *legato*

40

poco rit.

Lacrimoso

S. wind and down-y flake. The *p*

A. and down-y flake. The *p*

poco rit. *p* *pp* *out*

ped.

E

45

S. woods are love - ly, dark and deep, - But I have prom-is - es to keep, And miles to go be-fore I

S. woods are love - ly, dark and deep, - But I have prom-is - es to keep, And miles to go be-fore I

A. woods are love - ly, dark and deep, - But I have prom-is - es to ke and miles to go be-fore I

A. woods are love - ly, dark and deep, - But I have prom-is - es to keep, And miles to go be-fore I

keyboard - for rehearsal only

50

S. sleep and miles to go be-fore I sleep. But

S. sleep an go be-fore I sleep. But

A. sleep a miles to go be-fore I sleep. But

A. , and miles to go be-fore I sleep. But

rit. *mf*

piano in

F a tempo

54

S. I have prom - is - es to keep, And mil - _ to go be

A. I have prom - is - es to keep, And to go be

58

S. fore I sleep. rit.

A. fore I sleep. rit.

pp

"Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" is a poem written in 1922 by Robert Frost, and published in 1923 in his New Hampshire volume. Imagery, personification, and repetition are prominent in the work. In a letter to Louis Untermeyer, Frost called it "my best bid for remembrance".

Frost wrote the poem in his house in Shaftsbury, Vermont. He had been up the entire night writing the long poem "New Hampshire" and had fallen asleep when he realized morning had come. He went out to view the sunrise and suddenly got the idea for "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening". He wrote the new poem "about the snowy evening and the little horse - as if I'd had a hallucination - in just a few minutes with

The text of the poem describes the thoughts of a lone wagon driver (the speaker), pausing at night in his travel to watch snow falling in the woods. It ends with him reminding himself that, despite the loveliness of the view, "I have promises to keep and miles to go before I sleep."

This poem has touched many lives over the years. At the funeral of former Canadian prime minister Pierre Trudeau, on October 3, 2000, his eldest son Justin rephrased the last stanza of this poem in his eulogy: "The woods are lovely, dark and deep. He has kept his promises and earned his sleep."

Composer, Dr. Larry Nickel, says, "Death is a prevalent and powerful theme in literature. Frost uses imagery and symbolism to invoke the yearning for eternal sleep - death - in the weary traveler of life. Yet, one has so many wonderful ventures to experience before that time comes."