



*’Twas In The  
Winter Cold*

♦ ♦ ♦  
Joseph Eidson  
(2012)

♦ ♦ ♦  
Text by Rev. Charles Ingham Black

*Duration: ca. 3 minutes, 15 seconds*



SATB Choir, Flute

## Program Notes

Rev. Charles Ingham Black (ca.1821–1896) was educated at Trinity College in Dublin and in 1855 was appointed Curate of Burley in Wharfedale. He eventually rose to Vicar of Burley after separating his parish and contributed heartily to the growth of his village, both culturally and literally – he and his wife Anne had eleven children. In addition to his weekly sermons, Black composed many hymns for Christmas and the Nativity, and this contemporary setting of *'Twas In The Winter Cold* uses four of five given verses. The first portion of each stanza is set four unique ways, while the second half of every stanza is a musical refrain in the tradition of many Christmas carols.

### Text

'Twas in the winter cold, when earth  
Was desolate and wild,  
That Angels welcomed at his Birth  
The everlasting Child.  
From realms of ever bright'ning day,  
And from His throne above  
He came, with human kind to stay,  
All lowliness and love.

Then in the manger the poor beast  
Was present with his Lord;  
Then swains and pilgrims from the East  
Saw, wondered, and adored.  
And I this morn would come with them  
This blessed sight to see,  
And to the Babe of Bethlehem  
Bend low the reverent knee.

But I have not, it makes me sigh,  
One offering in my power;  
'Tis winter all with me, and I  
Have neither fruit nor flower.  
O God, O Brother let me give,  
My worthless self to Thee;  
And that the years which I may live  
May pure and spotless be:

Grant me Thyself, O Savior kind,  
The Spirit undefiled,  
That I may be in heart and mind  
As gentle as a child;  
That I may tread life's arduous ways  
As Thou Thyself has trod,  
And in the might of prayer and praise  
Keep ever close to God.

### About the Composer

Joseph Eidson (b.1981) holds degrees in composition from the University of Kansas (DMA, BM) and the University of Texas (MM). His music contains rhythmic drive, crisp harmonies, and a preference for lyrical melodies. For more information please visit his website at [www.josephheidson.com](http://www.josephheidson.com). The composer must be notified of all performances of this work.

# 'Twas In The Winter Cold

Text by  
Rev. Charles Ingham Black (ca.1821-1896)

Joseph Eidson  
(ASCAP)

Cantabile (♩ = 80) (2+3)

Flute

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

7 8

Fl.

S.

A.

T.

B.

