

Choral music for Christmas

Three Irish Poems

- 1) Prayer For A Child
- 2) Irish Lullaby
- 3) A Noble Boy

Ken Johnston

FULL SCORE

for SATB voices
with piano and (optional) strings

Words: 1) Winifred M. Letts
2) Alfred Percival Graves
3) Anonymous

Version for 2 part voices with piano and strings composed 1997
This version 2002

Duration of individual songs: 1) 3' 2) 4' 3) 4'

Versions of this piece are also available for the following voice combinations:

2 part voices (2nd part optional)
SSA (or SAA)
SAB

Each version has the same accompaniment options as above

For each version, a FULL SCORE and a VOCAL SCORE (voices + piano) is available

String parts are available separately

Three Irish Poems 1) Prayer For A Child

Poem -
Winifred M. Letts

for SATB voices and piano with (optional) strings*

Music -
Ken Johnston

Slow and gentle ♩ = 60 (solo or small group ad lib.) *P*

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass
Piano
P
Ped. — Ped. — (sim.)

S
day from dan-ger; From tin-ker and poo-ka and black-heart-ed stran-ger... From

S
harm of the wa-ter, from hurt of the fire. From the horns of the cows going home to the byre.

* In this string arrangement the double bass part is optional.

Duration: 3'

13 **A**

S (tutti) *p*
From the sight of the fair-ies that

A *p*
mm

T *p*
mm

B *p*
mm

Vln I con sord. *sempre p legato*

Vln II con sord. *sempre p legato*

Vla con sord. *sempre p legato*

Vc. con sord. *sempre p legato*

Db. pizz. *sempre p* arco *V*

18

S
may-be might change her... From teas-ing the ass_ when he's tied to the man - ger...

A

T
From

B

p

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

21

S *p* *mm*

A *mm*

T
stones that would bruise her, from thorns of the briar. From ev - il red ber - ries that

B *mm*

Piano

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

24

S
mm

A
mm *mp*
From

T
8 wake her de- sire. *p*
mm

B
mm

poco cresc.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.
pizz.

Db.
arco V

Detailed description: This page of a musical score for 'Prayer For A Child' (SATB, full score) by Ken Johnston, page 6, begins at measure 24. The score is in the key of D major (two sharps) and 3/4 time. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) are written in treble and bass clefs. The Soprano and Alto parts feature long, sustained notes with a hairpin crescendo. The Tenor part has lyrics 'wake her de- sire.' and a dynamic marking of *p*. The Bass part also has a long note with a hairpin crescendo. The piano accompaniment includes a grand staff with a right-hand part featuring chords and a left-hand part with a bass line. The strings (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass) are written in their respective clefs. The Viola part has a *pizz.* marking, and the Double Bass part has an *arco V* marking. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, hairpins, and dynamic markings.

28 **B**

S
oo

A
hunt - ing the gan - der and vex - ing the goat. oo

T
oo From the depths o' sea wa - ter by

B
oo oo

mp

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

31

S
oo May *p*

A
oo May *p*

T
Dan - ny's old boat. oo May *p*

B
mp From cut and from tum-ble, from sick-ness and weep - ing. May *p*

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

34

S
God have my jewel this day in his keep - ing...

A
God have my jewel this day in his keep - ing... mm

T
God have my jewel this day in his keep - ing... mm

B
God have my jewel this day in his keep - ing... mm

p

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db. pizz.

37 **rit.**

A *dim.* *mm*

T *dim.* *mm*

B *dim.* *mm*

dim.

Vln I *dim.*

Vln II *dim.*

Vla *dim.*

Vc. *dim.*

Db. *dim.* arco

(attacca No. 2)

Three Irish Poems

2) Irish Lullaby

Poem -
Alfred Percival Graves

for SATB voices and piano with (optional) strings*

Music -
Ken Johnston

Flowing ♩ = 90

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass
Piano
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
Double bass

1) I'd rock my own sweet child - die to

p

ped. (sim.)

(senza sord.)

(senza sord.)

(senza sord.)

(senza sord.)

S

rest in a cradle of gold on a bough of the wil- low, To the sho - heen ho of the



S

wind of the west and the lul - la lo of the soft sea - bil - low..

* The double bass part is optional.

