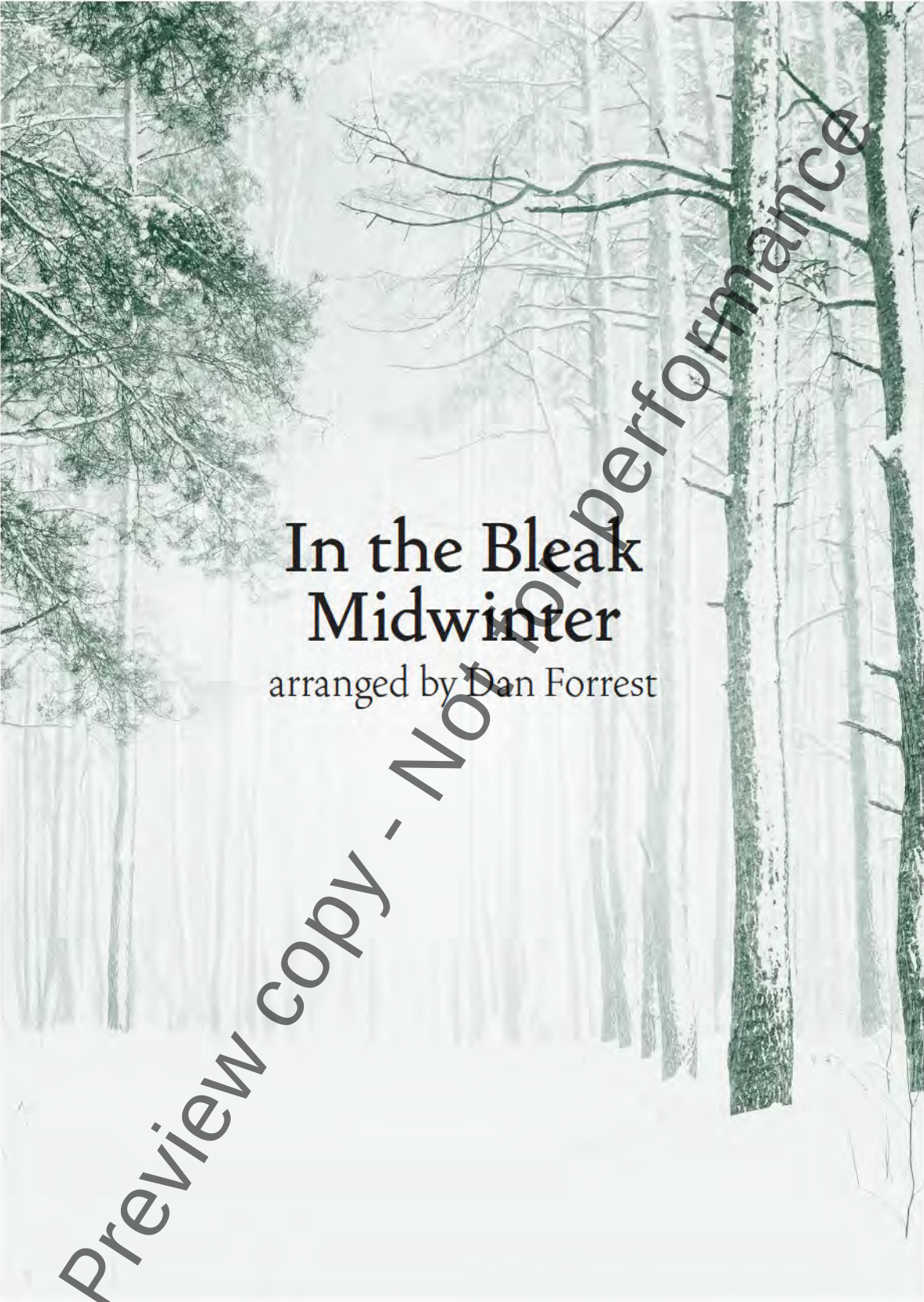




In the Bleak
Midwinter
arranged by Dan Forrest

Preview copy - Not for performance

Commissioned for Dr. James M. Meaders by Alex –
with Laura C., Laura F., Richard, Becca and Hannah

In the Bleak Midwinter

For SATB Choir and Piano

Christina Rossetti
c. 1872, London

Cranham
Gustav Holst, 1906
Arranged by DAN FORREST
(ASCAP)

Picture Christina Rossetti in London, imagining the first Christmas happening right where she is. With her, we see Christ incarnate in every corner of our world, coming not just into Bethlehem, but into our own time and place, and into our own hearts.

