



'Twas the  
Night Before  
Christmas  
Steve Danyew  
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*'Twas the Night Before Christmas*

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# 'Twas the Night Before Christmas (2023)

*based on the poem by Clement C. Moore*

Duration: 6.5 minutes

## Instrumentation

Piccolo

Flute 1, 2

Oboe 1, 2

Clarinet in Bb 1, 2, 3

Bass Clarinet in Bb

Bassoon 1, 2

Alto Saxophone in Eb 1, 2

Tenor Saxophone in Bb

Baritone Saxophone in Eb

Horn in F 1, 2

Trumpet in Bb 1, 2

Trombone 1, 2

Euphonium

Tuba

Double bass

Percussion 1: Vibraphone, Sleigh Bells, Cowbell

Percussion 2: Glockenspiel, Sleigh Bells, Bass Drum, Triangle

Percussion 3: Tambourine, High and Low Temple Blocks, Suspended Cymbal, Wind Chimes, Triangle

Percussion 4: Drum Set

SATB Choir

## Program Note

*'Twas the Night Before Christmas* was commissioned in 2023 by Fond du Lac High School (WI) in Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of their holiday prism concert, "Night of Silence." As I was thinking about possible themes and texts for the commission, I thought of the classic Clement C. Moore poem that we know as *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* (his title for the poem was actually *A Visit from St. Nicholas*).

Once I settled on this text and began spending more time with it, I began to feel like the poem had two parts. First, there is the quiet and dreamy opening that depicts a peaceful Christmas eve, with everyone tucked into bed, drifting off to sleep. Then, once the narrator peers out the window and sees St. Nicholas on the lawn, it feels to me like the poem enters a new section. So, I tried to write music to accompany these two sections that would help bring out the character of each. The music for the beginning section is gentle and lilting, like a lullaby. For the second section, when we encounter St. Nicholas and his reindeer, I wanted to create music that captures the magic, mystery, and playfulness of Santa Claus.

*Commissioned by Fond du Lac High School in Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Night of Silence*

*Thank you to the Fond du Lac High School Music Directors for their support and leadership of this project.*

*Chris Barnes, band director*

*Austin Bolden, orchestra director*

*Jake Opperman, band director*

*Cory Schneider, choir director*

*Allison Zeitler, choir director*

*Made possible through the Night of Silence commissioning fund.*

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# 'Twas the Night Before Christmas

Based on the poem by Clement C. Moore

Steve Danyew

Gently & Peacefully ♩ = 108-116

rit. -----

This musical score is for a transposed version of the song 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. It is written for a large ensemble, including woodwinds, brass, percussion, and strings. The score is in 3/4 time and features a tempo of 108-116 beats per minute. The key signature has three flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor). The score is divided into two systems. The first system includes parts for Piccolo, Flute 1+2, Oboe 1+2, Bassoon 1+2, Clarinet in Bb 1, Clarinet in Bb 2+3, Bass Clarinet, Alto Sax 1+2, Tenor Sax, Baritone Sax, Trumpet in Bb 1+2, Horn in F 1+2, Trombone 1+2, Euphonium, Tuba, Double Bass, Percussion 1, Percussion 2, Percussion 3, and Drum Set. The second system includes parts for Soprano Alto and Tenor Bass. The score includes various performance instructions such as 'mf legato', 'pizz.', 'mp', 'mf', 'rit.', and 'solo'. A large watermark 'Not for Perusal Score Only Performance' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

'Twas the Night Before Christmas

Picc.

Fl. 1+2 *tutti mp*

Ob. 1+2

Bsn. 1+2 *p*

B♭ Cl. 1 *tutti p*

B♭ Cl. 2+3 *a2 p*

B. Cl. *p*

A. Sx. 1+2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1+2

Hn. 1+2

Tbn. 1+2

Euph.

Tuba

D. B.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

D. S.

S  
A *SA unison mp*  
'Twas the night be - fore \_\_\_ Christ - mas when all through the \_\_\_ house not a crea - ture was \_\_\_ stir - ring not e - - ven a \_\_\_

T  
B

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'Twas the Night Before Christmas

*poco rit.*

**18** *a tempo*

*rit.* -----

Picc. *mf* solo

Fl. 1+2 *mf*

Ob. 1+2

Bsn. 1+2

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2+3

B. Cl.

A. Sx. 1+2 *mp*

T. Sx. *mp*

B. Sx. *mp*

B♭ Tpt. 1+2

Hn. 1+2

Tbn. 1+2

Euph.

Tuba

D.B. *mf*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

D. S.

*poco rit.*

**18** *a tempo*

*rit.* -----

S  
A  
T  
B

mouse; The stock - ings were hung by the chim - ney with \_\_\_ care, in hopes that Saint Nich - o - las \_\_\_ soon would be \_\_\_

27 *a tempo*

*poco rit.*

*a tempo*

Picc.

