

JS 003
6 minutes, 30 seconds

A - *Christmas* - Carol

for SATB and Piano

Text by
Charles Dickens

Music by
Joshua Shank

B&F Music
Joshua Shank

Note from the composer

Dickens' masterpiece, *A Christmas Carol*, is a story about transformation and the chance for redemption which just happens to be set during the Christmas season. This holiday can mean many things to many different people but, in my case (as in Ebenezer Scrooge's), it's simply a time that serves as a reminder about how we're supposed to be treating our "fellow-passengers" during the rest of the calendar year.

A Christmas Carol was commissioned by the Mesa High School A Cappella Choir (Germán Aguilar, Conductor) and is dedicated with love to my little sister, Caitlin.

Note: There is also a version of this piece accompanied by string orchestra and harp which is also available.

Performance notes

- The closer the harmonies, the less vibrato should be used.
- Breath only when indicated by a rest or a breath mark.

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The text

Excerpts from *A Christmas Carol* (1843)

By Charles Dickens (1812-1870)

Adapted by the composer

"There are many things from which I might have derived good by which I have not profited, I dare say," returned the nephew, "Christmas among the rest. But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas-time, when it has come round—apart from the veneration due to its sacred name and origin, if anything belonging to it can be apart from that—as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, God bless it!"

It is a fair, even-handed, noble adjustment of things, that, while there is infection in disease and sorrow, there is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humour.

Scrooge was better than his word...He became as good a friend, as good a master, as good a man as the good old City knew, or any other good old city, town, or borough in the good old world.

"A merry Christmas to us all my dears. God bless us!"

"God bless us, every one!"

*Commissioned by the Mesa High School A Cappella Choir
Germán Aguilar, Conductor*

A Christmas Carol

for Caitlin Shank

Text by
Charles Dickens

Music by
Joshua Shank

Calmly, with confidence (♩ = ca. 100)

Tenor Bass

pp

"There are ma - ny
"There are ma - ny

Re. until m. 68

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T B

things from which I might have de - rived good by which I have not pro - fi - ted, I dare

things from which I might have de - rived good by which I have not pro - fi - ted, I dare

Re. until m. 5...4...3...

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Soprano (S): Treble clef, key signature of A major (three sharps).
Alto (A): Treble clef, key signature of A major.
Tenor (T): Bass clef, key signature of A major. The vocal line begins at measure 8.
Bass (B): Bass clef, key signature of A major.

Measure 7: Soprano and Alto rest. Bass: eighth note, eighth note.
Measure 8: Soprano: eighth note, eighth note. Alto: eighth note, eighth note. Bass: eighth note, eighth note.
Measure 9: Soprano: eighth note, eighth note. Alto: eighth note, eighth note. Bass: eighth note, eighth note.
Measure 10: * Even, 3-part split. Soprano: eighth note, eighth note, eighth note. Alto: eighth note, eighth note, eighth note. Bass: eighth note, eighth note, eighth note.
Measure 11: *mp Soprano: eighth note, eighth note, eighth note. Alto: eighth note, eighth note, eighth note. Bass: eighth note, eighth note, eighth note.

Lyrics: re - turned the ne - phew,
re - turned the ne - phew,
say," _____

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This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...

* Even, 3-part split.

S

A

T

B

II

13

"This illegal copy will self destruct"

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mf

"Christ-mas a-mong the rest. ___ But I am sure I have
mf
"Christ-mas a-mong the rest. ___ But I am sure I have
4...3...
10 5

"This illegal copy will self destruct"

T

15

a-lways thought of Christ - mas - time, when it has come round a - part from the

B

a-lways thought of Christ - mas - time, when it has come round a - part from the

15

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T

19

ve - ne - ra - tion due to its sa - cred name and o - ri - gin, _____

B

ve - ne - ra - tion due to its sa - cred name and o - ri - gin, _____

19

T

23

— if an-y-thing be-long-ing to it can be a - part from that _____

B

— if an-y-thing be-long-ing to it can be a - part from that _____

23

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27

S A T B

as a good time; as a good time;

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27

S A T B

kind, for - giv-ing, cha-ri - ta - ble, plea-sant time;

31

31

S A T B

kind, for - giv-ing, cha-ri - ta - ble, plea-sant time;

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31

S A T B

kind, for - giv-ing, cha-ri - ta - ble, plea-sant time;

36

39

Soprano (S) vocal line:

Amen, when men and wo - men seem by one con -

Alto (A) vocal line:

when men and wo - men seem by one con -

Tenor (T) vocal line:

year, when men and wo - men seem by one con -

Bass (B) vocal line:

year, when men and wo - men seem by one con -

Piano accompaniment (39):

The piano part consists of eighth-note chords in the bass clef, primarily in 2/4 time, providing harmonic support for the vocal entries.

S 46 *mf* 47
‘This illegal copy will self destruct.
and to think of peo - ple be - low them

A *mf*
and to think of peo - ple be - low them

Bassoon 46
Bassoon 47

“This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...”

S as if they real-ly were fel-low - pass-en-gers to—the grave, and
 A as if they real-ly were fel-low - pass-en-gers to—the grave, and

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“This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...”

S not a no - ther race — of crea - tures bound on o - ther jour - neys.
 A not a no - ther race — of crea - tures bound on o - ther jour - neys.

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“This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...”

