

PROGRAM NOTES

This piece pairs the iconic melody of Gustav Holst's *In the Bleak Midwinter* with a lesser known, but equally beautiful, melody by Bruce Becker, originally set to the text of *The Tree of Life*. In this arrangement, the composer weaves both melodies together, and integrates Christina Rossetti's classic text with newly crafted lyrics which speak to the anticipation and meaning of Christmas.

—Kyle Pederson

TEXT

Into the pall of winter's day
when dark descends and daylight fades;
into the cold of wint'ry night
when breath will hang as heavy ice;
into the bleak December land
where earth is fixed—and frozen stands;
into a world of dark and gloom
a child will come in manger soon.

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan.
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow.
In the bleak mid-winter long, long ago.

—Christina Rossetti

Into the bleak of my own soul
You gently lay a seed to grow,
and soon the seed becomes a tree
that offers shade through Christ in me.
What right should I share in this gift
of perfect love, Who was, Who is?
No right at all, but simply grace:
Your seed turned tree—now holy space.

Come quickly, come, Oh Spirit breath,
and all creation may you bless.
Our mangers wait—just wood and dust,
Oh Spirit breathe—enliven us.
Even the heav'ns cannot contain
the hope and joy which has a name.
Into our manger hearts we gaze
where God in flesh has now been laid.

In the bleak midwinter, Christ, Emmanuel.

—Kyle Pederson

Catalog No. 1.3667

In the Bleak Midwinter

for opt. Baritone Solo, SATB Chorus, and Piano

Texts by Kyle Pederson
and Christina Rossetti (1830–1894)

Tree of Life by Bruce W. Becker
Cranham by Gustav Holst (1874–1934)
Arranged by Kyle Pederson (ASCAP)

Serenely ♩ = 80–85
legato

Piano

p LH

pedal liberally throughout

4

Baritone Solo
or All TB *mp*

In - to the pall _____ of win - ter's day when dark de -

simile

7

scends _____ and _____ day - light fades; in - to the

Words: "In the Bleak Midwinter" by Christina Rossetti, ca. 1872 (PD).

Tune: *TREE OF LIFE*, Copyright © 1995 Bruce W. Becker. Used by permission.

Copyright © 2023 Galaxy Music Corporation, Inc.,
a division of ECS Publishing Group. www.ecspublishing.com
All rights reserved.

(use similar dynamics when shaping each phrase)

9

cold of win-t'ry night when breath will

11

hang as heav-y ice; in-to the

13

bleak De-cem-ber land where earth is

15

fixed and fro-zen stands; in-to a

17

world of dark and gloom a child will

19

come in man - ger soon.

21

S
A

unis. mp

In the bleak mid - win - ter,

T
B

(Tutti) unis. p

Oo

stagger breathe

mp

24

frost - y wind made moan. Earth stood hard as

Oo

This block contains the musical notation for measures 24 to 26. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The lyrics are 'frost - y wind made moan. Earth stood hard as'. The piano part includes a 'Oo' vocalization. A large watermark 'Copying is illegal! Only for review' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

27

i - ron, wa - ter like a stone.

Oo

This block contains the musical notation for measures 27 to 29. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The lyrics are 'i - ron, wa - ter like a stone.'. The piano part includes a 'Oo' vocalization. A large watermark 'Copying is illegal! Only for review' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

30

Snow had fal - len, snow on snow,

mf

mf

This block contains the musical notation for measures 30 to 32. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The lyrics are 'Snow had fal - len, snow on snow,'. The piano part includes a 'mf' dynamic marking. A large watermark 'Copying is illegal! Only for review' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

32 *poco rit.* *a tempo*
mp

snow on snow. In the bleak mid -

poco rit. *a tempo*
mp

Oo

35

win - ter, long, long a - go.

Oo

Meno mosso ♩ = 70

38 *p*

In - to the bleak of my own soul You gen - tly

p

In - to the bleak of my own soul You gen - tly

Meno mosso ♩ = 70

(piano may play choral parts if desired)

41 lay a seed to grow, and soon the seed be-comes a

lay a seed to grow, and soon the seed be - comes a

lay a seed to grow, soon the seed be - comes a

44 tree that of-fers shade through Christ in me. What right should

tree of - fers shade through Christ in me. What right should

tree, of - fers shade through Christ in me. What right should

47 I share in this gift of per-fect love, Who was, Who

I share in this gift of per - fect love, Who was, Who

I share in this gift of per - fect love, Who was, Who

I share in this gift of per - fect love, Who was, Who

50 is? No right at all, but sim-ply grace: Your seed turned

is? No right at all sim - ply grace; seed turned

is? All sim - ply grace; seed turned

Più mosso

53 tree— now_ ho - ly space.

tree— now ho - ly space.

tree— now ho - ly space.

Più mosso

56

rit. Sop. ***f***

Come quick-ly,

Alto ***f*** (*melody*)

Come quick-ly,

rit.

mf *cresc.*

59 **Original tempo** (♩ = 80)

Spir - it come, ah, _____

come, _____ Oh Spir - it breath, and all cre -

Original tempo (♩ = 80)

*RH releases to play figure while pedal sustains the half-note.

61

S cre - a - tion — may you bless.

A a - tion — may you bless. Our man - gers

T Our man - gers

B Our man - gers

f

f

63

Spir - it come,

wait — just wood and dust, Oh Spir - it

wait — just wood and dust, Oh Spir - it

wait — just wood and dust, Oh Spir - it

65

breathe, en - liv - en us. [melody]

breathe— en - liv - en us. E - ven the

breathe— en - liv - en us. E - ven the

breathe— en - liv - en us.

67

ff Heav - en's hope and

ff heav'ns can - not con - tain the hope and

ff heav - ens can - not con - tain

ff heav - en's hope and

molto rit.

69

joy's _____ name. In - to our

joy _____ which has a _____ name. In - to our

joy's _____ name.

joy's _____ name.

mp

mp

molto rit.

Meno mosso

71

unis.

S
A
man _____ ger hearts we _____ gaze _____ where God in

T
B
unis. p
Oo _____

Meno mosso

mp

73

flesh has now been laid.

75

p In the bleak mid -

p In the bleak mid -

77 *molto rit.*

win - ter, Christ, Em - man - u - el.

win - ter, Christ, Em - man - u - el.

molto rit.