

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

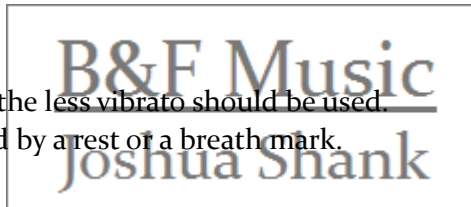
Dickens' masterpiece, *A Christmas Carol*, is a story about transformation and the chance for redemption which just happens to be set during the Christmas season. This holiday can mean many things to many different people but, in my case (as in Ebenezer Scrooge's), it's simply a time that serves as a 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.



## 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!"



7

S *mp* re - turned the ne - phew,

A *mp* re - turned the ne - phew,

T say,"

B say,"

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\* Even, 3-part split.

11

S

A

T *mf* "Christ - mas a - mong the rest. — But I am sure I have

B "Christ - mas a - mong the rest. — But I am sure I have

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13

15  
 T 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

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19  
 T 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,

23 *mf*  
 T — 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

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

27

S  
A  
T  
B

as a good time;

as a good time;

mp

mp

mp

mp

8

27

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31

31

S  
A  
T  
B

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

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

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

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

8

31

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35

T *mf* the on-ly time I know of, in \_\_\_\_\_ the long ca-len-dar of the

B *mf* the on-ly time I know of, in \_\_\_\_\_ the long ca-len-dar of the

35

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39

S *mf* when men and wo - men seem by one con -

A *mf* when men and wo - men seem by one con -

T *mf* year, when men and wo - men seem by one con -

B *mf* year, when men and wo - men seem by one con -

39

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42

S *f* sent to o - pen their shut-up hearts free ly, *mf*

A *f* sent to o - pen their shut-up hearts free - ly, *mf*

T *f* sent to o - pen their shut-up hearts free - ly, *mf*

B *f* sent to o - pen their shut-up hearts free - ly, *mf*

8

42

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47

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

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

46

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



50

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

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

50

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54

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.

54

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

58 *mf*  
 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

62  
 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

65

S good, and will do me good; and I say, God *sub. f*

A good, and will do me good; and I say, God *sub. f*

T good, and will do me good; and I say, God *sub. f*

B good, and will do me good; and I say, God *sub. f*

65

*sub. f*

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68

S bless it!"

A bless it!"

T bless it!"

B bless it!"

68

*Leg.*

*Leg.*

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With subtle word stresses (♩ = ca. 100)

75

S  
A  
T  
B

71

rit. *mp* rit. *crescendo poco a poco*

It is a fair, e - ven -

rit. *mp* rit. *crescendo poco a poco*

It is a fair, e - ven -

rit. *mp* rit. *crescendo poco a poco*

It is a fair, e - ven -

71

*mf* *rit.* *mp* *crescendo poco a poco*

*ped.*

S  
A  
T  
B

76

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,

76

*smile*

*ped.*

79

S while there is in - fec - tion in di - sease and sor - row, there is

A while there is in - fec - tion in di - sease and sor - row, there is

T while there is in - fec - tion in di - sease and sor - row, there is

B while there is in - fec - tion in di - sease and sor - row, there is

79

83

S noth - ing in the world so ir - re - sist - i - bly con - ta - gious as

A noth - ing in the world so ir - re - sist - i - bly con - ta - gious as

T noth - ing in the world so ir - re - sist - i - bly con - ta - gious as

B noth - ing in the world so ir - re - sist - i - bly con - ta - gious as

83



95 *mp* *sweetly* Scrooge was bet-ter than his

95 *mp* *sweetly* Scrooge was bet-ter than his

95 *mp* *sweetly* Scrooge was bet-ter than his

95 *mp* *sweetly* Scrooge was bet-ter than his

99 *mf* word... He be - came as good a friend, as

99 *mf* word... He be - came as good a friend, as

99 *mf* word... He be - came as good a friend,

99 *mf* word... He be - came as good a friend,

103

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

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

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

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

*mf*

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107

S good old Ci - ty knew,

A good old Ci - ty knew,

T good old Ci - ty knew,

B good old Ci - ty knew,

*ff almost overwhelming*

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109

S God bless us!

A God bless us!

T God bless us!

B God bless us!

109

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111

S

A

T

B

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111

116 Sweetly (♩ = ca. 84)

113 *molto rit.* *mp*  
 S or a-ny o-ther good old ci-  
 A *molto rit.* *mp*  
 or a-ny o-ther good old ci-  
 T *molto rit.* *mp*  
 or a-ny o-ther good old ci-  
 B *molto rit.* *mp*  
 or a-ny o-ther good old ci-  
 15<sup>ma</sup>  
 113 *molto rit.* 15<sup>ma</sup> *pp*  
 Led. until m. 125

117  
 S - ty, — town, or bo - rough in the good — old world.  
 A - ty, — town, or bo - rough in the good — old world.  
 T - ty, — town, or bo - rough in the good — old world.  
 B - ty, — town, or bo - rough in the good — old world.  
 117

Gently, a little slower (♩ = ca. 76)

122

S *mp* "A mer-ry Christ-mas to us all my dears. God bless us!"

A *mp* "A mer-ry Christ-mas to us all my dears. God bless us!"

T *mp* "A mer-ry Christ-mas to us all my dears. God bless us!"

B *mp* "A mer-ry Christ-mas to us all my dears. God bless us!"

121

S *rit.* *mp* "God

A *rit.* *mp* "God

T *rit.* *mp* "God

B *rit.* *mp* "God

126

130 4 times total (♩ = ca. 84)

130 *a little softer each time, non vib.*

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

A  
*a little softer each time, non vib.*  
bless us, ev - 'ry one!" "God bless us, ev - 'ry one!" "God

T  
*a little softer each time, non vib.*  
bless us, ev - 'ry one!" "God bless us, ev - 'ry one!" "God

B  
*a little softer each time, non vib.*  
bless us, ev - 'ry one!" "God bless us, ev - 'ry one!" "God

*mp a little softer each time simile*

134 *close slowly to 'n'* *poco rit.* *lunga niente*

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

A  
*close slowly to 'n'* *poco rit.* *lunga niente*  
bless us, ev - 'ry one!" --- (n)

T  
*close slowly to 'n'* *poco rit.* *lunga niente*  
bless us, ev - 'ry one!" --- (n)

B  
*close slowly to 'n'* *poco rit.* *lunga niente*  
bless us, ev - 'ry one!" --- (n)

*pp poco rit. lunga*