

# STRING EXPLORER SERIES

## 'Twas the Night Before Christmas

*Arranged by Bob Phillips*

### INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score.....	1
Violin I.....	8
Violin II.....	8
Violin III (Viola  .....	3
Viola.....	5
Cello.....	5
String Bass.....	5
Percussion (Sleigh Bells/Triangle/Bass Drum/Suspended Cymbal, Snare Drum).....	3
Piano Accompaniment.....	1
Narrator.....	1

### 'T WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

This timeless arrangement features a narration of the familiar poem while the orchestra provides sound effects and performs traditional and pop holiday songs. Invite your superintendent or principal to read the cued narration part, and let the magic begin! Other administrators or staff members may be added on the simple percussion part. A great team-building and advocacy piece that is fun for students and parents alike!



### NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

A cued narration part is provided. Each entrance of the orchestra is preceded by the narrator's cue words.

The beginning of the verbal cue is printed in plain text followed by "... " to indicate further dialogue and ends with the final several words of the cue printed in bold. In each case, as soon as the narrator finishes, the music should begin. Each musical section should be a reaction to the spoken word in one way or another.

Your groups will enjoy coming up with their own ideas for staging, but here are some possibilities:

- Have the narrator wear a Santa hat and hold the narrator part inside a children's Christmas book.
- The narrator may sit in a chair or rocker and perform the piece while reading to a group of younger elementary students.
- If other administrators or members of the music staff perform the percussion parts, they might wear elves' hats.
- Have the students cut out red cardboard stockings they can hang from their stand in measure 14.
- Have the audience sing along with the orchestra on the last tune, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

Thanks go to Bob Culver and Sheldon Fisher for the concept of the story piece. My groups enjoyed this sort of tune for many years, and I hope you have the same experience!

*Bob Phillips*

# 'Twas the Night Before Christmas

CONDUCTOR SCORE

Duration - 7:00

"Jingle Bells"  
by John Pierpont

Arr. by Bob Phillips  
Poem by Clement Clarke Moore

Allegro (♩ = 120)

Violins I  
Violins II  
Viola (Vln. III)  
Cello  
String Bass

Piano Accompaniment

Percussion (Sleigh Bells/Triangle/Bass Drum/Suspended Cymbal, Snare Drum)

Narrator:  
"Twas the night...  
not even a mouse."

Vlns. I  
Vlns. II  
Vla. (Vln. III)  
Cello  
Str. Bass

Piano Accomp.

Perc.

12 Play behind the bridge on the A string. *f* "the stockings... with care," 14 Hang a paper stocking on your stand. "In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there."

Vlns. I *f* Play behind the bridge on the A string.

Vlns. II *f* Play behind the bridge on the A string.

Vla. (Vln. III) *f* Play behind the bridge on the A string.

Cello *f* Play behind the bridge on the A string.

Str. Bass *f* arco Play behind the bridge on the A string.

Piano Accomp. *f* 12 14 Hang a paper stocking on your stand.

Perc. Hang a paper stocking on your stand.

12 13 14 15

"Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town"  
Music by J. Fred Coots, Words by Haven Gillespie

16 Moderato (♩ = 110) "The children... sugar-plums danced in their heads."

Vlns. I *f* Lo 2 Hi 2 pizz.

Vlns. II *f* pizz.

Vla. (Vln. III) *f* pizz.

Cello *f* 2 pizz.

Str. Bass *f* 2 pizz.

Piano Accomp. *f* 16 Moderato (♩ = 110)

Perc. Sleigh Bells

16 17 18 19

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20 **Moderato** (♩ = 110)  
pizz.

Vlns. I *mp* Lo 1 1

Vlns. II *mp* pizz. Lo 2 2

Vla. (Vln. III) *mp* pizz. Lo 2 2

Cello *mp* pizz.

Str. Bass *mp* pizz.

Piano Accomp. *mp* **Moderato** (♩ = 110)

Perc. Triangle *mp*

20 21 22 23

"And mama... long winter's nap" 25 **Andante** (♩ = 90)  
"Lullaby" by J. Brahms

Vlns. I *mf* arco

Vlns. II *mf* arco

Vla. (Vln. III) *mf* arco

Cello *mf* arco

Str. Bass *mf* arco

Piano Accomp. *mf* **Andante** (♩ = 90)

Perc. Tri. *mf*

24 25 26 27 28 29

"When out...  
arose such a clatter."

