

Choral music for Christmas

Three Irish Poems

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

Ken Johnston

FULL SCORE

2 part voices (2nd part optional)
with piano and (optional) strings

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

Composed 1997 and revised 2002

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

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

SSA (or SAA)
SATB
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 2 part voices (2nd part optional*) and piano with (optional) strings**

Music -
Ken Johnston

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

God keep my jewel this

p
Ped. — Ped. — (sim.)

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Double bass

6

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

9

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

* The melody is always in part 1. The optional line is part 2.
 ** In this string arrangement the double bass part is optional.

Duration: 3'

13 **A**

(tutti) *p*

From the sight of the fair-ies that

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*

18

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

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

21

1

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

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

24

1

wake her de-sire. From

2

(optional 2nd part) oo

mp

p

poco cresc.

pizz.

arco V

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

28 **B**

1 hunt - ing the gan - der and vex - ing the goat. From the depths o' sea wa - ter by

2 oo

mp

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

31 *p*

1 Dan - ny's old boat. From cut and from tum - ble, from sick - ness and weep - ing; - May

2 oo *pp* oo

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

34

1
God have my jewel this day in his keep - ing.

2

p

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

pizz.



37

rit.

dim.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

dim.

arco

Three Irish Poems

2) Irish Lullaby

Poem -
Alfred Percival Graves

for 2 part voices (2nd part optional) and piano with (optional) strings*

Music -
Ken Johnston

Flowing ♩ = 90

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

(senza sord.)

(senza sord.)

(senza sord.)

(senza sord.)

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Double bass

8

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

15

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

* The double bass part is optional.

Duration: 4'

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21 **A**

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

2 (optional 2nd part) *p* Sleep, sleep, sleep, Sleep with - out fear,

Vln I *pp*

Vln II *pp*

Vla *pp*

Vc. *pp*

Db. *pp*

27 *poco cresc.* *mp*

1 Mo - ther_ is here be - side your pil - low. Sleep, sleep,

2 *poco cresc.* *mp* Mo - ther_ is here be - side your pil - low. Sleep, sleep,

poco cresc. *mp*

Vln I *poco cresc.* *p*

Vln II *poco cresc.* *p*

Vla *poco cresc.* *p*

Vc. *poco cresc.* *p*

Db. *poco cresc.* *p*

33

1
ba-by dear, _____ Sleep, sleep with-out fear. _____

2
sleep, sleep, Sleep, sleep with-out fear. _____

dim.

dim.

dim.

p

dim.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

dim.

dim.

dim.

dim.

dim.

dim.

40

B

1
2) I'd put my own sweet chil - die to sleep in a sil - ver boat on the

2

mp

mp

mp

p

p

p

mp

p

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

p

47

1 beau - ti - ful ri - ver, - Where a sho - heen whis - per the white - cas - cades, - and a lul - la

2

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.



54

1 lo - to the green flags shi - ver.. Sleep, sleep, - ba - by dear,

2 Sleep, sleep, sleep,

C

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

61

1 *poco cresc.*
Sleep with-out fear, Mo- ther_ is here_ with you for e- ver_

2 *poco cresc.*
Sleep with-out fear, Mo- ther_ is here_ with you for e- ver_

poco cresc.

Vln I *poco cresc.*

Vln II *poco cresc.*

Vla *poco cresc.*

Vc. *poco cresc.*

Db. *poco cresc.*

67

1 *mf* Sleep, sleep, ba- by dear, *dim.* Sleep, sleep with- out

2 *mf* Sleep, sleep, sleep, sleep, *dim.* Sleep, sleep with- out

mf *dim.*

Vln I *mp* *dim.*

Vln II *mp* *dim.*

Vla *mp* *dim.*

Vc. *mp* *dim.*

Db. *mp* *dim.*

73

1 *p* **D**
 fear. 3) Lull lo, lull lo to the rise and

2 *p*
 fear. ah

mp *p*

Vln I *p* solo *pizz.*

Vln II *p* *pizz.*

Vla *p* *pizz.*

Vc. *p* *pizz.*

Db. *p* *pizz.*

80

1 fall of mo - ther's bo - som, tis sleep has bound you, And O, my

2 ah And O, my

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

86

1
child, what co - si - er nest for ro - si - er rest could love have found you?