For Rehearsal Only

'Twas in the win-ter cold, when earth was des-o-late and wild, that

Fl. *f*

S. *f*, *mp*  
An-gels wel-comed at his birth the ev-er - last - ing child. From

A. *f*, *mp*  
An-gels wel-comed at his birth the ev-er - last - ing child. From

T. *f*, *mp*  
An-gels wel-comed at his birth the ev-er - last - ing child. From

B. *f*, *mp*  
An-gels wel-comed at his birth the ev-er - last - ing child. From



Fl. *mp*

S. *mp*  
realms of ev - er bright-'ning day, and from His throne a - bove He

A. *mp*  
realms of ev - er bright-'ning day, and from His throne a - bove He

T. *mp*  
realms of ev - er bright-'ning day, and from His throne a - bove He

B. *mp*  
realms of ev - er bright-'ning day, and from His throne a - bove He

20 3

Fl. *mf*

S. *mf*  
came, with hu - man kind to stay, all low - li - ness and

A. *mf*  
came, with hu - man kind to stay, all low - li - ness and

T. *mf*  
came, with hu - man kind to stay, all low - li - ness and

B. *mf*  
came, with hu - man kind to stay, all low - li - ness and



23

Fl. *p*

S. love. \_\_\_\_\_

A. love. \_\_\_\_\_

T. *mp*  
love. \_\_\_\_\_ Then in the man - ger the poor beast was pres - ent with his

B. *mp*  
love. \_\_\_\_\_ Then in the man - ger the poor beast was pres - ent with his

4 25

Fl. *mp*

S. *p* Then in the

A. *p* Then in the

T. *mf* Lord; then swains and pil-grims from the East saw, won-dered and a-

B. *mf* Lord; then swains and pil-grims from the East saw, won-dered and a-

29 30

Fl. *mf*

S. *mf* man - ger. And I this morn would come with them this bless - ed sight to

A. *mf* man - ger. And I this morn would come with them this bless - ed sight to

T. dored. And I this morn would come with them this bless - ed sight to

B. dored. And I this morn would come with them this bless - ed sight to

Fl. *mp*

S. *p*  
see, and to the babe of Beth-le - hem bend low the rev-'rent knee. But I have

A. *p*  
see, and to the babe of Beth-le - hem bend low the rev-'rent knee. But I have

T. *p*  
see, and to the babe of Beth-le - hem bend low the rev-'rent knee.

B. *p*  
see, and to the babe of Beth-le - hem bend low the rev-'rent knee.



Fl.

S. *mp* *f*  
not, it makes me sigh, one off-'ring in my pow'r. 'Tis

A. *mp* *f*  
not, it makes me sigh, one off-'ring in my pow'r. 'Tis

T. *mp* *f*  
But I have not, it makes me sigh, one off-'ring in my pow'r. 'Tis

B. *mp* *f*  
But I have not, it makes me sigh, one off-'ring in my pow'r. 'Tis

FL. *f*

S. win - ter all with me, and I have nei-ther fruit nor flow'r. *ff*

A. win - ter all with me, and I have nei-ther fruit nor flow'r. *ff*

T. win - ter all with me, and I have nei-ther fruit nor flow'r. *ff*

B. win - ter all with me, and I have nei-ther fruit nor flow'r. *ff*

FL. *ff*

S. God, O Broth - er let me give my worth-less self to *mf*

A. God, O Broth - er let me give, let me give my worth-less self to *mf*

T. God, O Broth - er let me give, let me give my worth-less self to *mf*

B. God, O Broth - er let me give, let me give my worth-less self to *mf*



48

Fl. *mp* *mf*

S. *mp* *p* *mf*

A. *mp* *p* *mf*

T. *mp* *p*

B. *mp* *p*

thee. And that the years which I may live may pure and spot-less be. Grant

thee. And that the years which I may live may pure and spot-less be. Grant

thee. And that the years which I may live may pure and spot-less be.

thee. And that the years which I may live may pure and spot-less be.

52

Fl.

S. me thy-self, O sav-ior kind. The spir-it un-de - filed, that I may be in heart and

A. me thy-self, O sav-ior kind. The spir-it un-de - filed, that I may be in heart and

T.

B.

8 56

Fl. *p* *mp*

S. *p* *mp*  
 mind as gen-tle as a child. That I may tread life's ar - d'ous ways as thou thy-self has

A. *p* *mp*  
 mind as gen-tle as a child. That I may tread life's ar - d'ous ways as thou thy-self has

T. *mp*  
 That I may tread life's ar - d'ous ways as thou thy-self has

B. *mp*  
 That I may tread life's ar - d'ous ways as thou thy-self has

60

Fl.

S. *p* *mp*  
 trod. And in the might of pray'r and praise, keep ev - er

A. *p* *mp*  
 trod. And in the might of pray'r and praise, keep ev - er

T. *mp*  
 trod. And in the might of pray'r and praise, keep ev - er

B. *mp*  
 trod. And in the might of pray'r and praise, keep ev - er

poco rubato al fine

63 9

Fl. *mf* *mf*

S. *mf*  
close to God.

A. *mf*  
close to God.

T. *mf*  
close to God.

B. *mf*  
close to God.

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New Cumberland, PA

www.josepheids.com

