

Vocal
revised 11/15/12

'Twas the Night Before Christmas

for Singer and Orchestra
Based on the classic text by Clement Clarke Moore

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Orch. Robert Elhai

Joyously ♩. = 68 *mf*

1 12
Twas the

6 *f*
Night Be-fore Christ - mas _____ Twas the

8 **Poco Rit...**
mp
Night Be-fore Christ - mas _____ Twas the

A

10 **Slightly Slower** ♩. = 56
night be - fore Christ - mas, when all through the house Not a

11
crea - ture was stir - ring, not e - ven a mouse. The

12
stock - ings were hung by the chim - ney with care, In

13
hopes that St. Nich-o - las soon would be there The

15 child - ren were nes - tled all snug in their beds, While

16 vi - sions of su - gar plums danced in their heads. And Ma -

17 ma in her ker - chief, And Pa - pa in his cap had just

18 set-tled their brains for a long win-ter's nap. When

Poco Accel...

B 21 out on the lawn there a - rose such a clat - ter I

Tempo I ♩. = 68

23 sprang from my bed to see what was the mat-ter A

25 way to the win - dow I flew like a flash, Tore

27 o - pen the shut - ters, and threw up the sash. The

C **Slightly Slower** ♩. = 56

29 moon on the breast of the new fal-len snow gave a lus-ter of mid-day to ob-jects be low

31 When what to my won - der - ing eyes should ap - pear, but a

Faster ♩. = 60
backphrase ad lib.

33 min-ia-ture sleigh, and eight ti-ny Rein-deer _____ With a

D **Waltz Feel** ♩ = 180 (♩ = ♩)

36 lit - tle old dri-ver, so live - ly and quick, I knew in a mo-ment it

42 must be St. Nick. More ra - pid than ea-gles his rein-deer they came, And he

Rit...

48 whis-tled, and shout ed, and called them by name: _____

E **Jaunty** ♩. = 68
half-spoken

54 "Now, Dash - er! Now Dan - cer Now Pran - cer and Vix - en On,

56 Co - met On, Cu - pid! On, Don - ner and Blix - en! To the

57 top of the porch, to the top of the wall, Now Dash a-way! Dash a-way! Dash a-way all!"

59 **Rit...** *p* **F** **Slower** ♩. = 56
As dry leaves that be - fore the wild hur ri cane fly, When they

61 meet with an ob - sta - cle, mount to the sky. So

63 **Brighter** ♩. = 68
up to the house - top the rein - deer they flew, With a

64 **Poco Accel...**
sleigh full of toys and St. Nich-o-las too. And then in a twink-ling, I heard on the roof

66 The pranc-ing and paw-ing of each lit-tle hoof. As I

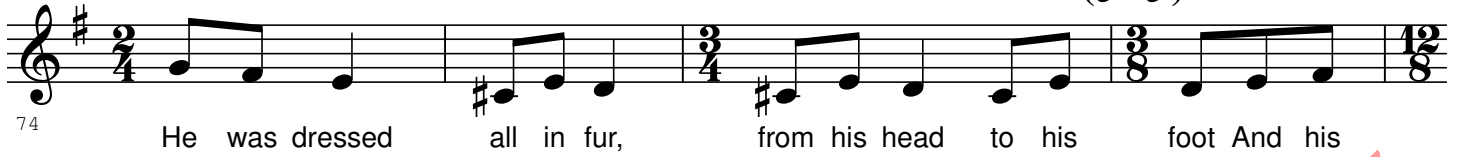
69 drew in my head, and was turn - ing a - round, Down the

70 **Molto Rit...** **A Tempo** (♩ = ♪) **Rit...**
chim-ney St. Nich-o-las came with a bound.

G **Slower & Marked** ♩ = 72

Poco Accel... (♩ = ♩)

74 He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot And his

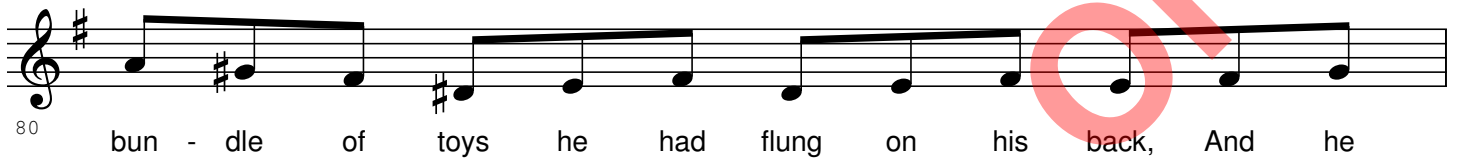
Musical notation for measures 74-77. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature changes from 2/4 to 3/4, then to 3/8, and finally to 12/8.

