

Choral music for Christmas

Three Irish Poems

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

Ken Johnston

VOCAL SCORE

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

Vocal score -
SATB

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 $\text{♩} = 60$

Piano

p
Ped. (sim.)

5 (solo or small group ad lib.)

S *p*
God keep my jewel this day from dan- ger; From tin- ker and poo-ka and

8
S black-heart - ed stran - ger.. From harm of the wa-ter, from hurt of the fire. From the

11
S horns of the cows going home to the byre. **A**

A *p*
mm

T *p*
mm

B *p*
mm

* In this vocal score the string parts are not shown.

Duration: 3'

16

(tutti) *p*

S From the sight of the fair - ies that may - be might change her... From

A *mm*

T *mm*

B *mm*

19

S teas - ing the ass_ when he's tied to the man - ger... *p* *mm*

A *mm*

T *p* From stones that would bruise her, from

B *mm*

22

Soprano: *mm*

Alto: *mm*

Tenor: thorns of the briar. From ev-il red ber-ries that wake her de-sire.

Bass: *mm*

Piano: *p*

25

B

Soprano: *p* *oo*

Alto: *mp* From hunt-ing the gan-der and

Tenor: *p* *oo*

Bass: *p* *oo*

Piano: *poco cresc.* *mp*

29

S

A vex-ing the goat.

T From the depths o' sea wa-ter by Dan-ny's old boat.

B From

p

mp

mp

32

S oo. May God have my jewel this

A oo. May God have my jewel this

T oo. May God have my jewel this

B cut and from tum-ble, from sick-ness and weep-ing, May God have my jewel this

p

p

p

p

35

S
day in his keep - ing.

A
day in his keep - ing. mm

T
8
day in his keep - ing. mm

B
day in his keep - ing. mm

38

rit.

A
dim.
mm

T
dim.
mm

B
dim.
mm

dim.

(attacca No. 2)

Three Irish Poems

2) Irish Lullaby

Poem -
Alfred Percival Graves

Music -
Ken Johnston

Flowing ♩ = 90

Soprano

Piano

p

1) I'd rock my

Ped. (sim.)

6

S

own sweet chil - die to rest in a cra - dle of gold on a bough of the

12

S

wil - low, To the sho - heen ho of the wind of the west and the

17

S

lul - la lo of the soft sea bil - low.

Duration: 4'

22 **A** *p*

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

A Sleep, sleep, sleep, Sleep with - out

T Sleep, sleep, sleep, Sleep with - out

B Sleep, sleep, sleep, Sleep with - out

26 *poco cresc.*

S fear, Mo - ther is here be - side your

A fear, Mo - ther is here be - side your

T fear, Mo - ther is here be - side your

B fear, Mo - ther is here be - side your

30 *mp*

S pil - low... Sleep, sleep, ba - by dear,

A pil - low... Sleep, sleep, sleep, sleep,

T pil - low... Sleep, sleep, sleep, sleep,

B pil - low... Sleep, sleep, sleep, sleep,

35

S *dim.*
Sleep, sleep with - out fear.

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

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

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

dim. *p*

40

S *p*
oo

A *p*
oo

T *mp*
8 2) I'd put my own sweet chil - die to sleep in a sil - ver

B *p*
oo

mp

46

S *p*
oo

A *p*
oo

T *p*
8 boat on the beau - ti - ful ri - ver, Where a sho - heen whis - per the white cas -

B *p*
oo

p

52

S
A

T
8
cades, and a lul - la lo to the green flags shi- ver..

B

58 **C** *mp*

S
A
T
B

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

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

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

63 *poco cresc.* *mf*

S
A
T
B

Mo - ther is here with you for e - ver... Sleep,

Mo - ther is here with you for e - ver... Sleep,

Mo - ther is here with you for e - ver... Sleep,

poco cresc. *mf*

68

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

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

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

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

dim.

dim.

dim.

dim.

73

S
fear. 3) Lull lo, lull lo to the

A
fear. mm

T
fear. mm

B
fear. mm

mp

p

p

79

S
rise and fall of mo - ther's bo - som tis sleep has

A

T
B

84

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

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

T
B
— And O, my child, what co - si - er nest for

89

S ro - si - er rest could love have found you?

A ro - si - er rest could love have found you?

T ro - si - er rest could love have found you?

B ro - si - er rest could love have found you?

94 **E** *p*

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,

99 *poco cresc.* *mp*

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

A *poco cresc.* *mp*

T *poco cresc.* *mp*

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

104

S sleep, — ba - by dear, — *dim.* Sleep, sleep with - out

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

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

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

109

S fear. — Sleep, sleep, — ba - by dear, — **F** *p*

A fear. — Sleep, sleep, sleep, *p*

T fear. — Sleep, sleep, sleep, *p*

B fear. — Sleep, sleep, sleep, *p*

114

S — Sleep, sleep with - out fear. — *dim.* **poco rit.**

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

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

B sleep, Sleep, sleep with - out fear. — *dim.*

Three Irish Poems

3) A Noble Boy

Poem -
Anonymous

Music -
Ken Johnston

Rhythmical and light ♩ = 144

Piano

4

S (unison SA) *mf*

T (unison TB) *mf*

The wo - man was old and fee - ble and grey, And

7

S

A

T

B

bent with the chill of the win - ter's day; The street was wet with the re - cent

10

S

A

T

B

snow, And the wo - man's feet were wea - ry and slow.

Duration: 4'

13 *mf* **A**

S A

T B

She stood at the cros - sing and wai - ted long, A -

16

S A

T B

lone, un - cared for, a - mid the throng.

19 **B** *mf*

S A

T B

Down the street, with laugh - ter and

22

S
A

shout, _____ Glad in the free-dom of 'school let out', Came the

T
B

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

25

S
A

boys, like a flock of sheep; _____ Hail-ing the snow, piled white and

T
B

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

28

S
A

deep. _____ Past the wo-man, so old and grey, Hast-ened the chil-dren

T
B

Hail-ing the snow, piled white and *f*

C *f*

32

S
A

T
B

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

36

S
A

T
B

stir.

39

S
A

T
B

At last came one of the mer - ry — troop, ————— The

D

mf

mf

dim.

42

S A
T B

bright - est boy of all the group; He paused be - side her, and whis - pered

45

S A
T B

low, 'I'll help you a - cross if you wish to go';

p

48

S A
T B

He gui - ded the trem - bling feet a - long,

mf **E**

51

S
A

Proud that his own were firm and strong.

T
B

54

S
A

F *mf*

Then

T
B

mf

Then back a-gain to his friends, he

57

S
A

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

T
B

went, His young heart hap-py, and well con - tent, 'She is

60

S
A

tent, 'She is some-bo-dy's mo-ther, boys, you know, _____ Al-

T
B

some-bo-dy's mo-ther, boys, you know, _____ Al-though she is old and poor and

63

S
A

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

T
B

slow. *f*

67

S
A

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

T
B

10
8

71 **molto rit.**

S
A

T
B

way.'

dim. poco a poco

74

H Slow and gentle ♩ = 60

77

p

Red. *Red.* (sim.)

80

S
A

T
B

pp

p

pp

oo

oo

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

83

S A I *pp*

oo

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

T B *pp*

oo

84 85

86

S A Who is some - bo - dy's son, and pride, and joy! —

no - ble boy, mm

T B

87 88

89

S A rit.

T B

90 91