



'Twas the Night Before Christmas

Steve Danyew

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'Twas the Night Before Christmas

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'Twas the Night Before Christmas (2023)

based on the poem by Clement C. Moore

Duration: 6.5 minutes

Instrumentation

Piccolo

Flute 1, 2

Oboe 1, 2

Clarinet in Bb 1, 2, 3

Bass Clarinet in Bb

Bassoon 1, 2

*Alto Saxophone in Eb 1, 2 *OPTIONAL**

*Tenor Saxophone in Bb *OPTIONAL**

*Baritone Saxophone in Eb *OPTIONAL**

Horn in F 1, 2

Trumpet in Bb 1, 2

Trombone 1, 2

*Euphonium *OPTIONAL**

Tuba

Percussion 1: Vibraphone, Sleigh Bells, Cowbell

Percussion 2: Glockenspiel, Sleigh Bells, Bass Drum, Triangle

Percussion 3: Tambourine, High and Low Temple Blocks, Suspended Cymbal, Wind Chimes, Triangle

Percussion 4: Drum Set

SATB Choir

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

Program Note

'Twas the Night Before Christmas was commissioned in 2023 by Fond du Lac High School (WI) in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of their holiday prism concert, "Night of Silence." As I was thinking about possible themes and texts for the commission, I thought of the classic Clement C. Moore poem that we know as *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* (his title for the poem was actually *A Visit from St. Nicholas*).

Once I settled on this text and began spending more time with it, I began to feel like the poem had two parts. First, there is the quiet and dreamy opening that depicts a peaceful Christmas eve, with everyone tucked into bed, drifting off to sleep. Then, once the narrator peers out the window and sees St. Nicholas on the lawn, it feels to me like the poem enters a new section. So, I tried to write music to accompany these two sections that would help bring out the character of each. The music for the beginning section is gentle and lilting, like a lullaby. For the second section, when we encounter St. Nicholas and his reindeer, I wanted to create music that captures the magic, mystery, and playfulness of Santa Claus.

Commissioned by Fond du Lac High School in Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Night of Silence

Thank you to the Fond du Lac High School Music Directors for their support and leadership of this project.

Chris Barnes, band director

Austin Bolden, orchestra director

Jake Opperman, band director

Cory Schneider, choir director

Allison Zeitler, choir director

Made possible through the Night of Silence commissioning fund.

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'Twas the Night Before Christmas

Based on the poem by Clement C. Moore

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Gently & Peacefully ♩ = 108-116

rit. -----

Piccolo

Flute 1+2 *mf legato* *mf* solo

Oboe 1+2 *mf* solo

Clarinet in B \flat 1 *mf legato* *mf* solo

Clarinet in B \flat 2+3 *mp legato* a2

Bass Clarinet *mp legato*

Bassoon 1+2 *mp legato* a2

Alto Sax 1+2 *mp legato*

Tenor Sax *mp legato*

Baritone Sax *mp legato*

Horn in F 1+2

Trumpet in B \flat 1+2

Trombone 1+2

Euphonium

Tuba

Percussion 1 *mp* Sleigh Bells

Percussion 2 *mf* Glockenspiel

Percussion 3

Drum Set *mp* Drum set: use brushes throughout

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Violin I *mp*

Violin II *mp* div. unis. div. unis. div.

Viola *mp*

Cello *mp*

Double Bass *mp* pizz.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Picc.

Fl. 1+2

Ob. 1+2

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2+3

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1+2

A. Sx. 1+2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Hn. 1+2

B♭ Tpt. 1+2

Tbn. 1+2

Euph.

Tuba

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

D. S.

S
A
T
B

S4 unison mp

'Twas the night be fore Christ - mas when all through the house not a crea - ture was stir - ring not e - ven a

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

unis.

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'Twas the Night Before Christmas

poco rit. **18** *a tempo*

rit. -----

Picc. *mf* solo

Fl. 1+2 *mf*

Ob. 1+2

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2+3

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1+2

A. Sx. 1+2 *mp*

T. Sx. *mp*

B. Sx. *mp*

Hn. 1+2

B♭ Tpt. 1+2

Tbn. 1+2

Euph.

Tuba

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

D. S.

S
A *poco rit.* **18** *a tempo* *mf* *rit.* -----
 mouse; The stock - ings were hung by the chim - ney with ___ care, in hopes that Saint Nich - o - las ___ soon would be ___

T
B

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vcl. *mf*

D.B. *mf*

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27 *a tempo*

poco rit. a tempo

Picc.