Faster ♩ = 64

78 clothes were all tar-nished with ash-es and soot. A

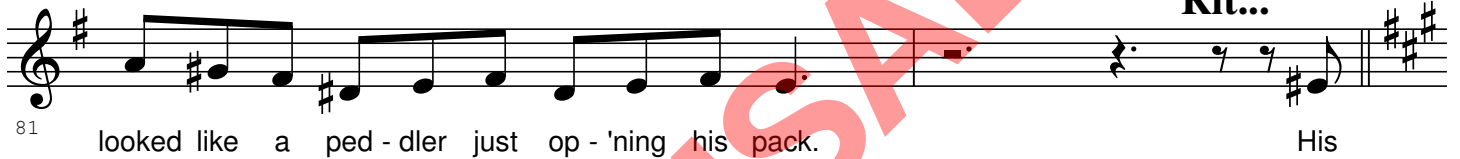
Musical notation for measures 78-79. The time signature is 12/8.

80 bun-dle of toys he had flung on his back, And he

Musical notation for measures 80-81.


Rit...

81 looked like a ped-dler just op-'ning his pack. His

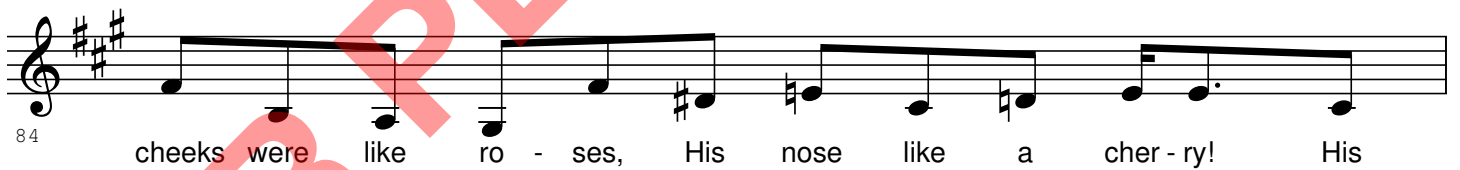
Musical notation for measures 81-82. The key signature changes to two sharps (F# and C#).

H **Gently** ♩ = 60

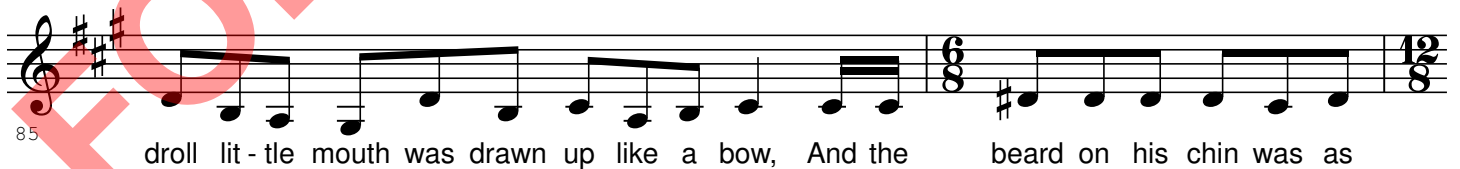
83 eyes, how they twink-led! His dim-ples how mer-ry! His

Musical notation for measures 83-84.

84 cheeks were like ro-ses, His nose like a cher-ry! His

Musical notation for measures 84-85.

85 droll lit-tle mouth was drawn up like a bow, And the beard on his chin was as

Musical notation for measures 85-86. The time signature changes to 6/8 and then to 12/8.

Poco Rit...

Slightly Slower

87 white as the snow! The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, And the

Musical notation for measures 87-88. The time signature is 12/8.

89 smoke, it en - cir - cled his head like a wreath. He

90 had a broad face and a lit - tle round bel - ly, That

Accel...
91 shook when he laughed, like a bowl-ful of jel-ly. He was

I **Happy!** ♩ = 78
96 chub-by and plump, a jol-ly old elf, And I laughed when I saw him in spite of my-self! A

100 wink of his eye and a twist of his head soon gave me to know I had no-thing to dread.

Rit... *mp* **Lightly, Poco Rubato**
104 He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, And

In Tempo **Rubato**
107 filled all the stock - ings, then turned with a jerk. And lay - ing his fin - ger a -

Rit... **Rubato** **Rit...**
111 side of his nose, And giv - ing a nod, up the chim - ney he rose! He

Faster ♩ = 78

114 sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whis-tle "Wee!" A -

Full & Rich:
Like the Beginning (♩ = ♩.)

J (♩ = ♩.)

116 way they all flew like the down of a this-tle

Rall... **Broader** ♩ = 72

120 But I heard him ex-claim as he

Accel...

123 drove out of sight, "Mer-ry Christ-mas to all, and to

Faster ♩ = 90 **Molto Rit...** **A Tempo**

125 all a good night!"