Unhurried ♩ = ca. 72

Piano

8va

mp *pp* *mp*

1 (feel in 4) 2 3 4

Vocalizing on neutral syllables should always be ethereal, in the distant background

Sopranos

p

Oo

Altos

p

Oo

gently glittering

p *mp*

5 6 7

roll LH chords if needed, ad lib., throughout

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poco rit. *a tempo*

Oo

poco rit. *a tempo*

poco rit. e dim. *a tempo*

8 9 10

mm. 11-35 may be sung by two sections of mixed S/A if helpful for balance

p

Oh

mp

mp

In the bleak mid - win ter,

11 12 13

Oh

frost y wind made moan,

14 15 16

Oh

earth stood hard as i - ron,

17 18 19

This system contains measures 17, 18, and 19. It features a vocal line with a long note on 'Oh' in measure 17, followed by the lyrics 'earth stood hard as i - ron,' in measures 18 and 19. The piano accompaniment consists of eighth-note chords in the right hand and block chords in the left hand.

Oh

wa - ter like a stone:

20 21 22

This system contains measures 20, 21, and 22. The vocal line has a long note on 'Oh' in measure 20, followed by the lyrics 'wa - ter like a stone:' in measures 21 and 22. The piano accompaniment continues with eighth-note chords in the right hand and block chords in the left hand.

mf

Snow had fall - en, snow on snow,

mp

Oh

mf

Oh

23 24 25

This system contains measures 23, 24, and 25. The vocal line begins with a long note on 'Oh' in measure 23, followed by the lyrics 'Snow had fall - en, snow on snow,' in measures 24 and 25. The piano accompaniment features a more active right hand with eighth-note chords and a steady left hand. Dynamic markings include *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *mp* (mezzo-piano).

musical score for the first system, measures 26-28. It features a vocal line with lyrics "snow on snow," and a piano accompaniment. The piano part includes a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Measure numbers 26, 27, and 28 are indicated at the bottom of the piano staves.

snow on snow,

Snow on snow,

(LH over)

26 27 28

musical score for the second system, measures 29-31. It features a vocal line with lyrics "In the bleak mid-winter," and a piano accompaniment. The piano part includes a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Measure numbers 29, 30, and 31 are indicated at the bottom of the piano staves.

p
Oo

mp
2

In the bleak mid-winter,

p

29 30 31

musical score for the third system, measures 32-34. It features a vocal line with lyrics "Long a - long a - go." and a piano accompaniment. The piano part includes a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Measure numbers 32, 33, and 34 are indicated at the bottom of the piano staves.

p
2

Long a -

mp
2

long a - go.

(LH over)

32 33 34

go.

mp *pp* *mp*

35 36 37

rit. **Più mosso**
Sopranos *mf*

An-gels and arch - an - gels

rit. Altos *mf*

An-gels and arch - an - gels

rit. TB unis. *mf*

An-gels and arch - an - gels

(8^{va}) **Più mosso**
rit. *mf*

38 39 40

may have gath - ered there,

may, may have gath - ered there, an - gels thronged the

may have gath - ered there,

41 42

This system contains measures 41 and 42. It features three vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'may have gath - ered there,' for the first staff, 'may, may have gath - ered there, an - gels thronged the' for the second staff, and 'may have gath - ered there,' for the third staff. The piano part consists of chords in the right hand and single notes in the left hand. Measure numbers 41 and 42 are indicated at the bottom of the piano staves.

cher - u-bim and ser - a-phim thronged the

air, cher-u-bim and ser - a - phim thronged the

cher - u-bim and ser - a-phim thronged the

43 44 45

This system contains measures 43, 44, and 45. It features three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'cher - u-bim and ser - a-phim thronged the' for the first staff, 'air, cher-u-bim and ser - a - phim thronged the' for the second staff, and 'cher - u-bim and ser - a-phim thronged the' for the third staff. The piano part continues with chords and single notes. Measure numbers 43, 44, and 45 are indicated at the bottom of the piano staves.

Meno mosso

sub. *p*

air, but on - ly His

air, but on ly His

air,

46 47 2 2 2 48

Meno mosso

p

moth - er, Ah

moth - er, in her maid - en bliss, His moth - er

His moth - er

Più mosso

49 50 51 2 2 2

SA

2

wor - shiped the Be - lov - ed with

2

a

TB

2

with

a

52 53 54

a tempo

kiss.

a tempo

kiss.

f a tempo

55 56 57

rit.

unis. mp

a tempo

rit.

Oo

a tempo

freely

rit.

mp

a tempo pp

58 59 60 61

Slower, dream-like ♩ = ca. 66-69

*surprisingly soft, molto semplice**p*

What _____ can I

Slower, dream-like ♩ = ca. 66-69

*8va**loco**p*

give

Him,

poor _____

as

I

am?

If I were a shep - herd,

I would bring a

unis. p surprisingly soft, molto semplice

lamb; if I were a wise man,

I would do my part; yet

what I can, I give Him:

72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80

p *p* *mf* *mf* *f* *rit.* *f* *rit.*

BP2304

mp unis. *rit.*

give my heart.

unis. p rit.

give my

81 82 83

Tempo I

heart.

Tempo I

8^{va}

mp *pp* *mp*

84 85 86

give my heart.

pp rit.

give my heart.

pp rit.

(8^{va}) *rit.* *p*

87 88 89 90