59

S And there - fore, un - cle, though it has ne-ver put a scrap of gold or
 A And there - fore, un - cle, though it has ne-ver put a scrap of gold or
 T And there - fore, un - cle, though it has ne-ver put a scrap of gold or
 B And there - fore, un - cle, though it has ne-ver put a scrap of gold or

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S sil - ver in my pock-et, — I be - lieve that it has done me
 A sil - ver in my pock-et, — I be - lieve that it has done me
 T sil - ver in my pock-et, — I be - lieve that it has done me
 B sil - ver in my pock-et, — I be - lieve that it has done me

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This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...

Soprano (S) part:

65 good, and will do me good; and I say, God

Alto (A) part:

good, and will do me good; and I say, God

Tenor (T) part:

good, and will do me good; and I say, God

Bass (B) part:

good, and will do me good; and I say, God

Piano accompaniment:

65 piano part starts with eighth-note chords in 8th time signature, followed by a measure in 4th time signature, then returns to 8th time signature.

Soprano (S) part:

68 "bless it!"

Alto (A) part:

bless it!"

Tenor (T) part:

bless it!"

Bass (B) part:

bless it!"

Piano accompaniment:

68 piano part starts with eighth-note chords in 5th time signature, followed by a measure in 4th time signature, then returns to 5th time signature.

With subtle word stresses ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 100$)

75

71

S A T B

rit. mp rit. $\text{crescendo poco a poco}$

It is a fair, even -
It is a fair, even -
It is a fair, even -
It is a fair, even -

“This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...”

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mf rit. mp rit. $\text{crescendo poco a poco}$

72

S A T B

hand - ed, no - ble ad - just - ment of things, that,
hand - ed, no - ble ad - just - ment of things, that,
hand - ed, no - ble ad - just - ment of things, that,
hand - ed, no - ble ad - just - ment of things, that,

“This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...”

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simile

76

S A T B

hand - ed, no - ble ad - just - ment of things, that,
hand - ed, no - ble ad - just - ment of things, that,
hand - ed, no - ble ad - just - ment of things, that,
hand - ed, no - ble ad - just - ment of things, that,

“This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...”

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simile

S 79

A

T

B

S 79

A

T

B

S 83

A

T

B

S 83

91

S God — bless it! *senza rit.*

A

T God

B God —

91

“This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...2...1...”

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senza rit.

mp sweetly

Re. until m. 107

103

S good a mas - ter, as good a man as the

A good a mas - ter, as good a man as the

T 8 as good a mas - ter, as good a man as the

B as good a mas - ter, as good a man as the

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103

mf

107

S good old Ci - ty knew,

A good old Ci - ty knew,

T 8 good old Ci - ty knew,

B good old Ci - ty knew,

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107

S God bless us! "This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3..."
 A God bless us!
 T God bless us!
 B God bless us!

109
 S God bless us! "This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3..."
 A God bless us!
 T God bless us!
 B God bless us!

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III
 S "This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3..."
 A "This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3..."
 T "This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3..."
 B "This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3..."

III
 S "This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3..."
 A "This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3..."
 T "This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3..."
 B "This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3..."

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116 Sweetly ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 84$)

116 Sweetly (♪

S

A

T

B

113 *molto rit.*

15^{ma}

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15^{ma}

molto rit.

pp

Reo. until m. 125

116 Sweetly (♩ = ca. 84)
 "

117

S - ty, — town, or bo - rough in the good old world.

A - ty, — town, or bo - rough in the good old world.

T 8 - ty, — town, or bo - rough in the good old world.

B - ty, — town, or bo - rough in the good old world.

117

“This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...”

This block contains a musical score for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano. The vocal parts sing "ty, — town, or bo - rough in the good old world." The piano part has a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The score includes measure numbers 117 and a large watermark "B&F Music Joshua Shank".

Gently, a little slower ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. 76}$)

122

121

Soprano (S) vocal line: "A mer-ry Christ-mas to us all my dears. God bless us!"

Alto (A) vocal line: "A mer-ry Christ-mas to us all my dears. God bless us!"

Tenor (T) vocal line: "A mer-ry Christ-mas to us all my dears. God bless us!"

Bass (B) vocal line: "A mer-ry Christ-mas to us all my dears. God bless us!"

Piano accompaniment: Bass line with sustained notes, treble line with eighth-note chords.

Tempo: $\text{♩} = \text{ca. 76}$

Dynamic: mp

Performance instruction: "This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3..."

126

Soprano (S) vocal line: "God" (rit.)

Alto (A) vocal line: "God" (rit.)

Tenor (T) vocal line: "God" (rit.)

Bass (B) vocal line: "God" (rit.)

Piano accompaniment: Bass line with eighth-note chords, treble line with sustained notes.

Tempo: $\text{♩} = \text{ca. 76}$

Dynamic: mp

Performance instruction: "This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3..."

130 4 times total ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. 84}$)

130 a little softer each time, non vib.

S bless us, ev - 'ry one!" "God bless us, ev - 'ry one!" "God

A bless us, ev - 'ry one!" "God bless us, ev - 'ry one!" "God

T bless us, ev - 'ry one!" "God bless us, ev - 'ry one!" "God

B bless us, ev - 'ry one!" "God bless us, ev - 'ry one!" "God

130 *mp* a little softer each time simile

S close slowly to 'n' poco rit. lunga niente

A close slowly to 'n' poco rit. lunga niente

T close slowly to 'n' poco rit. lunga niente

B close slowly to 'n' poco rit. lunga niente

134 bless us, ev - 'ry one!" - - - (n)

pp poco rit. lunga