

# Choral music for Christmas

## Three Irish Poems

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

**Ken Johnston**

### **FULL SCORE**

**for SAB 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> part optional)  
SSA (or SAA)  
SATB

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 SAB voices and piano with (optional) strings\*

Music -  
Ken Johnston

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

Soprano  
Alto  
Baritone  
Piano  
Violin I  
Violin II  
Viola  
Violoncello  
Double bass

God keep my jewel this

*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

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

B  
From

*p*

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

21

*p*  
mm

S

A

B

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

S  
mm

A  
mm *mp*  
From

B  
wake her de- sire. *p*  
mm

*poco cresc.*

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.  
V

Db.  
pizz. arco V

Detailed description: This page of a musical score for 'Prayer For A Child' (SAB) begins at measure 24. It features vocal parts for Soprano (S), Alto (A), and Bass (B), along with instrumental parts for Piano (P), Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), Cello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Db.). The vocal lines are marked with 'mm' (molto moderato) and include lyrics: 'wake her de- sire.' and 'From'. The piano part features a 'poco cresc.' (poco crescendo) instruction. The double bass part includes 'pizz.' (pizzicato) and 'arco V' (arco with bow) markings. The score is written in a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C).

28 **B**

S *p* oo

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

B *p* oo *mp* From the depths o' sea wa - ter by

*mp*

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

The musical score is written for Soprano (S), Alto (A), and Bass (B) voices, along with Piano (P), Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Db.). The piece is in the key of D major and begins with a 6/4 time signature, which changes to 4/4 in the final measure of each system. The vocal parts feature lyrics in English, with the Soprano part starting with a long note on 'oo'. The Alto part has the lyrics 'hunt - ing the gan - der and vex - ing the goat.' followed by another long note on 'oo'. The Bass part has the lyrics 'From the depths o' sea wa - ter by' with a long note on 'oo' at the beginning. The piano accompaniment is marked *mp* and consists of chords and moving lines in both hands. The string parts (Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Vc., Db.) provide harmonic support with various melodic and rhythmic patterns.

31

S  
oo May *p*

A  
From cut and from tum-ble, from sick-ness and weep-ing;- May *p*

B  
Dan-ny's old boat. oo 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

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

*p*

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.  
pizz.

Db.

37

A  
rit.  
dim.  
mm

B  
rit.  
dim.  
mm

*dim.*

Vln I  
*dim.*

Vln II  
*dim.*

Vla  
*dim.*

Vc.  
*dim.*

Db.  
*dim.*

arco

# Three Irish Poems

## 2) Irish Lullaby

Full score

Poem - Alfred Percival Graves

for SAB voices and piano with (optional) strings\*

Music - Ken Johnston

**Flowing** ♩ = 90

Soprano  
Alto  
Baritone  
Piano  
Violin I  
Violin II  
Viola  
Violoncello  
Double bass

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

*p*

*p*

Ped. (sim.)

(senza sord.)

(senza sord.)

(senza sord.)

(senza sord.)

S

rest in a cra - dle of gold on a bough of the wil- low, To the shoo - heen ho of the

S

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

Duration: 4'

\* The double bass part is optional.

21 **A**

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

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

B *p* 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* Mo - ther\_ is here\_ be - side your pil - low. Sleep, sleep,

B *poco cresc.* *mp* 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

B

oo

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

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

52

S  
A

B

cadés, 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

B Sleep, sleep, sleep, Sleep with - out fear, — Mo - ther\_ is

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,

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

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\_

B *dim.* sleep, Sleep, sleep with-out fear. *p* mm\_

*dim.* *mp*

Vln I *dim.* solo *p*

Vln II *dim.*

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

B

*p*

Vln I *pizz.*

Vln II *p* *pizz.*

Vla *p* *pizz.*

Vc. *pizz.*

Db. *p* *pizz.*

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

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, —

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*

**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..

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*

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

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

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

*mp*

Vln I *p*

Vln II *p*

Vla *p*

Vc. *p*

Db. *p*

*dim.*

*dim.*

*dim.*

*dim.*

*dim.*

*dim.*

*dim.*

**F**

109

*p*

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

A fear. Sleep, sleep, sleep,

B fear. Sleep, sleep, sleep,

*p*

Vln I *pp*

Vln II *pp*

Vla *pp*

Vc. *pp*

Db. *pp*

114

*dim.* **poco rit.**

S Sleep, sleep with - out fear.

A sleep, Sleep, sleep with - out fear.

B sleep, Sleep, sleep with - out fear.

*dim.*

Vln I *dim.*

Vln II *dim.*

Vla *dim.*

Vc. *dim.*

Db. *dim.*



9

S  
A

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

B

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

13

S  
A

*mf* **A**

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

B

*mf*

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

arco

17

S  
A  
B

through.

Vln I  
Vln II  
Vla  
Vc.  
Db.

21

**B**

S  
A  
B

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

Down the street, with laugh-ter and shout,

Vln I  
Vln II  
Vla  
Vc.  
Db.



31

S  
A  
B

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

S  
A  
B

stir. At

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

*mf*

*mf*

*pizz.*

*pizz.*

*pizz.*

*pizz.*

*dim.*

*dim.*

*dim.*

*dim.*

40 **D**

S  
A  
B

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

*mf*

Vln I  
Vln II  
Vla  
Vc.  
Db.

*mf*

*pizz.*

*mf*

*mf*

44

S  
A  
B

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

*p*

Vln I  
Vln II  
Vla  
Vc.  
Db.

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

48 *mf* **E**

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

B *mf*

Vln I arco *mf*

Vln II arco *mf*

Vla arco *mf*

Vc. arco *mf*

Db. arco *mf*

52

S A strong... *mf*

B 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

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

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

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

62

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

B

though she is old and poor and slow.

**G**

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

arco

arco

arco

arco

arco

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.' \_\_\_\_\_

B

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

**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*

B *p*

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

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db. *arco*

83

S A *pp* **I**

B *pp*

'God be kind to the

home that night, and the prayer she said was,

Vln I *pp*

Vln II *pp*

Vla *pp*

Vc. *pp*

Db. *pp*

86

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

no - ble boy, mm

89

rit.