

MASTERS IN THIS HALL

Traditional French
Arranged by Brendan McBrien

INSTRUMENTATION

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

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Allegro (♩ = 82)

Violins

Violins I and II staves. Violin II has a *mf* dynamic marking.

Viola

Viola staff with a *mf* dynamic marking.

Cello

Cello staff with a *mf* dynamic marking and a *div.* (divisi) marking.

String Bass

String Bass staff with a *mf* dynamic marking.

Bells or Piano

Bells or Piano staff with a *mf* dynamic marking.

Chimes

Chimes staff.

Vlins.

Violins I and II staves. Violin I has a *mf* dynamic marking.

Vla.

Viola staff.

Cello

Cello staff.

Str. Bass

String Bass staff.

Bells

Bells staff.

Chimes

Chimes staff. Measure numbers 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 are indicated below the staff. A *mf* dynamic marking is present at the end of measure 8.

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

Vlns. I *mp*
 Vlns. II *mp*
 Vla. 4 *mp*
 Cello *pizz.*
 Str. Bass *mp pizz.*
 Bells *mp*
 Chimes

31 32 33 34 35

Vlns. I *mf*
 Vlns. II *mf*
 Vla. *arco*
 Cello *mf arco*
 Str. Bass *mf*
 Bells *mf*
 Chimes

36 37 38 39 40

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

Score for measures 51-55. Instruments: Vlns. I, Vlns. II, Vla., Cello, Str. Bass, Bells, Chimes.

Measures 51-55 show a melodic line in the strings and woodwinds, with a strong crescendo leading to a fortissimo (*f*) dynamic at the end of measure 55. The Bells and Chimes provide a rhythmic accompaniment.

51 52 53 54 55

Score for measures 56-60. Instruments: Vlns. I, Vlns. II, Vla., Cello, Str. Bass, Bells, Chimes.

Measures 56-60 show a continuation of the melodic line, with a dynamic shift to mezzo-piano (*mp*) in measure 58. The Bells and Chimes continue their accompaniment.

56 57 58 59 60

64

76

4

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Bells

Chimes

71 72 73 74 75 *f* 76

f *arco* *div.*

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Bells

Chimes

77 78 79 80 81

86

Vlns.

II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Bells

Chimes

82

83

84

85

86

86

Vlns.

II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Bells

Chimes

87

88

89

90

91

92

93

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