

Choral music for Christmas

Three Irish Poems

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

Ken Johnston

VOCAL SCORE

for SSA (or SAA) 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)
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

Vocal score -
SSA (or SAA)

Three Irish Poems

1) Prayer For A Child

Poem -
Winifred M. Letts

for SSA (or SAA*) voices and piano with (optional) strings**

Music -
Ken Johnston

Slow and gentle ♩ = 60

Piano

p

Ped. _____ Ped. _____ (sim.)

The piano introduction consists of two staves in G major and 4/4 time. The right hand plays a series of chords and eighth notes, while the left hand plays a simple bass line. The tempo is marked 'Slow and gentle' with a quarter note equal to 60 beats per minute. The piece ends with a fermata over the final chord.

5 (solo or small group ad lib.)

S1 *p*

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

The vocal line for Soprano 1 (S1) begins at measure 5. The lyrics are: "God keep my jewel this day from dan- ger;- From tin-ker and poo-ka and". The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 6/4 at the end of measure 7.

8

S1

black - heart - ed stran - ger... From harm of the wa - ter, from

The vocal line for S1 continues with the lyrics: "black - heart - ed stran - ger... From harm of the wa - ter, from". The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line. The time signature changes from 6/4 to 4/4 at the end of measure 9.

10

S1

hurt of the fire. From the horns of the cows going home to the byre...

The vocal line for S1 concludes with the lyrics: "hurt of the fire. From the horns of the cows going home to the byre...". The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 6/4 at the end of measure 12.

* The second soprano part can be sung by altos.
** In this vocal score the string parts are not shown.

Duration: 3'

13 **A**

S1 (tutti) *p*
From the

S2 *p*
mm

A *p*
mm

17

S1
sight of the fair-ies that may-be might change her... From teas-ing the ass when he's

S2 *p*
mm

A *p*
mm

20

S1 tied to the man - ger. — *p* mm

S2 mm

A From stones that would bruise her, from

22

S1 mm

S2 mm

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

25

B

S1

S2

A

From hunt-ing the gan-der and

p

mp

p

poco cresc.

mp

29

S1

S2

A

vex-ing the goat.

From

From the depths o' sea wa-ter by Dan-ny's old boat.

p

mp

32

S1 *p*
oo May God have my jewel this

S2 *p*
cut and from tum-ble, from sick-ness and weep-ing; May God have my jewel this

A *p* *p*
oo May God have my jewel this

35

S1
day in his keep - ing.

S2
day in his keep - ing. mm

A
day in his keep - ing. mm

38

S2 *rit.* *dim.*
mm

A *dim.*
mm

dim.

(attacca No. 2)

Three Irish Poems

2) Irish Lullaby

Poem -
Alfred Percival Graves

Music -
Ken Johnston

Flowing ♩ = 90 (all S unison) *p*

Soprano

Piano

p

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

(S div.)

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

22 **A** *p*

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

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

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

27 *poco cresc.* *mp*

S Mo-ther is here be-side your pil-low. Sleep,

S *poco cresc.* *mp*

S Mo-ther is here be-side your pil-low. Sleep,

A *poco cresc.* *mp*

A Mo-ther is here be-side your pil-low. Sleep,

poco cresc. *mp*

32 *dim.*

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

S *dim.*

S sleep, sleep, sleep, Sleep, sleep with-out

A *dim.*

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

dim.

37

S *p* fear. oo

S *mp* 2) I'd put my own sweet

A *p* fear. oo

p mp

43

S

S chil - die to sleep in a sil - ver boat on the beau - ti - ful ri - ver, Where a

A

49

S oo

S sho - heen whis - per the white cas - cades, and a lul - la lo to the

A oo

55 C *mp*

S Sleep, sleep, — ba-by dear,

S green flags shi- ver... *mp* Sleep, sleep, sleep,

A Sleep, sleep, sleep,

61 *poco cresc.*

S Sleep with- out fear, Mo- ther_ is here_ with you for

S Sleep with- out fear, Mo- ther_ is here_ with you for

A Sleep with- out fear, Mo- ther_ is here_ with you for

poco cresc.

66 *mf*

S e- ver... Sleep, sleep, — ba- by dear,

S e- ver... Sleep, sleep, sleep, sleep,

A e- ver... Sleep, sleep, sleep, sleep,

mf

71

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

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

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

dim. *mp*

77 **D**

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

S

A

p

83

S sleep has bound you, And O, my child, what co - si - er

S And O, my child, what co - si - er

A And O, my child, what co - si - er

p

88

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

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

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

93

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

S Sleep, sleep, sleep, Sleep with - out

A Sleep, sleep, sleep, Sleep with - out

E *p*

98

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

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

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

poco cresc.

Three Irish Poems 3) A Noble Boy

Vocal score -
SSA (or SAA)

Poem -
Anonymous

Music -
Ken Johnston

Rhythmical and light ♩ = 144

Piano

4 (unison S) *mf*

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

A *mf*

7

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

A

10

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

A

13

S (S div.) *mf* **A**

A *mf*

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

16

S

A

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

19

S *mf* **B**

Down the street, with laugh - ter and

22

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

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

25

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

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

28

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

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

C *f*

32

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

A

10/8 8/8

36

S stir.

A

10/8

39

S **D** *mf* At last came one of the mer - ry_ troop, The

A *mf*

dim. *mf*

8/8

42

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

A

45

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

A

48

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

A

51

S Proud that his own_ were firm and strong.

A

54

S **F** *mf* Then

A *mf* Then back a-gain to his friends, he

57

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

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

60

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

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

63

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

A *slow.* *f*

G

67

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

A

71 **molto rit.**

S 

A 


way.' 



dim. poco a poco


74 

H Slow and gentle ♩ = 60

77 


p

Red. *Red.* (sim.)

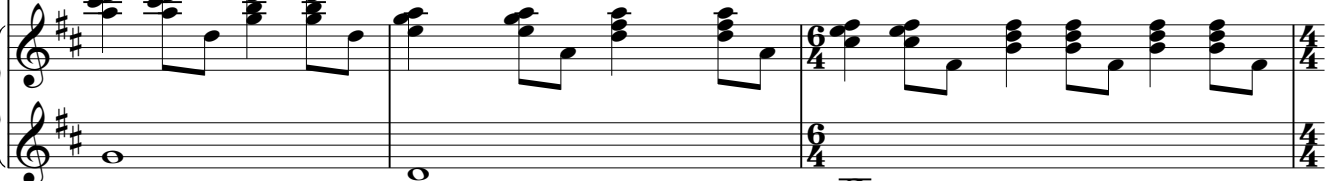
80 

pp

p

A 

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



83

S *pp* **I**

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

oo

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

pp

86

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

A

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

89

S *rit.*

A

rit.