

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

(FOR NARRATION, STRING ORCHESTRA AND PERCUSSION)

Setting by James Swearingen

Poetry by Clement Clarke Moore

Instrumentation

1 - Conductor's Full Score

8 - Violin 1

8 - Violin 2

5 - Violin 3 (Viola T.C.)

5 - Viola

5 - Violoncello

5 - Double Bass

1 - Piano

2 - Mallet Percussion

Bells

Chimes

Xylophone

2 - Percussion

Sleigh Bells

Temple Block

Whip Crack!

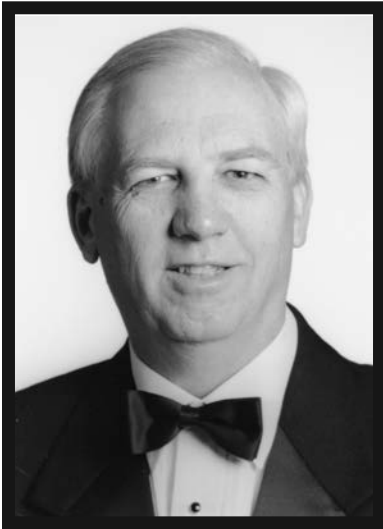
Triangle

Slide Whistle

5 - Narrator

T H E
F · J · H
M U S I C
C O M P A N Y
I N C.

Frank J. Hackinson



The Arranger

James Swearingen is one of the most performed composers of educational 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 orchestra 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 4* — Slide whistle is followed by a pizz. gliss. in the cello and bass. Accent the note and slide the first finger up ending on the D.

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

JAMES SWEARINGEN

String Editing: Soon Hee Newbold

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 Cello and D.B. Pizz.]

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, String Orchestra and Percussion)

Poetry by Clement Clarke Moore

"Ding Dong! Merrily On High"

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ST6166

*1st Narrator: "Twas the
night before Christmas,
when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring,
not even a mouse."*

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

14 Slow and Smooth (♩ = 80)

Sheet music for measures 13 through 21, featuring various instruments and a narrator's text.

Measures 13-16:

- Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vel., D.B., Piano, Mlt. Perc., Perc.:** All instruments play a sustained note (C4) with a "Shh" marking.
- Measure 14:** The tempo/mood changes to "Slow and Smooth (♩ = 80)". The instruments play a melodic line starting on G4, marked *mp*.
- Measure 15:** The melodic line continues, marked *mp*.
- Measure 16:** The melodic line continues, marked *mp*.

Measures 17-21:

- Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vel., D.B., Piano, Mlt. Perc., Perc.:** All instruments play a sustained note (C4) with a "Shh" marking.
- Measure 17:** The melodic line continues, marked *mp*.
- Measure 18:** The melodic line continues, marked *mp*.
- Measure 19:** The melodic line continues, marked *mp*.
- Measure 20:** The melodic line continues, marked *mp*.
- Measure 21:** The melodic line continues, marked *mp*.

Measures 22-25:

- Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vel., D.B., Piano, Mlt. Perc., Perc.:** All instruments play a sustained note (C4) with a "Shh" marking.
- Measure 22:** The melodic line continues, marked *mp*.
- Measure 23:** The melodic line continues, marked *mp*.
- Measure 24:** The melodic line continues, marked *mp*.
- Measure 25:** The melodic line continues, marked *mp*.

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

"Jingle Bells"

This musical score is for the song "The Rose Tree" and includes parts for the following instruments:

- Vln. 1 (Violin 1)
- Vln. 2 (Violin 2)
- Vln. 3 (Violin 3 / Viola T.C.)
- Vla. (Viola)
- Vcl. (Violoncello)
- D.B. (Double Bass)
- Piano
- Mlt. Perc. (Multiple Percussion)
- Perc. (Percussion)

The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It spans measures 28 to 33. A large red watermark "Preview Legal Use Required" is overlaid diagonally across the page. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like *mf* (mezzo-forte).

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vln. 3
 (Vla. T.C.)
 Vla.
 Vcl.
 D.B.
 Piano
 Mlt. Perc.
 Perc.

