

Catalog # 20291-M

3 octaves handbells (G4-C7)  
SA(B) Choral with Piano Accompaniment

AGEHR Level II

# The Night Before Christmas

(A Visit from St. Nicholas)



Setting by  
Derek K. Hakes

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***From the Top Music***

Albuquerque, NM  
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for the 2009-2010 Cambiata Choir at Creekside Middle School; Mr. Rodney Whiteman, director

# The Night Before Christmas

(A Visit from St. Nicholas)

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AGEHR Level II

SA(B), piano, handbells

Words by Clement Clarke Moore (1779-1863)

Derek K. Hakes  
ASCAP

**Flowing** (♩ = ca. 88)

2 3 4

*mp*

Soprano/Alto

Baritone

Piano

Handbells

5

6 7 8

S/A

B

Pno.

Red.

*mp*

'Twas the

'Twas the

night be - fore Christ - mas, when all through the house not a

night be - fore Christ - mas, when all through the house not a

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9 10 11 12

S/A  
crea - ture was stir - ring, not e - ven a mouse; the

B  
crea - ture was stir - ring, not e - ven a mouse; the

Pno.  
Led. Led. Led. Led.

13 14 15 16

S/A  
stock - ings were hung by the chim - ney with care, in

B  
stock - ings were hung by the chim - ney with care, in

Pno.  
Led. Led. Led. Led.

17 18 19 20

S/A  
hopes that St. Ni - cho - las soon would be there.

B  
hopes that St. Ni - cho - las soon would be there.

Pno.  
Led. Led. Led. \*

21 22 23 24 SA: *mf*

S/A The chil - dren were

Pno. *poco cresc.* *mf*

21 22 23 24 HB *mp* *mf*

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25 26 27 28 S/A

nes - tled all snug in their beds, while vi - sions of

Pno.

25 26 27 28 HB

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29 30 31 32 S/A

su - gar - plums danced in their heads; and Ma in her

Pno.

29 30 31 32 HB

33 34 35 36

S/A 'ker - chief, and I in my cap, had just set - tled

Pno.

33 34 35 36

HB

37 38 rit. 39 40 SA: *f*

S/A down for a long win - ter's nap; when

B

Pno.

37 38 rit. 39 40

HB

A bit faster; menacingly (♩ = ca. 92)

41 42

S/A out on the lawn there a-rose such a clat-ter,

B

Pno. *f* (jauntily)

41 42

HB

43 44 SA: *mf*

S/A A -

B sprang from my bed to see what was the mat-ter.

Pno.

43 44

HB

Quicker (♩ = ca. 68)

45

S/A way to the win - dow I flew like a flash, ——— tore

B I flew like a flash, ——— tore

Pno. *mf*

45 *mf*

46

47

S/A o - pen the shut - ter, and threw up the sash. *rit.* SA: *mp* The

B o - pen the shut - ter, and threw up the sash.

Pno. *rit.*

47 *rit.*

48

49

HB

47

48

49 *rit.*

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## Waltz-like (♩ = ca. 134)

50

S/A

moon, on the breast of the new fal - len snow, gave the

Pno.

*p* (delicately)

\*

54

S/A

lus - ter of mid - day to ob - jects be - low,

Pno.

*rit.*

*rit.*

*Leg.*

58

S/A

when, what to my won - 'dring

B

when, what to my won - 'dring

Pno.

*mp rit.*

*mf*

*mf*

*Leg.*

*Leg.*

*Leg.*

60

Slower (♩ = ca. 62)



61 62 63

S/A

eyes should ap - pear, but a mi - nia - ture sleigh and eight ti - ny rein - deer,

B

eyes should ap - pear, but a mi - nia - ture sleigh and eight ti - ny rein - deer,

Pno.

ped.

Tempo I (♩ = ca. 88)

64 65 66 67

S/A

*mp*

with a lit - tle old dri - ver, so live - ly and

Pno.

*mp*

ped.

HB

*mp*

68 69 70 71

S/A quick, I knew in a mo - ment it must be St.

Pno.

68 69 70 71

HB

72 73 74 *mf*

S/A Nick. More

B *mf* More

Pno.

72 73 74

HB

**Quicker** (♩ = ca. 68)

75 76 77 78

S/A ra - pid than ea - gles, his cour - sers they came, and he whist - led and shou - ted and called them by name:

B ra - pid than ea - gles, his cour - sers they came, and he whist - led and shou - ted and called them by name:

Pno. *mf*

**Suddenly faster** (♩ = ca. 120) **Prestissimo!** (♩ = ca. 90)

79 Bass solos ~ \* 80 *f* #1 81 #2 #3 82 #4:

B "Now Da - sher! now, Dan - cer! now, Pran - cer and Vken! On

Pno. *mp*

83 #5: #6: 84 #1 - #3: #4 - #6: 85 #6: 86 #7: All B:

B Co - met! on, Cu - pid! on, Don - ner and Blit - zen! To the top of the porch, to the top of the wall, now,

Pno.

\* *Sprechstimme*: half s spoken ( quasi speaking with vocal inflections); see also measures 148-149  
These may be spoken by S or A voices if Bass voices are not available.

## Suspenseful (♩ = ca. 58)

87 88 89 90 *p* *poco a poco cresc.*

S/A As dry leaves that be - fore the wild

B dash a - way! dash a - way! dash a - way all!" As dry leaves that be - fore the wild

Pno. *ff* *p* *poco a poco cresc.*

91 92 93 *mf*

S/A hur - ri - cane fly, when they meet with an ob - sta - cle, mount to the sky, so

B hur - ri - cane fly, when they meet with an ob - sta - cle, mount to the sky, so

Pno.

