

for the First United Methodist Church Chancel Choir,  
Olympia, Washington

# IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

for S.A.B. voices, accompanied\*

Words by  
**CHRISTINA ROSSETTI (1830-1894)**

Music by  
**GUSTAV HOLST (1874-1934)**  
Arranged by **CATHERINE BENNETT**

Gently, expressively ( $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 72-80$ )

ACCOMP.

*mp*

4 **BARITONE** 5 *mp*

In the bleak midwin - ter,

7  
frost - y winds made moan, earth stood hard as

\* Also available for S.A.T.B. voices, No. 18329.

Copyright © MCMXCIX by Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.  
All rights reserved. Printed in USA.

**THE CCLI LICENSE DOES NOT GRANT PERMISSION TO PHOTOCOPY THIS MUSIC.**

10

i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;

13 SOPRANO & ALTO  
*mp cresc.*

snow had fall - en, snow — on snow, — snow — on — snow —

*dim.*

17 UNISON VOICES  
*mp*

in the bleak mid - win - ter, man - y years a -

20

go. —

## 23 UNISON WOMEN

*mp*

An - gels and arch - an - gels, all were gath-ered

26

there, cher - u bim and

28

ser - a - phim \* hov - ered in the air;

## 31 BARITONE

*mp cresc.*

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

\* No breath.

35 *mp unis.*

A. wor - shiped the Be - lov - ed, wor - shiped with a

B. *mp*

38

kiss.

42 *mf* What — can I give Him, poor — as I am?

*mf* What — can, what can I give Him, oh, poor as I am?

What — can I give Him, oh, poor as I am?

*mf* (accompaniment optional through m. 48)

46 If I were a shep - herd,

Musical notation for the first system, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

If I were a hum-ble shep-herd, I would bring — a lamb;

Musical notation for the second system, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

If I were a shep - herd,

Musical notation for the third system, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

50

*cresc.*

I would do my *rit.* part;

*a tempo*  
*mf unis.*

Musical notation for the fourth system, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

if I were a wise — man, I would do, I'd do my part; yet

*cresc.*

*dim.*

*mf*

Musical notation for the fifth system, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

I'd do my part;

*a tempo*

Musical notation for the sixth system, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

*cresc.* (accompaniment optional through m. 53)

*dim.*

*rit.*

*mf*

(play)

Musical notation for the seventh system, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

54

what I have I give Him: give to Him my

Musical notation for the eighth system, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

Musical notation for the ninth system, including piano accompaniment.

57 *mp*  
 heart. \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, *mp*

61 *mf* give to Him my *rit. e dim.* *mp*  
 what I have I give Him: give, I give to Him *rit. e dim.*  
 give to Him *mf* *rit. e dim.* *mp*

65 *a tempo*  
 heart, \_\_\_\_\_ *a tempo*

8

68 *molto rit.* *p* *a tempo* *rit.*

my heart.

*p*

*dim. e molto rit.* *p* *a tempo* *rit.*

*Ped.* *Ped.*

The image shows a musical score for a choral arrangement. It consists of four staves: two for voices (Soprano and Bass) and two for piano accompaniment (Right and Left Hand). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The score begins at measure 68. The vocal parts have the lyrics 'my heart.' under the first two measures. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a supporting bass line in the left hand. Performance markings include 'molto rit.', 'p' (piano), 'a tempo', and 'rit.' (ritardando). Pedal markings 'Ped.' are present under the piano accompaniment staves.

**In the Bleak Midwinter** is a choral arrangement of a beloved Christmas carol, with melody by Gustav Holst (1906) and text adapted from Christina Rossetti's famous 19th century poem. Appropriate for performance by school or church choirs, it should be performed very expressively, with some freedom of movement, highlighting the moving voices.

When performed by church choirs at Christmas, suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Isaiah 9: 1-6, Luke 2: 8-14 and Titus 2: 11-14. One basic homiletical theme is "treasures of the heart."

**Catherine Bennett** lives in Olympia, Washington, where she is choir director and a humanities teacher at Thurgood Marshall Middle School and director of the Chancel Choir at the First United Methodist Church. With music degrees from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington, and Lesley College in Cambridge, Massachusetts, she is a widely published composer.