Fl. 1+2

Ob. 1+2

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2+3

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1+2

A. Sx. 1+2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Hn. 1+2

B♭ Tpt. 1+2

Tbn. 1+2

Euph.

Tuba

Perc. 1

Perc. 2
Glockenspiel
mp

Perc. 3

D. S.

S
A
T
B

there; *p* *mp* *poco rit. a tempo* *unis. p*

TB unison mp

The child - ren were nest - led all snug in their beds, while vi - sions of su - gar - plums

Vln. I
mp unis.

Vln. II
mp

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.
mp

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poco rit. **35** *a tempo*

33

Picc.

Fl. 1+2 *tutti* *mf* *solo* *mf*

Ob. 1+2 *tutti* *mf*

B♭ Cl. 1 *tutti* *mf*

B♭ Cl. 2+3 *tutti* *mf*

B. Cl. *mf*

Bsn. 1+2 *mf*

A. Sx. 1+2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Hn. 1+2

B♭ Tpt. 1+2

Tbn. 1+2

Euph.

Tuba *mf*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 Glockenspiel

Perc. 3 Triangle *mp*

D. S.

33 *poco rit.* **35** *a tempo*

S A

T B

danced in their heads; And mam - ma in her ker - chief and I in my cap, had just set - tled in for a

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

D.B. *mf*

33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40

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'Twas the Night Before Christmas

poco rit. ----- 44 ♩ = 120 *Faster, with growing excitement*

Picc.

Fl. 1+2

Ob. 1+2 *tutti mp*

B♭ Cl. 1 *mp*

B♭ Cl. 2+3

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1+2 *mp*

A. Sx. 1+2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Hn. 1+2 *a2 mp*

B♭ Tpt. 1+2 *straight mute a2 fp*

Tbn. 1+2 *a2 mp*

Euph.

Tuba *mf p*

Perc. 1 *Glockenspiel mp*

Perc. 2 *mf*

Perc. 3 *Sus. cymbal mp*

D. S.

S
A

When out on the lawn there a - rose such a clat - ter, — *f*

When out on the lawn there a - rose such a clat - ter, — *f*

T
B

long win - ter, mp, When out — *f*

Vln. I *mp f*

Vln. II *mp f*

Vla.

Vc. *mp f arco*

D.B. *mp f*

41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48

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54

Picc. *f* *mf*

Fl. 1+2 *f* *mf*

Ob. 1+2

B♭ Cl. 1 *f*

B♭ Cl. 2+3 *f* *mf* *mp*

B. Cl. *f* *mf* *mp*

Bsn. 1+2 *f* *mf* *mp*

A. Sx. 1+2 *mf* *mp* a2

T. Sx. *f* *mf* *mp*

B. Sx. *f* *mf* *mp*

Hn. 1+2 *mf* *mp* a2

B♭ Tpt. 1+2 *mf*

Tbn. 1+2 *mf* *mp*

Euph. *mf* *mp*

Tuba *mf* *mp*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 Glockenspiel *mp*

Perc. 3 Triangle *mp*

D. S.

Soprano *f* *mf* *mp* *mp* *unis.*

Alto *f* *mf* *mp* *mp* *unis.*

Tenor *f* *mf* *mp* *mp* *unis.*

Bass *f* *mf* *mp* *mp* *unis.*

Vln. I *f*

Vln. II *f* *mf* *mp*

Vla. *f* *mf* *mp*

Vc. *f* *mf* *mp*

D.B. *f* *mf* *mp*

49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56

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Picc. *mf*

Fl. 1+2 *mf* a2

Ob. 1+2 *mf* a2

B♭ Cl. 1 *mf*

B♭ Cl. 2+3 *mf*

B. Cl. *mp* *mf*

Bsn. 1+2 *mp* *mf*

A. Sx. 1+2

T. Sx. *mp* *mf*

B. Sx. *mp* *mf*

Hn. 1+2

B♭ Tpt. 1+2 *mf* straight mute

Tbn. 1+2 *mf*

Euph. *mf*

Tuba *mf*

Perc. 1 *mf* Glockenspiel

Perc. 2 *mf* Sus. cymbal *choke*

Perc. 3 *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *mf* *p* delicately

D. S.

Vibraphone (motor off) *mf*

Wind chimes

S. *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

A. flash, tore o - pen the shut - ters and threw up the sash. The moon on the

T. *mf* *f* *f*

B. flash, tore o - pen the shut - ters and threw up the sash.

Vln. I *mp* *mf* *mp* div.

Vln. II *mp* *mf* *mp*

Vla. *mp* *mf* *mp*

Vc. *mp* *mf* *mp* pizz.