Duration: 4'

21 **A**

S Sleep, sleep, ba - by dear, Sleep with - out fear,

A Sleep, sleep, sleep, Sleep with - out fear,

T Sleep, sleep, sleep, Sleep with - out fear,

B Sleep, sleep, sleep, Sleep with - out fear,

Vln I *pp*

Vln II *pp*

Vla *pp*

Vc. *pp*

Db. *pp*

27 *poco cresc.* *mp*

S Mo - ther_ is here_ be - side your pil - low_ Sleep, sleep,

A *poco cresc.* *mp*

A Mo - ther_ is here_ be - side your pil - low_ Sleep, sleep,

T *poco cresc.* *mp*

B Mo - ther_ is here_ be - side your pil - low_ Sleep, sleep,

Vln I *poco cresc.* *p*

Vln II *poco cresc.* *p*

Vla *poco cresc.* *p*

Vc. *poco cresc.* *p*

Db. *poco cresc.* *p*

47

S
A
T
B

beau - ti - ful ri - ver, Where a sho - heen whis - per the white cas -

Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.

52

S
A
T
B

cades, and a lul - la lo to the green flags shi - ver...

Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.

C

58 *mp* *poco cresc.*

S Sleep, sleep, — ba - by dear, Sleep with - out fear, Mo - ther_ is

A Sleep, sleep, sleep, — Sleep with - out fear, — Mo - ther_ is

T *mp* Sleep, sleep, sleep, Sleep with - out fear, — Mo - ther_ is

B

Vln I *poco cresc.*

Vln II *poco cresc.*

Vla *poco cresc.*

Vc. *poco cresc.*

Db. *p* *poco cresc.*

64 *mf*

S here — with you for e - ver... Sleep, sleep, — ba - by dear, —

A here — with you for e - ver... Sleep, sleep, sleep,

T *mf* here — with you for e - ver... Sleep, sleep, sleep,

B

Vln I *mp*

Vln II *mp*

Vla *mp*

Vc. *mp*

Db. *mp*

70

S *dim.* Sleep, sleep with-out fear. *p* 3) Lull

A *dim.* sleep, Sleep, sleep with-out fear. *p* mm_

T *dim.* sleep, Sleep, sleep with-out fear. *p* mm_

B

dim. *mp*

Vln I *dim.* solo *p*

Vln II

Vla *dim.*

Vc. *dim.*

Db. *dim.*

77 **D**

S lo, lull lo to the rise and fall of mo - ther's bo - som tis sleep has

A

T

B

p

Vln I *pizz.*

Vln II *p*

Vla *pizz.* *p*

Vc. *pizz.*

Db. *p*

84

S bound you, And O, my child, what co - si - er nest for ro - si - er rest could

A — And O, my child, what co - si - er nest for ro - si - er rest could

T — And O, my child, what co - si - er nest for ro - si - er rest could

B — And O, my child, what co - si - er nest for ro - si - er rest could

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

91

S love have found you? Sleep, sleep, — ba - by dear,

A love have found you? Sleep, sleep, sleep, —

T love have found you? Sleep, sleep, sleep,

B love have found you? Sleep, sleep, sleep,

Vln I tutti *pp*

Vln II arco *pp*

Vla arco *pp*

Vc. arco *pp*

Db. arco *pp*

pp

E

97 *poco cresc.*

S Sleep with-out fear, Mo-ther's two arms are clasped a-round you..

A Sleep with-out fear, Mo-ther's two arms are clasped a-round you..

T Sleep with-out fear, Mo-ther's two arms are clasped a-round you..

B Sleep with-out fear, Mo-ther's two arms are clasped a-round you..

poco cresc.

Vln I *poco cresc.*

Vln II *poco cresc.*

Vla *poco cresc.*

Vc. *poco cresc.*

Db. *poco cresc.*

103 *mp* *dim.*

S Sleep, sleep, ba-by dear, Sleep, sleep with-out

A *mp* *dim.*
Sleep, sleep, sleep, sleep, Sleep, sleep with-out

T *mp* *dim.*
Sleep, sleep, sleep, sleep, Sleep, sleep with-out

B *mp* *dim.*
Sleep, sleep, sleep, sleep, Sleep, sleep with-out

mp *dim.*

Vln I *p* *dim.*

Vln II *p* *dim.*

Vla *p* *dim.*

Vc. *p* *dim.*

Db. *p* *dim.*

F

109

p

S
fear. Sleep, sleep, ba - by dear,

A
fear. Sleep, sleep, sleep,

T
fear. Sleep, sleep, sleep,

B

p

Vln I
pp

Vln II
pp

Vla
pp

Vc.
pp

Db.
pp

114

dim. **poco rit.**

S
Sleep, sleep with - out fear.

