

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

TBB Voices with Piano

Gustav Holst

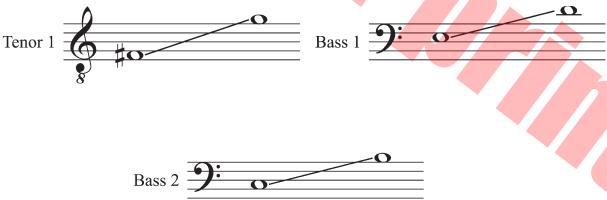
Arranged by Ruth Elaine Schram

BriLee Music
Part-by-Part



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Range:



Language: English

Use: Holiday

Time: Approx. 3:39

*Difficulty: Moderate

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Note from the Composer

In this lovely setting of the text by the beloved Christina Rossetti with music by Gustav Holst, each voice part (along with the piano) has an opportunity to state a melodic snippet from another carol. It is important to bring out these counter-melodies when they occur, yet not to overwhelm the voice part that is carrying the melody. Think of each phrase as a fluid, musical line that begins, arches and gently comes back down as it concludes.

Always pay attention to your diction when singing so that your words can be easily understood. Songs are a melding of text and melody, and often it is difficult to separate the two once a melody and a text have been sung together for a while, and in this case, decades. The tender message of this song should not be lost to the lovely melody and harmonies.

Careful observance of the dynamic contrasts and tempo alterations will assure that the beauty of this Christina Rossetti poem comes to life in your presentation. On the last line, smile warmly with your final note and watch your director carefully for the cutoff so that everyone states the “t” of “heart” at the same time (and gently at *piano* volume).

About the Arranger

Ruth Elaine Schram wrote her first song at the age of twelve, her first octavo was published in 1988, and she became a full-time composer and arranger for choral music for church and school in 1992. Since 1990, over seventeen million copies of her songs have been purchased and she has been a recipient of the ASCAP Special Award. Her songs appear on thirty albums (four of which have been Dove Award Finalists) and numerous children’s videos. Her songs have also appeared on such diverse television shows as *The 700 Club* and HBO’s acclaimed series *The Sopranos*.

Ruthie began piano and theory lessons at the age of five. She studied music at Lancaster Bible College and Millersville State College and taught Elementary Music in Pennsylvania for several years. She currently lives in Birmingham, Alabama. Her current website is choralmusic.com.

In the Bleak Midwinter

3

for TBB Voices with Piano*

CHRISTINA G. ROSSETTI (1830–1894)

GUSTAV HOLST (1874–1934)

Arranged by Ruth Elaine Schram

Gently ♩ = 90

Tenor

Bass 1
Bass 2

Gently ♩ = 90

Piano

mp

4

mp

In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made

mp

In the bleak mid - win - ter, — frost - y wind made

* Also available for SSA Voices (BL270).

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moan, earth stood hard as i - ron,

moan, earth stood hard as i - ron, —

11

poco rall.

wa - ter like a stone. Snow had fall - en, snow on snow,

wa - ter like — a stone. Snow had fall - en, snow on — snow, —

15

a tempo

snow — on — snow, in the bleak mid -

snow on — snow, on snow, in the bleak mid -

mf *poco rall.*

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

Ooh, thronged the air.

mf *poco rall.*

33 *mp*

But, His moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,

mp

But, His moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,

mp

37 *a tempo*

wor - shipped the Be - lov - ed with a kiss.

wor - shipped the Be - lov - ed with a kiss.

a tempo

41

mp cresc.

What _____ can I

mp cresc.

What _____ can I

cresc.

45

mf

give Him, poor _____ as I am?

Oh, _ if I were a

give Him, _ poor _____ as I am?

If I were a

mf

49

poco rall.

shep - herd, I would bring a lamb.

If I were a

shep - herd, _ I would bring _____ a lamb.

poco rall.

a tempo

wise man, I would do my part. What ____ can I

Ooh, ____ I would do my part, my part. What ____ can I

a tempo

poco a poco rit. e dim.

give Him? Give ____ Him my heart.

give Him? ____ Give Him my heart.

poco a poco rit. e dim.

Give ____ Him my heart. ____

Give ____ Him my heart. ____

p

p

p

ppp