

To Philip Brunelle and the members of VocalEssence, with gratitude

The Darkest Midnight in December

For SATB Chorus, with Celesta (or Piano)*

Text: TRADITIONAL IRISH, adapted from
the REV. WILLIAM DEVEREUX (1696-1771)

STEPHEN MAIN

Flowing ♩ = 44

Soprano *mp*
The dark - est mid - night

Alto *pp*
Ooh,

Tenor

Bass

Celesta (or Piano) *p*

Ad libitum

* NB: if no Celesta is available, this part should be played on piano using the traditional G and F clefs and play notes as written on staves. See page 13 for separate part to avoid multiple page turns.

4

mp
in De - cem - ber, No

non troppo
Ooh,

pp non troppo
Ooh,

pp non troppo
Ooh,

4

Duration: 3 minutes

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7

snow nor hail nor win - ter's storm shall

Ooh,

Ooh,

Ooh,

7

8

10

hin - der us to re - mem - ber the

Ooh,

Ooh,

Ooh,

10

12

Babe that on this night was born.

Ooh.

Ooh.

Ooh.

12

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 12 through 14. It features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in a soprano, alto, tenor, and bass register. The lyrics are "Babe that on this night was born." followed by "Ooh." in each part. The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand melody and a left-hand bass line. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 6/8. Measure numbers 12, 12, and 12 are written above the first, second, and third vocal staves respectively.

15

mf 'Twas but pure love that from a-bove Brought

mf 'Twas but pure love that from a-bove Brought

mf 'Twas pure love that from a-bove Brought

mf 'Twas pure love that from a-bove Brought

15

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 15 through 17. It features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are "'Twas but pure love that from a-bove Brought" repeated in four parts. The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand melody and a left-hand bass line. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 6/8. The dynamic marking *mf* (mezzo-forte) is placed above the first vocal staff and below the piano accompaniment. Measure numbers 15, 15, and 15 are written above the first, second, and third vocal staves respectively.

18

Him to save us from all harms;

Him to save us from all harms;

Him to save us from all harms;

Him to save us from all harms;

18

f

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 18-20. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are "Him to save us from all harms;". The piano part includes a forte (*f*) dynamic marking. The score is in a key with three flats and a 9/8 time signature.

21

Then let us sing and wel - come Him, The

Then let us sing and wel - come Him, The

Then let us sing and wel - come Him, The

Then let us sing and wel - come Him, The

21

mp

mp

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 21-23. It features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are "Then let us sing and wel - come Him, The". The piano part includes mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic markings. The score is in a key with three flats and a 9/8 time signature.

24

God of Love in Ma - ry's arms.

God of Love in Ma - ry's arms.

God of Love in Ma - ry's arms.

God of Love in Ma - ry's arms.

24

Piano accompaniment for measures 24-26.

27

pp Ooh,

pp Ooh,

mp dolce No cost - ly gifts can we pre - sent Him,

27

Piano accompaniment for measures 27-29.

30

Ooh, _____

Ooh, _____ Ooh, _____

Ooh, _____

pp

Ooh, _____

No gold nor myrrh nor

30

33

Ooh, _____

Ooh, _____

o - dors sweet; _____ But if with our

Oh, _____

33

35

Ooh, Ooh.

8 hearts we can con-tent Him, We hum-bly lay them

Ooh.

35

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 35 through 38. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a melodic phrase 'Ooh, Ooh.' followed by the lyrics 'hearts we can con-tent Him, We hum-bly lay them'. The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand part with eighth-note patterns and a left-hand part with a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The key signature has three flats, and the time signature is 8/8.

38

mf With

mf With

8 at His feet.

38

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 38 through 41. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line continues with the lyrics 'at His feet.' and 'With With'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note patterns as in the previous block. The key signature and time signature remain the same.

41

shep - herds we are come to see This love - ly In - fant's

shep - herds we are come to see This love - ly In - fant's

mf Shep - herds we are come to see This love - ly In - fant's

mf Shep - herds we are come to see This love - ly In - fant's

41

f

44

straight tone

glo - rious charms;

glo - rious charms;

glo - rious charms;

glo - rious charms;

44

f

46

p

Born of a maid, — as pro - phets said, The

p

Born of a maid, — as pro - phets said, The

p

Born of a maid — as pro - phets said, The

p

Born of a maid — as pro - phets said, The

46

mp

49

God — of Love — in Ma - ry's

God — of Love in Ma - ry's

8 God — of Love — in Ma - ry's

God — of Love — in Ma - ry's

49

52 *pp*

arms.

pp

arms.

pp

arms.

pp

(Baritone B \flat less loud)

arms.

52

55 *molto rit.*

pp

Hmm.

pp

Hmm.

pp

Hmm.

pp

Hmm.

55 *molto rit.*

p