31 **Moderato** (♩ = 90)

**Col Legno** (Tap your strings with the wood of your bow.)

"I sprang...  
I flew like a flash,"

Vlns.

II

Vla.  
(Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Piano  
Accomp.

Perc.

30

31

32

"Overture to William Tell"  
By G. Rossini

33 **Presto** (♩ = 140)

Vlns.

II

Vla.  
(Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Piano  
Accomp.

Perc.

Snare Drum

Bass Drum

33

34

35

36

37

"Tore open the shutter  
and threw up the sash."

39

Quickly slide up the string  
with 1st finger.

"The moon...  
and eight tiny reindeer,"

**Vlns.**  
I  
II

**Vla.  
(Vln. III)**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

**Piano  
Accomp.**

**Perc.**

38 39 40

"Up On the Housetop"  
Traditional  
**Allegro** (♩ = 120)

41

**Vlns.**  
I  
II

**Vla.  
(Vln. III)**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

**Piano  
Accomp.**

**Perc.**

41 42 43 44

"With a little...it must be St. Nick!" 46 "Jolly Old St. Nicholas" Traditional Allegro (♩ = 120)

**Vlns. I**  
**Vlns. II**  
**Vla. (Vln. III)**  
**Cello** arco  
**Str. Bass** arco  
**Piano Accomp.**  
**Perc.** Sleigh Bells

*mp*

45 *mp* 46 47 48 49

**Vlns. I**  
**Vlns. II**  
**Vla. (Vln. III)**  
**Cello**  
**Str. Bass**  
**Piano Accomp.**  
**Perc.**

50 51 52 53



*"More rapid...  
And he whistled"*

*"and shouted"*

57

55

**Vlns. I** Whistle loudly. Shout Yo! Rein - deer

**Vlns. II** Whistle loudly. Shout Yo! Rein - deer

**Vla. (Vln. III)** Whistle loudly. Shout Yo! Rein - deer

**Cello** Whistle loudly. Shout Yo! Rein - deer

**Str. Bass** Whistle loudly. Shout Yo! Rein - deer

**Piano Accomp.** Whistle loudly. Shout Yo! Rein - deer

**Perc.** Whistle loudly. Shout Yo! Rein - deer

54 55 56 57 Rein - deer

*"and called  
them by name."*

59

**Vlns. I** Spoken Now Das-her now Dan-<sup>3</sup>cer now Com-et on Cu-pid on

**Vlns. II** Spoken Now Das-her now Dan-<sup>3</sup>cer now Com-et on Cu-pid on

**Vla. (Vln. III)** Spoken Now Das-her now Dan-<sup>3</sup>cer now Spoken Don-der and Blit - zen

**Cello** Spoken Pran-<sup>3</sup>cer and Vix-en on Don-der and Blit - zen

**Str. Bass** Spoken Pran-<sup>3</sup>cer and Vix-en on Don-der and Blit - zen

**Piano Accomp.** Spoken Now Das-her now Dan-<sup>3</sup>cer now Com-et on Cu-pid on

**Perc.** Spoken Pran-<sup>3</sup>cer and Vix-en on Don-der and Blit - zen

58 59 60 Pran-<sup>3</sup>cer and Vix-en on 61 Don-der and Blit - zen

"Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer"  
By Randy Brooks

"To the top...  
dash away all!"

63 Allegro (♩ = 120)

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Piano Accomp.

Perc. Sleigh Bells

mf

62 mf 63 64

"As dry leaves...  
hurricane fly,"

66 Tremolo (Move your bow back  
and forth as fast as you can.)

"When they...the  
coursers they flew,"

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Piano Accomp.

Perc. Sus. Cym.

mp

f

65 mp 66 67

"Jingle Bells"  
by John Pierpont

68 Allegro (♩ = 120)

Vlns. I *mf*

Vlns. II *mf*

Vla. (Vln. III) *mf*

Cello *mf*

Str. Bass *mf*

Piano Accomp. *mf*

Perc. Sleigh Bells

*mf* 68 69 70 71

"Sleigh Ride"  
By Leroy Anderson

"With the sleigh...  
St. Nicholas, too." 73 Presto (♩ = 140)

Vlns. I *f*

Vlns. II *f*

Vla. (Vln. III) *f*

Cello *f*

Str. Bass *f*

Piano Accomp. *f*

Perc. Sleigh Bells

*f* 72 73 74 75 76

"And then.... pawing of each little hoof." 78

Tap on the top of your instrument with the fingertips of your left hand.