2
child, what co - si - er nest for ro - si - er rest could love have found you?

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

93

E

1
Sleep, sleep, ba - by dear, Sleep with - out fear,

2
Sleep, sleep, sleep, Sleep with - out fear,

Vln I
tutti *pp*

Vln II
arco *pp*

Vla
arco *pp*

Vc.
arco *pp*

Db.
arco *pp*

99 *poco cresc.* *mp*

1 Mo- ther's two arms are clasped a - round you. Sleep, sleep, —

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

poco cresc. *mp*

Vln I *poco cresc.* *p*

Vln II *poco cresc.* *p*

Vla *poco cresc.* *p*

Vc. *poco cresc.* *p*

Db. *poco cresc.* *p*

105 *dim.* **F** *p*

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

2 sleep, sleep, Sleep, sleep with-out fear. Sleep,

dim. *p*

Vln I *dim.* *pp*

Vln II *dim.* *pp*

Vla *dim.* *pp*

Vc. *dim.* *pp*

Db. *dim.* *pp*

Three Irish Poems 3) A Noble Boy

Full score

Poem -
Anonymous

for 2 part voices (2nd part optional) and piano with (optional) strings*

Music -
Ken Johnston

Rhythmical and light ♩ = 144 *mf*

1 *mf* The

Piano *mf*

Violin I *mf* pizz.

Violin II *mf* pizz.

Viola *mf* pizz.

Violoncello *mf* pizz.

Double bass *mf* pizz.

5 *mf*

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

Piano *mf*

Vln I *mf* pizz.

Vln II *mf* pizz.

Vla *mf* pizz.

Vc. *mf* pizz.

Db. *mf* pizz.

Duration: 4'

* The double bass part is optional.

9

1

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

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

13

1

2

(optional 2nd part) She stood at the cros- sing and wai- ted long, A- lone, un- cared for, a- mid the

mf **A**

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

arco

mf

17

1 through.

2

Vln I pizz.

Vln II pizz.

Vla pizz.

Vc. f

Db. pizz.

21

B mf

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

2 Down the street, with laugh - ter and shout,

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc. pizz. mf

Db.

24

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

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

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

27

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

2 sheep; Hail-ing the snow, piled white and

Vln I arco

Vln II arco

Vla arco

Vc. arco

Db. arco

C *f*

31

1
2

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

Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.

36

1
2

stir. At

mf

Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.

pizz.
dim.
dim.
dim.
dim.

40 **D**

1 last came one of the mer-ry — troop, The bright-est boy of all the group; He

2

Vln I *mf*

Vln II *mf*

Vla *mf* pizz.

Vc. *mf*

Db. *mf*

44

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

2

Vln I *p*

Vln II *p*

Vla *p*

Vc. *p*

Db. *p*

48 **E** *mf*

1 He gui - ded the trem - bling feet a - long, Proud that his own were firm and

2 *mf*

mf

Vln I arco *mf*

Vln II arco *mf*

Vla arco *mf*

Vc. arco *mf*

Db. arco *mf*

52 *mf*

1 strong. Then

2

pizz.

Vln I *pizz.*

Vln II *pizz.*

Vla *pizz.*

Vc. *pizz.*

Db. *pizz.*

56 **F**

1
back a - gain to his friends, he went, _____ His young heart hap - py, and well con -

2
mf
Then back a - gain to his friends, he went, _____ His

Vln I

Vln II *pizz*

Vla

Vc. *pizz*

Db.

59

1
tent, 'She is some - bo - dy's mo - ther, boys, you know, _____ Al-

2
young heart hap - py, and well con - tent, 'She is some - bo - dy's mo - ther, boys, you

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

62 **f** **G**

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

2 know, Al-though she is old and poor **f**

Vln I arco **f**

Vln II arco **f**

Vla arco **f**

Vc. arco **f**

Db. arco **f**



67

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

2

Vln I **v**

Vln II **v**

Vla **v**

Vc. **v**

Db. **v**

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

con sord.

p legato

p legato

p legato

p legato

pizz.

p

Ped. | *Ped.* | (*sim.*)

80 (unison) *p*

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

83 **I** *pp*

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

86

1

no - ble boy, Who is some - bo - dy's son, and pride, and joy'.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

89

rit.

1

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

pizz.

arco