A
dim. sleep, Sleep, sleep with - out fear.

T
dim. sleep, Sleep, sleep with - out fear.

B

dim.

Vln I
dim.

Vln II
dim.

Vla
dim.

Vc.
dim.

Db.
dim.

Three Irish Poems 3) A Noble Boy

Full score

Poem -
Anonymous

for SATB voices and piano with (optional) strings*

Music -
Ken Johnston

Rhythmical and light ♩ = 144

S (unison SA) *mf*

T (unison TB) *mf*

Piano *mf*

Violin I *mf* pizz.

Violin II *mf* pizz.

Viola *mf* pizz.

Violoncello *mf* pizz.

Double bass *mf* pizz.

5

S
A
T
B

wo-man was old and fee-ble and grey, And bent with the chill of the win-ter's day; The

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

Duration: 4'

* The double bass part is optional.

9

S
A

T
B

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

street was wet with the re- cent snow, And the wo- man's feet were wea- ry and slow.

13

S
A

T
B

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

mf **A**

She stood at the cros- sing and wai- ted long, A- lone, un- cared for, a- mid the

arco

17

S
A

through.

T
B

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

21

B

S
A

mf

Down the street, with laugh - ter and shout, Glad in the free - dom of 'school let

T
B

mf

Down the street, with laugh - ter and shout,

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

24

S
A
T
B

out', Came the boys, like a flock of sheep;

Glad in the free-dom of 'school let out', Came the boys, like a flock of

Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.

27

S
A
T
B

Hail-ing the snow, piled white and deep. Past the wo-man, so old and grey,

sheep; Hail-ing the snow, piled white and

C *f*

Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.

arco

f

31

S
A

Hast - ened the chil - dren on their way, Nor of - fered a help - ing hand to her, So meek, so ti - mid, a - fraid to

T
B

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

36

S
A

stir.

At

T
B

mf

mf

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

pizz.

dim.

dim.

dim.

dim.

pizz.

dim.

40 **D**

S
A
last came one of the mer-ry_ troop, The bright-est boy of all the group; He

T
B

mf

Vln I
mf

Vln II
mf

Vla
mf pizz.

Vc.
mf

Db.
mf

44

S
A
paused be-side her, and whis-pered low, 'I'll help you a-cross if you wish to go';

T
B

p

p

Vln I
p

Vln II
p

Vla
p

Vc.
p

Db.
p

48 *mf* **E**

S A He gui - ded the trem - bling feet a - long, Proud that his own_ were firm and

T B *mf*

Vln I arco *mf*

Vln II arco *mf*

Vla arco *mf*

Vc. arco *mf*

Db. arco *mf*

52

S A strong.

T B *mf* Then

Vln I pizz.

Vln II pizz.

Vla pizz.

Vc. pizz.

Db. pizz.

56 **F** *mf*

S
A Then back a-gain to his friends, he went, His

T
B back a-gain to his friends, he went, His young heart hap-py, and well con-

Vln I

Vln II *pizz*

Vla

Vc. *pizz*

Db.

59

S
A young heart hap-py, and well con-tent, 'She is some-bo-dy's mo-ther, boys, you

T
B tent, 'She is some-bo-dy's mo-ther, boys, you know, Al-

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

62 **G**

S
A

know, Al-though she is old and poor And I hope some o-ther will lend a hand To help my mo-ther, you

T
B

though she is old and poor and slow.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

67

S
A

un - der-stand, If e'er she be poor and old and grey, When her own dear boy is far a - way.'

T
B

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

molto rit.

72

dim. poco a poco

Vln I *dim. poco a poco*

Vln II *dim. poco a poco*

Vla *dim. poco a poco*

Vc. *dim. poco a poco*

Db. *dim. poco a poco*

H

Slow and gentle ♩ = 60

76

p

ped. | *ped.* | (*sim.*)

Vln I *con sord.* *p legato*

Vln II *con sord.* *p legato*

Vla *con sord.* *p legato*

Vc. *con sord.* *p legato*

Db. *pizz.* *p*

80

S A

pp

oo

T B

p

pp

oo

And 'some - bo - dy's mo - ther' bowed low her head, In her

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

arco V

Db.

83

S A

pp

oo

T B

pp

oo

home that night, and the prayer she said was, 'God be kind to the

I

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

86

Who is some - bo - dy's son, and pride, and joy'.

no - ble boy, mm

S
A
T
B
P
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.

89

rit.

S
A
T
B
P
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.

pizz. arco