34 35 36 37 38 39

mf *mf*

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vln. 3
 (Vla. T.C.)
 Vla.
 Vcl.
 D.B.
 Piano
 Mlt. Perc.
 Perc.

40 41 42 43 44 45

Whip Crack!

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

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

Score for measures 46-51. Instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., Piano, Mlt. Perc., Perc.

Measures 46-51 show the beginning of the "Up on the Housetop" section. The tempo is Allegro (♩ = 132). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The dynamics are marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). The Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), and Vla. parts enter with a melodic line. The Vcl. and D.B. parts provide a harmonic foundation. The Piano part features a rhythmic accompaniment. The Mlt. Perc. and Perc. parts provide a rhythmic accompaniment.

Measures 46, 47, 49, 50, 51 are indicated at the bottom of the score.

Score for measures 54-57. Instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., Piano, Mlt. Perc., Perc.

Measures 54-57 continue the "Up on the Housetop" section. The tempo is Allegro (♩ = 132). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The dynamics are marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). The Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), and Vla. parts continue their melodic lines. The Vcl. and D.B. parts provide a harmonic foundation. The Piano part features a rhythmic accompaniment. The Mlt. Perc. and Perc. parts provide a rhythmic accompaniment.

Measures 54, 55, 56, 57 are indicated at the bottom of the score.

4th Narrator: "And then
in a twinkling...
...Saint Nicholas came
with a bound.

*"He was dressed
all in fur...
...in spite of myself."*

64 With Energy! (♩ = 108)
"Jolly Old Saint Nicholas"

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Score for measures 69-75. Instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., Piano, Mlt. Perc., Perc.

Measure 69: Vln. 1 (mf play), Vln. 2 (mf), Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., Piano, Mlt. Perc., Perc.

Measure 70: Vln. 1 (mf play), Vln. 2 (mf), Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., Piano, Mlt. Perc., Perc.

Measure 71: Vln. 1 (mf play), Vln. 2 (mf), Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., Piano, Mlt. Perc., Perc.

Measure 72: Vln. 1 (mf play), Vln. 2 (mf), Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., Piano, Mlt. Perc., Perc.

Measure 73: Vln. 1 (mf play), Vln. 2 (mf), Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., Piano, Mlt. Perc., Perc.

Measure 74: Vln. 1 (mf play), Vln. 2 (mf), Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., Piano, Mlt. Perc., Perc.

Measure 75: Vln. 1 (mf play), Vln. 2 (mf), Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., Piano, Mlt. Perc., Perc.

Score for measures 76-81. Instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., Piano, Mlt. Perc., Perc.

Measure 76: Vln. 1 (mf play), Vln. 2 (Vln. 3/Vla. mf), Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., Piano, Mlt. Perc., Perc.

Measure 77: Vln. 1 (mf play), Vln. 2 (Vln. 3/Vla. mf), Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., Piano, Mlt. Perc., Perc.

Measure 78: Vln. 1 (mf play), Vln. 2 (Vln. 3/Vla. mf), Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., Piano, Mlt. Perc., Perc.

Measure 79: Vln. 1 (mf play), Vln. 2 (Vln. 3/Vla. mf), Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., Piano, Mlt. Perc., Perc.

Measure 80: Vln. 1 (mf play), Vln. 2 (Vln. 3/Vla. mf), Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., Piano, Mlt. Perc., Perc.

Measure 81: Vln. 1 (mf play), Vln. 2 (Vln. 3/Vla. mf), Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., Piano, Mlt. Perc., Perc.

5th Narrator: "A wink of his eye...
...ere he drove out of sight,"

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

84 Majestic (♩ = 108)

"We Wish You a Merry Christmas"

Score for measures 82-86. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., Piano, Mlt. Perc., and Perc. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is Majestic (♩ = 108). The score features dynamic markings *mf* and *f*, and articulation marks *V* (accents). Measure numbers 82, 83, 85, and 86 are indicated at the bottom of the staves.

Score for measures 87-91. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., Piano, Mlt. Perc., and Perc. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is *molto rit.* (marked above measure 89). The score features articulation marks *V* (accents) and *L1*, *L2* (legato markings). Measure numbers 87, 88, 89, 90, and 91 are indicated at the bottom of the staves.