

Dedicated to my parents, Jack and Dorothy

# AMID THE COLD OF WINTER

## In the Bleak Midwinter/Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

for S.A.B. voices and keyboard,  
with optional soloist\*

Arranged by  
**BRET RHOADES**

Expressively, with some freedom (♩ = ca. 84) 3 *mp*

VOICES

KEYBOARD

*mp*

*Pedal carefully*

DUET (male or female)  
Opt. All Women

\*\*In the bleak mid -

win - ter, frost - y wind made moan, Earth stood hard as

*poco rit.* *a tempo*

i - ron wa - ter like a stone.

*poco rit.* *a tempo*

\* Also available for S.A.T.B. voices, No. 22733, and 2-part mixed voices, No. 22734.

\*\**In the Bleak Midwinter*: music by Gustav Holst (1874-1934); words by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894).

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12

S. *mp*

A.

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

B. *mp*

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

Piano accompaniment for the first system.

16

Earth stood hard as i - ron, — wa - ter like a stone.

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

Piano accompaniment for the second system.

20

*mf*

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

*mf*

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

Piano accompaniment for the third system.

23 *poco rit.* *a tempo mp* *poco rit.*

snow, In the bleak mid - win - ter, long time a -

27 *a tempo* *poco rit.*

go.

31 *a tempo* **32** *mp* *poco rit.*

\*Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from

*a tempo* *mp*

The image shows a musical score for a vocal and piano piece. It consists of four systems of music. The first system (measures 23-26) features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The second system (measures 27-30) continues the vocal and piano parts. The third system (measures 31-32) includes a vocal line with a new line of lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The fourth system (measures 33-36) shows the piano accompaniment. The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, time signatures, dynamics (poco rit., a tempo, mp, mf), and articulation marks. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

\*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming: music from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599, arranged Michael Praetorius, 1609; words from 15th c. German carol, translated Theodore Baker (1851-1934).

35 ten - der stem \_\_\_\_\_ hath sprung!

ten - der stem \_\_\_\_\_ hath sprung! Of Je - se's

ten - der stem \_\_\_\_\_ hath sprung!

39 men of old \_\_\_\_\_ have

lin - eage com - ing, as men of old \_\_\_\_\_ have

men of old \_\_\_\_\_ have

43 *poco rit.* *Sung.* *a tempo* 44 *cresc.*

sung. It came, a blos - som - bright, \_\_\_\_\_ a -

sung.

*poco rit.* *a tempo* *cresc.*

46 *mf* half - spent *poco rit.* was the  
 mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the  
 half - spent was the

This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics: "half - spent *poco rit.* was the" on the first line and "mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the" on the second line. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The dynamic marking *mf* is present at the beginning and end of the system. The tempo marking *poco rit.* is placed above the vocal line.

50 *a tempo*  
 night.  
 night.  
 night.

This system contains the next two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics: "night." on the first line and "night." on the second line. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The dynamic marking *a tempo* is placed above the vocal line.

53 *mp*  
 \*What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
 \*What can I give Him, poor as I am?

This system contains the final two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics: "\*What can I give Him, poor as I am?" on the first line and "\*What can I give Him, poor as I am?" on the second line. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The dynamic marking *mp* is present at the beginning and end of the system.

57

If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a

60

61 *mf*

lamb; If I were a Wise Man,

63

*poco rit.*

*a tempo*

I would do my part; Yes, what can I

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66

give Him? I would give my heart; I would

mp

mp

70

rit. a tempo dim. poco rit.

give my heart.

dim.

rit. a tempo dim. poco rit. p

The image shows a musical score for a choir and piano. It consists of four systems of music. The first system (measures 66-69) features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The second system (measures 70-73) continues the vocal line with lyrics and piano accompaniment. The third system (measures 74-77) shows the vocal line ending with a fermata and the piano accompaniment concluding. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp* and *p*, and tempo markings like *rit.*, *a tempo*, *dim.*, and *poco rit.*. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

**Amid the Cold of Winter** is an inspired pairing of two beloved carols, the 16<sup>th</sup> century German plainchant *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*, and the 20<sup>th</sup> century English carol by Gustav Holst, *In the Bleak Midwinter*. Available in multiple voicings, it is an outstanding choice for both school and church choirs.

For worship performance, **Amid the Cold of Winter** is suitable for Advent (especially the Annunciation of Mary), Christmas, and Epiphany. Suggested corresponding scripture readings include Isaiah 11:1-10 and 35:1-4, Matthew 2:1-12, and Luke 1:26-56 and 2:8-20.

Bret Rhoades is Director of Operations for a large national music retailer. He graduated with a B.M.E. degree from West Georgia College and pursued graduate studies in piano performance at Loyola University in New Orleans. He sang with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus under the direction of Robert Shaw for three years, and is active in the music program at his church in Philadelphia, where he currently resides.