D.B. *mf* *mp*

57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64

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'Twas the Night Before Christmas

81 ♩ = 120 *Faster, with anticipation*

Woodwind and Percussion score for measures 81-88. Instruments include Piccolo, Flutes 1+2, Oboes 1+2, Clarinets (B♭, B♭ 2+3, B♭), Bassoon 1+2, Saxophones (Alto, Tenor, Baritone), Horns 1+2, Trombones 1+2, Euphonium, Tuba, Percussion 1-3, and Drums. Dynamics range from *mp* to *f*. Performance instructions include *tutti*, *straight mute*, *Glockenspiel*, *High temple block*, and *Sleigh Bells*. A large watermark 'NOT FOR PERUSAL SCORE OR PERFORMANCE ONLY DISTRIBUTION' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

81 ♩ = 120 *Faster, with anticipation*

Vocal and String score for measures 81-88. Includes Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.). Lyrics for the vocal parts are: "lit - tle old driv - er so live - ly and quick, I knew in a mo - ment it must be". Dynamics range from *mp* to *f*. Performance instructions include *arco* and *unis.*. A large watermark 'NOT FOR PERUSAL SCORE OR PERFORMANCE ONLY DISTRIBUTION' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

91 Swing! ♩ = 138 - 144

rit. -----

Picc. *mf*

Fl. 1+2

Ob. 1+2

B♭ Cl. 1 *mf* solo

B♭ Cl. 2+3

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1+2

A. Sx. 1+2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Hn. 1+2

B♭ Tpt. 1+2

Tbn. 1+2

Euph.

Tuba

Perc. 1 *mf* Vibraphone

Perc. 2 *mp* Sleigh Bells Glockenspiel *mf*

Perc. 3

D. S. *mf* Ride cymbal

S. A. *rit.* ----- 91 Swing! ♩ = 138 - 144
Saint Nick.

T. B. Saint Nick.

Vln. I *mp*

Vln. II *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

D.B. *mp*

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103

Picc. *mf*

Fl. 1+2 *mf*

Ob. 1+2 *mf*

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2+3

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1+2

A. Sx. 1+2 *mf*

T. Sx. *mf*

B. Sx. *mf*

Hn. 1+2 *mf*

B♭ Tpt. 1+2 *mf*

Tbn. 1+2 *mf*

Euph. *mf*

Tuba *mf*

Perc. 1 *f*
Vibraphone

Perc. 2 *mf*
Triangle

Perc. 3

D. S.

107

S
A *mf*
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall! — now

T
B
Dash - er! now Danc - er! now Pranc - er and Vix - en! — On Com - et! on Cu - pid! on Don - der and Blitz - en! —

Vln. I *mf* pizz.

Vln. II *mf* pizz.

Vla. *mf* pizz.

Vc. *mf* unis. pizz.

D.B. *mf*

Picc. *mf*
 Fl. 1+2 *mf*
 Ob. 1+2 *mf*
 B♭ Cl. 1 *mf*
 B♭ Cl. 2+3 *mf*
 B. Cl. *mf*
 Bsn. 1+2 *mf*
 A. Sx. 1+2 *mf*
 T. Sx. *mf*
 B. Sx. *mf*
 Hn. 1+2 *mf*
 B♭ Tpt. 1+2 *mf*
 Tbn. 1+2 *mf*
 Euph. *mf*
 Tuba *mf*
 Perc. 1 *f*
 Perc. 2 *mf*
 Perc. 3 *mf*
 D. S. *mf*
 S. A. *f* *unis.* *And*
 T. B. *f* *unis.* *And*
 Vln. I *f*
 Vln. II *f*
 Vla. *f*
 Vc. *f* *arco*
 D.B. *f*

115 116 117 118 119 120

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Picc. *mf*

Fl. 1+2 *mf*

Ob. 1+2 *mf* a2

B♭ Cl. 1 *mf*

B♭ Cl. 2+3 *mf*

B. Cl. *mf*

Bsn. 1+2 *mf*

A. Sx. 1+2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Hn. 1+2 *mf*

B♭ Tpt. 1+2

Tbn. 1+2 *mf*

Euph.

Tuba

Perc. 1 *mf* *scx.* **Vibraphone**

Perc. 2 *mf* **Glockenspiel**

Perc. 3 *mf* **High and low temple blocks**

D. S.

S. A. *mf* then, in a twink - ling, I heard on the roof *unis.*

T. B. *mf* then the pranc - ing and paw - ing of each lit - tle hoof. *unis.*

Vln. I *mp* *pizz.*

Vln. II *mp* *pizz.*

Vla. *mp* *pizz.*

Vc.

D.B.

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