94 *poco cresc.* 95 96 *f*

S/A up to the house - top the cour - sers they flew, with the sleigh full of toys, and St.

B up to the house - top the cour - sers they flew, with the sleigh full of toys, and St.

Pno. *mf* *poco cresc.* *f*

97 98 (♩ = ca. 110) 99 100 101

S/A Ni - cho - las too.

B Ni - cho - las too.

Pno. *mp*

102 **Dancing** (♩ = ca. 64) 103 SA solo #1: *mf* 104 105 #2

S/A And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof the

Pno. *mf*

106 107 #3 108 109 \*

S/A pranc-ing and paw-ing of each lit - tle hoof. As I drew in my head, and was tur-ning a-round,

Pno.

110 All SA: 111 112 (*portamento style*) 113

S/A down the chim-ney St. Ni - cho - las came \_\_\_\_\_ with a bound.

Pno.

1 2 1 2 3 4 5

\* The Baroque turn in measure 109 is optional; it is merely provided as a text painting tool

Slower; legato and with wonder (♩ = ca. 82)

114

S/A

115

*mp*

116

117

He was dressed all in fur from his

B

*mp*

He was dressed all in fur from his

Pno.

*mp*

Leg.

Leg.

Leg.

HB

114

115

116

117

*mp*

118

S/A

119

120

121

head to his foot, and his clothes were all tar - nished with

B

head to his foot, and his clothes were all tar - nished with

Pno.

Leg.

Leg.

Leg.

Leg.

HB

118

119

120

121

122 123 124 125

S/A ash - es and soot; a bun - dle of toys he had

B ash - es and soot, a bun - dle of toys he had

Pno. Led. Led. Led. Led. Led.

HB

126 127 128 129

S/A flung on his back, and he looked like a ped - dler just

B flung on his back, and he looked like a ped - dler just

Pno. Led. Led. Led. Led. Led.

HB

130 131 132 *mf*

S/A  
op - 'ning his pack. *accel.* A only: His

B  
op - 'ning his pack.

Pno.  
*accel.*

HB  
130 131 132

**A bit faster; sparkling (♩ = ca. 60)**

133 S only: 134 SA: 135

S/A  
eyes, how they twin - kled his dim - ples, how mer - ry! his cheeks were like ro - ses, his

Pno.  
*mf*

136 137 138

S/A  
nose like a cher - ry. His droll lit - tle mouth was drawn up like a bow, and the

Pno.



139 140 141

S/A  
beard on his chin was as white as the snow. Solo #1  
*mp*

B  
The

Pno.

4 3 2 1 3 5 4 3 1 3 1 2 3 1 2 3 1

*leg.* *leg.* *leg.* \*

142 143 144 145

S/A  
He

B  
#2  
stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, and the smoke it en - cir - cled his head like a wreath. He

Pno.  
*mp*

146 147 148 149

S/A  
had a broad face and a lit - tle round bel - ly that shook when he laughed (Ho! Ho! Ho!) like a

B  
had a broad face and a lit - tle round bel - ly that shook when he laughed (Ho! Ho! Ho!) like a

Pno.

150 151 152 153

S/A bowl-ful of jel - ly. He was chub - by and plump, a right

B bowl-ful of jel - ly. He was chub - by and plump, a right

Pno.

*mp*

(Roll if necessary)

154 155 156

S/A jol - ly old elf, and I laughed when I saw him, in spite of my - self. A

B jol - ly old elf, and I laughed when I saw him, in spite of my - self.

Pno.

157 158 159 160

S/A wink of his eye and a twist of his head He

B soon gave me to know I had no-thing to dread. He

Pno.

*mp*

161 *poco a poco cresc.* 162 163

S/A spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, and filled all the stock - ings; then

B spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, and filled all the stock - ings, then

Pno. *mp poco a poco cresc.*

164 *f* 165 166 *mp*

S/A turned with a jerk, and lay - ing his fin - ger a - side of his nose, and

B turned with a jerk, and lay - ing his fin - ger a - side of his nose, and

Pno. *f*

Slower; broad (♩ = ca. 82)

167 168 169 170 171

S/A gi-ving a nod, up the chim-ney he rose. *rit.* He sprang to his sleigh, to his

B gi-ving a nod, up the chim-ney he rose. He sprang to his sleigh, to his

Pno. *mp* *rit.* *f* (+HB)

HB 167 168 169 170 171

172 173 174 175

S/A team gave a whis - tle, and a - way they all flew like the

B team gave a whis - tle, and a - way they all flew like the

Pno. *ped.* *ped.* *ped.* *ped.*

HB 172 173 174 175

**More broadly** (♩ = ca. 76)

176 177 178 179 *mf* *poco cresc.*

S/A down of a thi - ste. *rit.* But I heard him ex -

B But I heard him ex -

Pno. *rit. mp* *mf poco cresc.*

176 177 178 179 *mf* *poco cresc.*

HB

180 181 182 *f* 183

S/A claim, 'ere he drove out of sight, "Hap - py Christ - mas to

B claim, 'ere he drove out of sight, "Hap - py Christ - mas to

Pno. *f*

180 181 182 183 *f*

HB

184 185 186 187

S/A all, and to all a good

B all, and to all a good

Pno. *rit.*

HB *rit.*

188 189 190 191 192

S/A *a tempo* night!"

B *a tempo* night!"

Pno. *a tempo* *rit.* *mp* *pp*

HB *a tempo* *rit.* *mp*