

In the Bleak Mid-Winter

Christina Georgina Rossetti

Gustav Theodor Holst (1906)
arr. Larry Nickel

$\text{♩} = 82$

espressivo

p

pedal freely throughout

Detailed description: This block contains the piano introduction. It features a treble and bass clef with a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 82. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The music is marked 'espressivo' and 'p' (piano). A 'pedal freely throughout' instruction is at the bottom. The introduction consists of several measures of music, including a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

A a tempo - dolce

mf

S. In the bleak mid - win - ter, y wind made moan.

mf

A. In the bleak mid - win - frost - y wind made moan.

Detailed description: This block contains the first verse of the song. It includes vocal parts for Soprano (S.) and Alto (A.) and piano accompaniment. The tempo is 'a tempo - dolce'. The dynamics are marked 'mf' (mezzo-forte). The lyrics are: 'In the bleak mid - win - ter, y wind made moan.' for Soprano and 'In the bleak mid - win - frost - y wind made moan.' for Alto. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support for the vocal lines.

mp

S. Earth as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone.

mp

A. stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone.

Detailed description: This block contains the second verse of the song. It includes vocal parts for Soprano (S.) and Alto (A.) and piano accompaniment. The dynamics are marked 'mp' (mezzo-piano). The lyrics are: 'Earth as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone.' for Soprano and 'stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone.' for Alto. The piano accompaniment continues with a rhythmic pattern.

13 *mf* *mp* *rit.*

S. Snow had fal - len snow on snow, snow on snow.

A. Snow had fal - len snow on snow, snow on snow.

mf *mp* *rit.*

Ped.

mp a tempo

17

S. In the bleak .n - ter, long, long a - go.

A. In .k mid - win - ter, long, long a - go.

soprano or tenor soloist

B

21

Solo *mf* Our God, heav'n can-not hold *mf* im;

S. *sostenuto - floating sound mp* Oh...

A. *mp* Oh...

B

25

Solo nor the earth Heav'n and earth shall flee a-way,

S. (Oh...)

A.

29 C

Solo
when He comes to reign.

S.
(Oh...) *mf* In the ble win - ter a

A.
(Oh...) *mf* I leek mid - win - ter a

a cappella

33

Solo
The Lord God Al - might - y,

S.
sta place suf - ficed. The Lord God Al - might - y,

A.
.a - ble place suf - ficed. The Lord God Al - might - ty,

37 *lyrically f*

Solo Je - sus Christ. E -

S. *f* Je - sus God, Al - might - y, - sus

A. *f* Je - sus God, Al - might Je - sus

41 **D**

Solo nough for Him, cher - u-bim wor - ship night and day.

S. *sotto voce* Christ. a

A.

mf

45

Solo  and a man - ger full of hay.

S.  breast full of milk

A.  breast full of milk



49

Solo  - nough for Him whom An - gels

S. 

A. 



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52

Solo

fall down be-fore. Ox and ass and ca - me and

S.

fall down be - fore and

A.

fall down be - fore and

56

E

Solo

all the sheep re. What can I

S.

all a - pore. What can I give Him

A.

the sheep a - pore. What, what can I

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60

Solo
give Him poor that I am. If were a

S.
Poor as I am. If I were .nep - herd

A.
give Him, poor as I am I were a shep-herd

64

Solo
shep - herd, would bring a lamb.

S.
I w g a lamb. *mp* If I were a wise man

A.
would bring a lamb. *mp* If I were a wise man

68 *plaintively* **rit.** //

Solo I would do my part. But tell me, what can I give Him? //

S. I would do my part. what can give Him? //

A. I would do my part. what I give Him? //

rit. //

72 *f*

Solo I give Him my heart. //

S. *f* give my heart //

A. *f* Him my heart //

76 rit.

Solo 

S.  give Him (my) heart (my - heart)

A.  give Him my

rit.



A CHRISTMAS CAROL.



I. In the bleak
Frosty w
Earth ste
Wate
Snow on snow,
I. zinter

II. Heaven cannot hold Him
Earth sustain,
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty—
Jesus Christ.

III. Enough for Him whom Cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk
And a mangerful of hay;

Enough for Him whom Angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

IV. Angels and Archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and Seraphim
Thronged the air;
But only His Mother
In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss.

V. What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?—
If I were a Shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man
I would do my part,—
Yet what I can I give Him,—
Give my heart.

"In the Bleak Midwinter" is a Christmas carol based on a poem by the English poet Christina Rossetti. The poem was published, under the title "A Christmas Carol", in the January 1872 issue of Scribner's Monthly - pictured here. The poem first appeared set to music in The English Hymnal in 1906 with a setting by Gustav Holst.

In verse one, Rossetti describes the physical circumstances of the Incarnation in Bethlehem. In verse two, Rossetti contrasts Christ's first and second coming. The third verse dwells on Christ's birth and describes the simple surroundings, in a humble stable and watched by beasts of burden. Rossetti achieves another contrast in the fourth verse, this time between the incorporeal angels attendant at Christ's birth with Mary's ability to render Jesus physical affection. The final verse shifts the description to a more introspective thought process.

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