Fl. 1+2 *tutti mp*

Ob. 1+2

Bsn. 1+2 *mp*

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2+3 *a2 mp*

B. Cl.

A. Sx. 1+2

T. Sx.

B. Sx. *mp*

B♭ Tpt. 1+2

Hn. 1+2

Tbn. 1+2

Euph.

Tuba

D.B. *mp*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 *Glockenspiel mp*

Perc. 3

D. S.

S  
A *p* *poco rit.* *a tempo* *unis. p*  
there; Oo

T  
B *TB unison mp*  
The child - ren were nest - led all snug in their beds, while vi - sions of su - gar - plums





'Twas the Night Before Christmas

*poco rit.* ----- 44 ♩ = 120 *Faster, with growing excitement*

41 *poco rit.* ----- 44 ♩ = 120 *Faster, with growing excitement*

Picc. *mf* 7

Fl. 1+2 *mp* *tutti* *mf* *mf* 7

Ob. 1+2 *mp* *tutti* *mf* *mf* 7

Bsn. 1+2 *mp* *mf* *mf*

B♭ Cl. 1 *mp* *mp* *mf* *mf* 7

B♭ Cl. 2+3 *mp* *mf* *mf* 7

B. Cl. *mp* *mf* *mf*

A. Sx. 1+2 *mp* *mf* *mf*

T. Sx. *mp* *mf* *mf*

B. Sx. *mp* *mf* *mf*

B♭ Tpt. 1+2 *mp* *mf* *fp* *straight mute*

Hn. 1+2 *mp* *mf* *a2* *mf*

Tbn. 1+2 *mp* *mf* *a2* *p*

Euph. *mp* *mf* *p*

Tuba *mp* *f* *p*

D.B. *mp* *f*

Perc. 1 *mp* *Glockenspiel* *mf* *Cowbell*

Perc. 2 *mp* *mf* *Cowbell*

Perc. 3 *mp* *Sus. cymbal*

D. S. *mp* *f*

S *mp* *mf* *f* *f*

A *mp* *mf* *f* *f*

T *mp* *mf* *f* *f*

B *mp* *mf* *f* *f*

When out on the lawn there a - rose such a clat - ter, 1  
When out on the lawn there a - rose such a clat - ter, 1  
long win - ter's nap, When out 1

41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48



54

Picc. *f* *mf*

Fl. 1+2 *f* *mf*

Ob. 1+2

Bsn. 1+2 *f* *mf* *mp*

B $\flat$  Cl. 1 *f*

B $\flat$  Cl. 2+3 *f* *mf* *mp*

B. Cl. *f* *mf* *mp*

A. Sx. 1+2 *mf* *mp* a2

T. Sx. *f* *mf* *mp*

B. Sx. *f* *mf* *mp*

B $\flat$  Tpt. 1+2 *mf*

Hn. 1+2 *mf* *mp* *mp* a2

Tbn. 1+2 *mf* *mp* *mp*

Euph. *mf* *mp* *mp*

Tuba *mf* *mp* *mp*

D.B. *f* *mf* *mp*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 Glockenspiel *mp* Triangle

Perc. 3 *mp*

D. S.

54

S *mf* *mp* *unis.*

A sprang from the bed to see what was the mat - ter. A - way to the win - dow I flew like a

T *mf* *mp*

B sprang from the bed to see what was the mat - ter. A - way to the win - dow I flew like a

rit. -----  $\text{♩} = 96$  Slower, dreamy

Picc. *mf* *a2*

Fl. 1+2 *mf* *a2*

Ob. 1+2 *mf* *a2*

Bsn. 1+2 *mp* *mf*

B♭ Cl. 1 *mf* *mp* *a2*

B♭ Cl. 2+3 *mf* *mp*

B. Cl. *mp* *mf* *mp*

A. Sx. 1+2

T. Sx. *mp* *mf*

B. Sx. *mp* *mf*

B♭ Tpt. 1+2 *mf* *straight mute*

Hn. 1+2

Tbn. 1+2 *mf*

Euph. *mf*

Tuba *mf*

D.B. *mf* *mp* *pizz.*

Perc. 1 *mf* *Vibraphone (motor off)*

Perc. 2 *mf*

Perc. 3 *mf* *choke* *High temple block* *Wind chimes*

D. S. *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *mf* *p delicately*

S *mf* *f* *rit.* *mf*  $\text{♩} = 96$  Slower, dreamy

A flash, tore o - pen the shut - ters and threw up the sash. The moon on the

T *mf* *unis.* *f*

B flash, tore o - pen the shut - ters and threw up the sash.







