



*’Twas In The
Winter Cold*

♦ ♦ ♦
Joseph Eidson
(2013)

♦ ♦ ♦
Text by Rev. Charles Ingham Black

Duration: ca. 3 minutes, 15 seconds



SATB Choir



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. 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)

Soprano *p* *mp* *mf*
'Twas in the win-ter cold, when earth was des-o-late and wild, that

Alto *p* *mp* *mf*
'Twas in the win-ter cold, when earth was des-o-late and wild, that

Tenor *p* *mp* *mf*
'Twas in the win-ter cold, when earth was des-o-late and wild, that

Bass *p* *mp* *mf*
'Twas in the win-ter cold, when earth was des-o-late and wild, that

For Rehearsal Only

The first system of the musical score is for the vocalists and a rehearsal-only piano accompaniment. It consists of five staves. The vocal staves are for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass, each with a treble clef and a bass clef respectively. The piano part is for a grand piano, with a treble clef and a bass clef. The music is in 4/4 time and begins with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The tempo is marked 'Cantabile' with a quarter note equal to 80 beats per minute. The dynamics range from piano (p) to mezzo-forte (mf). The lyrics are: 'Twas in the win-ter cold, when earth was des-o-late and wild, that

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

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

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

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

The second system of the musical score continues the vocal and piano parts. It begins with a double bar line and a rehearsal mark (two parallel slanted lines) followed by the number 6. The vocal staves are for Soprano (S.), Alto (A.), Tenor (T.), and Bass (B.), each with a treble clef and a bass clef respectively. The piano part is for a grand piano, with a treble clef and a bass clef. The music is in 4/4 time and continues with the key signature of one flat (Bb). The dynamics range from forte (f) to mezzo-piano (mp). The lyrics are: An-gels wel-come-d at his birth the ev-er-last-ing child. From

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

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

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

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



13 *mf*

S. 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

15

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



18

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 -

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



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.

29

5

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

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

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

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



33

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



S. *mp* *p* *,mf*
thee. And that the years which I may live may pure and spot-less be. Grant

A. *mp* *p* *,mf*
thee. And that the years which I may live may pure and spot-less be. Grant

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

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

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. - - - - -



49 *p* *mp* 51

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

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

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

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

poco rall. al fine

S. *mf*
 trod. And in the might of pray'r and praise, keep ev - er close to God._____

A. *mf*
 trod. And in the might of pray'r and praise, keep ev - er close to God._____

T. *mf*
 trod. And in the might of pray'r and praise, keep ev - er close to God._____

B. *mf*
 trod. And in the might of pray'r and praise, keep ev - er close to God._____

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