

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

(FOR NARRATION AND BAND)

Setting by James Swearingen

Poetry by Clement Clarke Moore

Instrumentation

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 - Conductor's Full Score | 2 - Baritone T.C. |
| 8 - Flute | 4 - Tuba |
| 2 - Oboe | 1 - Timpani |
| 2 - Bassoon | 2 - Mallet Percussion |
| 5 - B $\flat$ Clarinet 1 | Bells |
| 5 - B $\flat$ Clarinet 2 | Chimes |
| 2 - B $\flat$ Bass Clarinet | Xylophone |
| 4 - E $\flat$ Alto Saxophone | 2 - Percussion 1 |
| 2 - B $\flat$ Tenor Saxophone | Snare Drum |
| 2 - E $\flat$ Baritone Saxophone | Bass Drum |
| 4 - B $\flat$ Trumpet 1 | Slide Whistle |
| 4 - B $\flat$ Trumpet 2 | 2 - Percussion 2 |
| 4 - F Horn | Sleigh Bells |
| 4 - Trombone | Suspended Cymbal |
| 2 - Baritone/
Euphonium | Temple Blocks |
| | Whip |
| | Triangle |
| | 5 - Narrator |

FJH is now using a high-speed sorting system for parts.
As a result, all single page parts are collated before multiple page parts.



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The Composer

James Swearingen is one of the most performed composers of band music in the world. A recipient of numerous ASCAP awards, his trend-setting compositions and arrangements have a style and energy that are truly exceptional. Equally recognized for his contributions to education, he currently serves as Department Chair of Music Education at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. Mr. Swearingen frequently appears as a guest conductor, adjudicator, and clinician throughout the United States, as well as Japan, Australia, Europe, Canada, and the Republic of China.

About the Music

Audiences, both young and old alike, will delight in this special musical presentation of Clement Clarke Moore's Christmas poem *The Night Before Christmas*. It is now a tradition in many American homes to read the poem, written in 1822, every Christmas Eve.

Narrated by one to five people, this work presents the perfect opportunity to feature students, faculty, support staff, or school administrators. Dress for narrators may include choir robes along with black folders or simply appropriate outfits complimented with Santa hats. Between readings, the ensemble performs seasonal favorites and provides the audience with a few humorous suggestions:

- *opt. pause 1 — With right index finger up to lips, signal the band to make the sound "shh."*
- *opt. pause 2 — Percussion should provide the sound of clatter (metal trash can lids, cans tied on a string, etc.).*
- *opt. pause 3 — Slide whistle is followed by a timpani hit (high note pedaled down to low note).*

Above all else, have fun and may you enjoy this Christmas season!

JAMES SWARINGEN

The Night Before Christmas

by Clement Clarke Moore

(Music)

Ding Dong! Merrily on High — Part I

(Narrator 1)

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.

[opt. pause for the sound "shh"]

The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that Saint Nicholas soon would be there.
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads.
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled down for a long winter's nap.

(Music)

Ding Dong! Merrily on High — Part II

(Narrator 2)

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,

[opt. pause for sound of clatter]

I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be Saint Nick.

(Music)

Jingle Bells

(Narrator 3)

More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name!
"Now Dasher, now Dancer, now Prancer and Vixen!
On Comet, on Cupid, on Donner and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall!
Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!"
As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky.
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of toys, and Saint Nicholas too.

(Music)

Up on the Housetop

(Narrator 4)

And then in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney Saint Nicholas came with a bound.

[opt. pause for slide whistle followed by timpani hit]

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.
His eyes — how they twinkled, his dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow.
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath.
He had a broad face and a little round belly,
That shook when he laughed, like a bowlful of jelly.
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself.

(Music)

Jolly Old Saint Nicholas

(Narrator 5)

A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk.
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, 'ere he drove out of sight,

(All Narrators)

"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night!"

(Music)

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

(For Narration and Band)

Poetry by CLEMENT CLARKE MOORE

Ding Dong! Merrily On High

[illegible]

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*"The stockings...
...a long winter's nap."*

[illegible]

14 Slow and legato (♩ = 80)

Flute *mp*

Oboe *mp*

Bsn. *mp*

1 *mp*

Cls. *mp*

2 *mp*

B. Cl. *mp*

A. Sax. *mp*

T. Sax. *mp*

B. Sax. *mp*

14 Slow and legato (♩ = 80)

1

Tpts. *mp*

2

Hn. *mp*

Tbn. *mp*

Bar./
Euph. *mp*

Tuba *mp*

Timp.

Bells – top notes
Chimes – bottom notes

Mlt. Perc. *mp*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

2nd Narrator: "When out on the
lawn there arose such a clatter;"

"I sprang...
...it must be Saint Nick."

(Percussion cue)

Flute

Oboe

Bsn.

1

Cls.

2

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

1

Tpts.

2

Hn.

Tbn.

Bar./
Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Large Sus. Cym. w/ yarn mallets

19 *pp* *mp* 21 22

sounds of clatter

sounds of clatter

sounds of clatter

sounds of clatter

[illegible]

23 Light and lively (♩ = 160)

[illegible]

33

Flute

Oboe

Bsn.

1

Cls.

2

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

1

Tpts.

2

Hn.

Tbn.

Bar./
Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

35 36 37 38 39 40

mf

mf

mf

mf

3rd Narrator: "More rapid than eagles...
...and Saint Nicholas too."

Flute

Oboe

Bsn.

1

Clas.

2

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

1

Tpts.

2

Hn.

Tbn.

Bar./
Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Whip Crack!

mf

41 42 43 44 45

Up on the Housetop

Flute

Oboe

Bsn.

1

2

Cls.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

46 **Allegro** (♩ = 132)
Up on the Housetop

1

2

Tpts.

Hn.

Tbn.

Bar./Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Xylophone w/ plastic mallets

46 47 48 49 50 51

54

Flute *mf*

Oboe *mf*

Bsn.

1 *mf*

2 *mf*

B. Cl.

A. Sax. *mf*

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

1 *mf*

2 *mf*

Hn. *mf*

Tbn.

Bar./Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. Perc. *mf*

Perc. 1 *mf*

Perc. 2

52 *mf* 53 54 55 56 57

Flute

Oboe

Bsn.

1

Cls.

2

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

1

Tpts.

2

Hn.

Tbn.

Bar./
Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

58

59

60

61

62

Solo

mf

Triangle solo w/ small beater

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66

72

Flute

Oboe

Bsn.

1

Cls.

2

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

1

Tpts.

2

Hn.

Tbn.

Bar./Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

74 75 76 77 78 79

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

B1315

molto rit.

Flute

Oboe

Bsn.

1

Cls.

2

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

molto rit.

1

Tpts.

2

Hn.

Tbn.

Bar./
Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

85 86 87 88 89 90 91

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