'Twas the Night Before Christmas

81 ♩ = 120 *Faster, with anticipation*

Picc. *tutti* *mp* *mf* *f* *mp*

Fl. 1+2 *mp* *mf* *f* *mp*

Ob. 1+2 *mf* *f* *mf* *mp*

Bsn. 1+2 *mp* *mf* *f* *mf* *mp*

B♭ Cl. 1 *mp* *mf* *f* *mf* *mp*

B♭ Cl. 2+3 *mf* *f* *mf* *mp*

B. Cl. *mf* *f* *mf* *mp*

A. Sx. 1+2 *mf* *f* *mf* *mp*

T. Sx. *mp* *mf* *f* *mf* *mp*

B. Sx. *mp* *mf* *f* *mf* *mp*

B♭ Tpt. 1+2 *mf* *f* *mf* *mp*

Hn. 1+2 *mf* *f* *mf* *mp*

Tbn. 1+2 *mp* *mf* *f* *mp*

Euph. *mp* *mf* *f* *mp*

Tuba *mp* *mf* *f* *mp*

D.B. *arco* *mp* *f* *mp*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 Glockenspiel *mf* Sleigh Bells *mp*

Perc. 3 High temple block *mf*

D. S.

81 ♩ = 120 *Faster, with anticipation*

S *f* *mf* *mf*

A lit - tle old driv - er so live - ly and quick, I knew in a mo - ment it must be

T *f* *mf* *mf*

B lit - tle old driv - er so live - ly and quick, I knew in a mo - ment it must be

91 Swing! ♩ = 138 - 144

rit. -----

Picc. *mf*

Fl. 1+2

Ob. 1+2

Bsn. 1+2

B♭ Cl. 1 *solo*  
*mf*

B♭ Cl. 2+3

B. Cl.

A. Sx. 1+2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1+2

Hn. 1+2

Tbn. 1+2

Euph.

Tuba

D.B. *mp*

Perc. 1 *mf*  
Vibraphone  
*mf*  
*sc*

Perc. 2 *mp*  
Sleigh Bells  
Glockenspiel  
*mf*

Perc. 3

D. S. *mf*  
Ride cymbal

S  
A *rit.* ----- 91 Swing! ♩ = 138 - 144  
Saint Nick.

T  
B Saint Nick.



Picc. *mf*

Fl. 1+2 *mf*

Ob. 1+2 *mf*

Bsn. 1+2 *mp*

B♭ Cl. 1 *mp*

B♭ Cl. 2+3 *mp*

B. Cl. *mp*

A. Sax. 1+2 *mf*

T. Sax. *mf*

B. Sax. *mf*

B♭ Tpt. 1+2 *mf*

Hn. 1+2 *mf*

Tbn. 1+2 *mf*

Euph. *mf*

Tuba *mf*

D. B. *mf*

Perc. 1 *mf*

Perc. 2 *mf*

Perc. 3

D. S.

S  
A *mf*

T  
B

To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall! — now

Dash - er! now Danc - er! now Franc - er and Vix - en! — On Com - et! on Cu - pid! on Don - der and Blitz - en! —



109 Picc. *mf*

Fl. 1+2 *mf*

Ob. 1+2 *mf*  
*a2*

Bsn. 1+2 *mp*

B♭ Cl. 1 *mf*

B♭ Cl. 2+3 *mf*

B. Cl. *mf*

A. Sx. 1+2 *mf*  
*a2*

T. Sx. *mf*

B. Sx. *mf*

109 B♭ Tpt. 1+2 *mp*  
*mf*  
*a2*

Hn. 1+2 *mp*

Tbn. 1+2 *mf*

Euph. *mf*

Tuba *mf*

109 D.B. *mf*  
*(pizz.)*

Vibraphone *mf*  
*Reo*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

109 Perc. 3 *mf*  
*Tambourine*

109 D. S.

109 S A *f*  
dash a - way! dash a - way! dash a - way all! — *unis.*  
As leaves that be-fore the hur - ri - cane fly, — when they meet with an ob - sta - cle, mount to the sky. —

T B *f*  
As leaves that be-fore the hur - ri - cane fly, — *unis.*  
when they meet with an ob - sta - cle, mount to the sky. —



Picc. *mf*

Fl. 1+2 *mf*

Ob. 1+2 *a2* *mf*

Bsn. 1+2 *mf*

B♭ Cl. 1 *mf*

B♭ Cl. 2+3 *mf*

B. Cl. *mf*

A. Sx. 1+2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1+2

Hn. 1+2 *mf*

Tbn. 1+2 *mf*

Euph.

Tuba

D.B.

Perc. 1 *mf* *Vibraphone*

Perc. 2 *mf* *Glockenspiel*

Perc. 3 *mf* *High and low temple blocks*

D. S.

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S  
A

then, in a twink - ling, — I heard on the roof *unis.*

then — the pranc - ing and paw - ing of each lit - tle hoof. —

T  
B

then, in a twink - ling, — I heard on the roof *unis.*

then — the pranc - ing and paw - ing of each lit - tle hoof. —