



*’Twas In The
Winter Cold*

♦ ♦ ♦
Joseph Eidson
(2012)

♦ ♦ ♦
Text by Rev. Charles Ingham Black

Duration: ca. 3 minutes, 15 seconds

SATB Choir, Piano

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) (2+3)

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano

molto legato
p
mp

5

8

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno.

p
mf
mp

'Twas in the win-ter cold, when

'Twas in the win-ter cold, when

'Twas in the win-ter cold, when

'Twas in the win-ter cold, when

10

mp *mf*

S. earth was des-o-late and wild, that An-gels wel-come-d at his

A. earth was des-o-late and wild, that An-gels wel-come-d at his

T. earth was des-o-late and wild, that An-gels wel-come-d at his

B. earth was des-o-late and wild, that An-gels wel-come-d at his

Pno.

mf

Red.

14

f *mp* 17

S. birth the ev-er - last - ing child. From realms of ev-er bright-ning

A. birth the ev-er - last - ing child. From realms of ev-er bright-ning

T. birth the ev-er - last - ing child. From realms of ev-er bright-ning

B. birth the ev-er - last - ing child. From realms of ev-er bright-ning

Pno.

f *mp*

18

S. *mf*
 day, and from His throne a - bove He came, with hu-man kind to stay, all low-li-ness and

A. *mf*
 day, and from His throne a - bove He came, with hu-man kind to stay, all low-li-ness and

T. *mf*
 day, and from His throne a - bove He came, with hu-man kind to stay, all low-li-ness and

B. *mf*
 day, and from His throne a - bove He came, with hu-man kind to stay, all low-li-ness and

Pno. *mf*



23

22

S. love. _____

A. love. _____

T. *mp*
 love. _____ Then in the man - ger the poor beast was pres-ent with his Lord; _____ then

B. *mp*
 love. _____ Then in the man - ger the poor beast was pres-ent with his Lord; _____ then_

Pno. *p*

4 26

S. *p* Then in the man-ger. *mf* And

A. *p* Then in the man-ger. *mf* And

T. *mf* swains and pil-grims from the East saw, won-dered and a - dored. And

B. *mf* swains and pil-grims from the East saw, won-dered and a - dored. And

Pno. *mp*

30

S. I this morn would come with them this bless - ed sight to see, and to the babe of Beth-le

A. I this morn would come with them this bless - ed sight to see, and to the babe of Beth-le

T. I this morn would come with them this bless - ed sight to see, and to the babe of Beth-le

B. I this morn would come with them this bless - ed sight to see, and to the babe of Beth-le

Pno. *mf*

34 36 5

S. *p* hem bend low the rev-'rent knee. But I have not, *mp* it makes me sigh, one off-'ring

A. *p* hem bend low the rev-'rent knee. But I have not, *mp* it makes me sigh, one off-'ring

T. *p* hem bend low the rev-'rent knee. But I have not, *mp* it makes me sigh,

B. *p* hem bend low the rev-'rent knee. But I have not, *mp* it makes me sigh,

Pno. *mp*

38 40

S. *f* in my pow'r. 'Tis win - ter all with me, and I have nei-ther fruit nor

A. *f* in my pow'r. 'Tis win - ter all with me, and I have nei-ther fruit nor

T. *f* one off-'ring in my pow'r. 'Tis win - ter all with me, and I have nei-ther fruit nor

B. *f* one off-'ring in my pow'r. 'Tis win - ter all with me, and I have nei-ther fruit nor

Pno. *molto legato*
mf *f*

6

43 *ff* 44 *mf*

S. flow'r. O God, O Broth - er let me give _____

A. flow'r. O God, O Broth - er let me give, let me give _____

T. flow'r. O God, O Broth - er let me give, let me give _____

B. flow'r. O God, O Broth - er let me give, let me _____

Pno.

47 *mp* *p* **49**

S. — my worth-less self to thee. And that the years which I may live may pure and spot-less

A. — my worth-less self to thee. And that the years which I may live may pure and spot-less

T. — my worth-less self to thee. And that the years which I may live may pure and spot-less

B. give — my worth-less self to thee. And that the years which I may live may pure and spot-less

Pno.

51 *mf*

S. be. Grant me thy-self, O sav-ior kind. The spir-it un-de - filed, that

A. be. Grant me thy-self, O sav-ior kind. The spir-it un-de - filed, that

T. be.

B. be.

Pno. *mf*

55 *p* *mp* 58

S. I may be in heart and mind as gen-tle as a child. That I may tread life's ar - d'ous

A. I may be in heart and mind as gen-tle as a child. That I may tread life's ar - d'ous

T. That I may tread life's ar - d'ous

B. That I may tread life's ar - d'ous

Pno. *p* *mp*

S. ways as thou thy-self has trod. And in the might of pray'r and

A. ways as thou thy-self has trod. And in the might of pray'r and

T. ways as thou thy-self has trod. And in the might of pray'r and

B. ways as thou thy-self has trod. And in the might of pray'r and

Pno.



62 *mf* *poco rubato al fine*

S. praise, keep ev - er close to God.

A. praise, keep ev - er close to God.

T. praise, keep ev - er close to God.

B. praise, keep ev - er close to God.

Pno. *mf* *8va* *loco* *Red.*