"As I drew...St. Nicholas came with a bound:" 80

**Vlns. I**  
**Vlns. II**  
**Vla. (Vln. III)**  
**Cello**  
**Str. Bass**  
**Piano Accomp.**  
**Perc.**

*mf* Tap on the top of your instrument with the fingertips of your left hand.  
*f* Stomp Foot.

77 78 79 80 *f*

Snare Drum

"He was... how they twinkled!" 82

"Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" Traditional Moderato (♩ = 110)

"his dimples, how merry!"

**Vlns. I**  
**Vlns. II**  
**Vla. (Vln. III)**  
**Cello**  
**Str. Bass**  
**Piano Accomp.**  
**Perc.**

*mf*  
*mf*  
*mf*  
*mf*  
*mf* 82 Moderato (♩ = 110)  
*mf*  
 S.D.  
 B.D. *mf*

81 82 83 84

"We Wish You a Merry Christmas"  
Traditional

85 Moderato (♩ = 110)

"His cheeks...his nose like a cherry;"

Vlns. I *mf*

Vlns. II *mf*

Vla. (Vln. III) *mf*

Cello *mf*

Str. Bass *mf*

Piano Accomp. *mf*

Perc. Sleigh Bells

85 86 87 88

"I Gave My Love a Cherry"  
Traditional

89 Andante (♩ = 70)

"His droll... up like a bow,"

93

Hold up your bow.

Vlns. I *mp*

Vlns. II *mp*

Vla. (Vln. III) *mp*

Cello *mp*

Str. Bass *mp*

Piano Accomp. *mp*

Perc.

89 90 91 92 93

"Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!"

Music by Julie Styne  
Words by Sammy Cahn

"And the beard...as white as the snow." [95]

**Allegro, Swing Eighths** (♩ = 120)

"The stump... bowl full of jelly."

I Vlns. II Vlns. Vla. (Vln. III) Cello Str. Bass

Piano Accomp.

Perc. **Sleigh Bells**

94 95 **f** 96 97 98

I Vlns. II Vlns. Vla. (Vln. III) Cello Str. Bass

Piano Accomp.

Perc.

99 **Presto** (♩ = 140) 101 **Mockingly** 103 **Whistle loudly.**

"He was chubby... in spite of myself;" "A wink of... gave a whistle,"

99 100 Ha Ha Ha 101 Mockingly 102 103 Whistle loudly.

"Sleigh Ride"  
By Leroy Anderson

"And away...  
down of a thistle." 105 Presto (♩ = 140)

I Vlns. II Vlns. Vla. (Vln. III) Cello Str. Bass Piano Accomp. Perc.

104 105 106 107

Sleigh Bells

"But I heard him exclaim,  
ere they drove out of sight," 110

I Vlns. II Vlns. Vla. (Vln. III) Cello Str. Bass Piano Accomp. Perc.

Spoken

Hap - py Spoken Chr-ist-mas to all and to all a good-night

Hap - py Spoken Chr-ist-mas to all and to all a good-night

Hap - py Spoken Chr-ist-mas to all and to all a good-night

Hap - py Spoken Chr-ist-mas to all and to all a good-night

Hap - py Spoken Chr-ist-mas to all and to all a good-night

Hap - py Spoken Chr-ist-mas to all and to all a good-night

Hap - py Spoken Chr-ist-mas to all and to all a good-night

Hap - py Spoken Chr-ist-mas to all and to all a good-night

Hap - py Spoken Chr-ist-mas to all and to all a good-night

110 Hap - py Spoken Chr-ist-mas to all and to all a good-night

Hap - py Spoken Chr-ist-mas to all and to all a good-night

26561 108 109 110 111

"We Wish You a Merry Christmas"  
Traditional

112 Allegro (♩ = 110)

Vlns. I  
Vlns. II  
Vla. (Vln. III)  
Cello  
Str. Bass

Piano Accomp.

Perc. Sleigh Bells

112 *f* 113 114 115 116

Vlns. I  
Vlns. II  
Vla. (Vln. III)  
Cello  
Str. Bass

Piano Accomp.

Perc.

Lo 2

1. 2.

117 118 119 120 121