

In the Bleak Midwinter

Based on a poem by Christina Rossetti

Musical setting by Gustav Holst

This arrangement by Charles J. Torian, Jr.

Christina Rossetti (1830 - 1894) wrote the poem *In the Bleak Midwinter* first published as *A Christmas Carol* in *Scribner's Monthly* (January, 1872). At least ten composers have created music to her words, the most famous of whom was perhaps Gustav Holst (1874 - 1934) whose setting was published as CRANHAM in the English Hymnal of 1906. (Cranham is a residential area in east London.)

The theology of Rossetti's text has, on occasion, been questioned in terms of its appropriateness for inclusion in a hymn. The first verse, for example, makes no mention of God or Christ, though from there the poem takes on and carries its sacred intention to the end.

This purely instrumental setting, based on Holst's lovely tune, reflects primarily the words of Rossetti's first verse:

In the bleak midwinter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter
Long ago.

This arrangement has been created for clarinetist, Heather Welch, as a token of gratitude for her musical ability, kindness, gentleness of spirit, and our friendship over many years.

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In the Bleak Midwinter

based on poetry of Christina Rossetti

GUSTAV HOLST
arr. Charles J. Torian, Jr.

Slowly ♩ = 60

B♭ Clarinet

Piano

pp

loco

p

rall.

a tempo

p

rall.

a tempo

10 *accel.* *rall.*

10 *accel.* *pp* *rall.*

12 *a tempo*

12 *mp* *a tempo* *pp*

15

15 *mp*

17

17

21

mp

21

24

rall. *a tempo*

mp

rall. *a tempo*

24

28 *rall.* *a tempo*

p *mp*

rall. *pp* *a tempo* *p*

32

36 *rall.* *a tempo*

rall. *a tempo*

rall. *a tempo*

poco animato ♩ = 76

Musical score for piano and violin, measures 41-44. The score is in 2/4 time, marked "poco animato" with a tempo of ♩ = 76. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The piano part (measures 41-44) features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the right hand and sixteenth notes in the left hand, with a dynamic marking of *pp*. The violin part (measures 41-44) features a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The score includes a large watermark reading "Preview Only".

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48 *rall.* *a tempo*

48 *rall.* *a tempo*

52 *rall.* *Slower* ♩ = 68 *p*

52 *rall.* *Slower* ♩ = 68 *p*

58 *pp*

58 *pp*



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