

MASTERS IN THIS HALL

Traditional French
Arranged by Brendan McBrien

INSTRUMENTATION

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|-----------------|---|
| Conductor Score | 1 |
| Violin I | 8 |
| Violin II | 8 |
| Viola | 5 |
| Cello | 5 |
| String Bass | 5 |
| Bells or Piano | 1 |
| Chimes | 1 |

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Based on a French dance tune from the 17th century, this English carol contains a contagious theme set in a rhythmic, toe-tapping arrangement. A chime and orchestral bell part are featured and will add a wonderful color to this rousing, but sadly neglected Christmas gem. Two people could play the chime and orchestral bell parts on piano if the written instruments are not available.



PROGRAM NOTES

The Christmas carol "Masters in This Hall" uses a 17th century French dance tune set to words by the 19th century English artist, writer, and socialist William Morris. Written about 1860, the text tells the Christmas story from a poor man's point of view, which is clear from his use of rural dialect. In the text, a servant goes to his master's house (or hall) to tell him of Christ's birth, and how he had met shepherds traveling to Bethlehem. Joining them, he saw the Christ child in his mother's arms, and now the poor are raised up and the proud (the rich) are cast down. A Christmas carol seems a curious vehicle to deliver one's political views, but this period of the industrial revolution was a politically volatile time in England, and Morris was looking for every opportunity to make his point.

Verse 1

Masters in this Hall,
Hear ye news to-day
Brought from over sea,
And ever I you pray:

Chorus

Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!
Nowell, sing we clear!
Holpen are all folk on earth,
Born is God's son so dear:
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!
Nowell, sing we loud!
God to-day hath poor folk raised
And cast a-down the proud.

Masters in This Hall

3

CONDUCTOR SCORE

Duration - 2:20

Traditional French
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Allegro (♩ = 82)

Violins

Violins I and II staves. Violins II part begins with a *mf* dynamic. Viola part begins with a *mf* dynamic. Cello part includes a *div.* (divisi) marking. String Bass part begins with a *mf* dynamic.

Viola

Cello

String Bass

Bells or Piano

Chimes

Allegro (♩ = 82)

Violins I and II staves. Violins I part begins with a *mf* dynamic. Viola part begins with a *mf* dynamic. Cello part begins with a *mf* dynamic. String Bass part begins with a *mf* dynamic. Bells part begins with a *mf* dynamic. Chimes part begins with a *mf* dynamic.

Vlins.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Bells

Chimes

13

Vlns. I *mf*

Vlns. II *mp*

Vla. *mp* *non div.* *div.*

Cello *mp*

Str. Bass *mp*

Bells

Chimes

10 11 12 13 14

Vlns. I

Vlns. II 4

Vla. *sim.*

Cello

Str. Bass

Bells

Chimes

15 16 17 18 19

21

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Bells

Chimes

20 21 22 23 24

mp

mp

mp

div.

29

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Bells

Chimes

25 26 27 28 29 30

f

f

f

pizz.

mp

pizz.

mp

f

arco

f

f

f

Score for measures 31-35. Instruments: Vlns. I, Vlns. II, Vla., Cello, Str. Bass, Bells, Chimes.

Measure 31: Vlns. I and II play a melodic line. Vla. has a 4-measure rest. Cello and Str. Bass play a bass line. Bells and Chimes play a rhythmic pattern.

Measure 32: Vlns. I and II continue the melodic line. Vla. has a 4-measure rest. Cello and Str. Bass play a bass line. Bells and Chimes play a rhythmic pattern.

Measure 33: Vlns. I and II continue the melodic line. Vla. has a 4-measure rest. Cello and Str. Bass play a bass line. Bells and Chimes play a rhythmic pattern.

Measure 34: Vlns. I and II continue the melodic line. Vla. has a 4-measure rest. Cello and Str. Bass play a bass line. Bells and Chimes play a rhythmic pattern.

Measure 35: Vlns. I and II continue the melodic line. Vla. has a 4-measure rest. Cello and Str. Bass play a bass line. Bells and Chimes play a rhythmic pattern.

Score for measures 36-40. Instruments: Vlns. I, Vlns. II, Vla., Cello, Str. Bass, Bells, Chimes.

Measure 36: Vlns. I and II play a melodic line. Vla. has a 4-measure rest. Cello and Str. Bass play a bass line. Bells and Chimes play a rhythmic pattern.

Measure 37: Vlns. I and II play a melodic line. Vla. has a 4-measure rest. Cello and Str. Bass play a bass line. Bells and Chimes play a rhythmic pattern.

Measure 38: Vlns. I and II play a melodic line. Vla. has a 4-measure rest. Cello and Str. Bass play a bass line. Bells and Chimes play a rhythmic pattern.

Measure 39: Vlns. I and II play a melodic line. Vla. has a 4-measure rest. Cello and Str. Bass play a bass line. Bells and Chimes play a rhythmic pattern.

Measure 40: Vlns. I and II play a melodic line. Vla. has a 4-measure rest. Cello and Str. Bass play a bass line. Bells and Chimes play a rhythmic pattern.

44

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Bells

Chimes

41 42 43 44 45

div.

48

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Bells

Chimes

46 47 48 49 50

mp

mp

mf

mf

div.

mp

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Bells

Chimes

51 52 53 54 55

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Bells

Chimes

56 57 58 59 60

6.

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
| | |
| | |

76

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Bells

Chimes

71 72 73 74 75 **f** 76

div.
arco
f
arco
f

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Bells

Chimes

77 78 79 80 81

86

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Bells

Chimes

82 83 84 85 86

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Bells

Chimes

87 88 89 90 91 92 93

ff *div.* *pizz.* *ff* *ff* *ff*

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