

*'T WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE  
CHRISTMAS*

For three-voice senior youth or women's choir  
and speaker

SSA

Martin Chambers  
(2013)

© 2013

Dedicated to my children, Cathrine and Roberta  
and the San Diego Children's Choir

# 'Twas the Night Before Christmas

Three-part youth or women's choir, Speaker and Optional Piano

Maj. Henry Livingston Jr. \*

Martin Chambers  
b. 1944

Speaker **Andante** *p* 'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through  
the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;

Treble 1 *p*  
Si - lent night. Ho - ly night. mm\_\_\_\_\_

Treble 2 *p*  
Si - lent night. Ho - ly night. mm\_\_\_\_\_

Alto *p*  
Si - lent night. Ho - ly night. mm\_\_\_\_\_

Optional Piano **Andante** *p*

**The stockings were hung by the chimney  
with care, in hopes that St. Nicolas ....** **Soon would be there;**

5  
Treble 1 *Stm* \_\_\_\_\_ St. Nic - o - las mm\_\_\_\_\_

Treble 2 mm\_\_\_\_\_ St. Nic - o - las mm\_\_\_\_\_

Alto mm\_\_\_\_\_ St. Nic - o - las mm

Pno

\* Previously believed to have been written by Clement Clarke Moore

**The children were nestled all snug in their beds,** **While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;**

9 *mp*  
Treble 1 mm \_\_\_\_\_ la la la la la la la la la la la la la la  
*mp*  
Treble 2 mm \_\_\_\_\_ oh oh oh la la la la la  
*mp*  
Alto mm \_\_\_\_\_ oh oh oh la la la la la  
*mp*  
Pno \_\_\_\_\_

**And mama in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,** **Had just settled down for a long winter's nap,**

13 *p*  
Treble 1 mm \_\_\_\_\_ mm \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_  
*p*  
Treble 2 mm \_\_\_\_\_ mm \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_  
*p*  
Alto mm \_\_\_\_\_ mm \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_  
*p*  
Pno \_\_\_\_\_

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,

I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.

17 *agitato*

Treble 1  
 ta ta ta ka ta ka ta ta ta ka ta ka ta ta ta \* oh oh ah ah ah

Treble 2  
 ta ta ta ka ta ka ta ta ta ka ta ka ta ta ta \* oh oh ah ah ah

Alto  
 ta ka ta ka ta ta ta ka ta ka ta ta ta ka ta ka ta oh oh ah ah ah

Pno  
*agitato*

Away to the window I flew like a flash,

Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.\*

21 *accel.* *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

Treble 1  
 ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ta ka ta ka ta ka \* ah

Treble 2  
 ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ta ka ta ka ta ka ah

Alto  
 ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ta ka ta ka ta ka ah

Pno  
*accel.* *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

\* All slides are fully voiced

\*Sash - the moveable frame of a window

The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow

Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,

25 *pp*

Treble 1

Treble 2

Alto

Pno

*pp*

When what to my wondering eyes should appear,

But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,

29 *Moderato* *mp* *molto rit.*

Treble 1

ah ah ah three six sev'n eight

Treble 2

ah ah ah two five sev'n eight

Alto

ah ah ah one four sev'n eight

Pno

*mp* *molto rit.*

**With a little old driver, so lively and quick, I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.**

*a tempo*

Treble 1  
ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah St. Nick

Treble 2  
ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah St. Nick ah ah

Alto  
ah ah ah ah ah ah St. Nick ah ah

Pno

**More rapid than eagles his coursers\* they came, And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:**

*mf*

Treble 1  
ah ah ah ah \*whistle hey\*

Treble 2  
ah ah ah ah \*whistle hey\*

Alto  
ah ah ah ah ah

Pno  
*mf*

\*Coursers - swift horses, chargers

hey\* - shouted freely by two choristers

\*whistle - whistle freely, one from each part

41 *f*

Treble 1  
DASH-ER! DAN-CER! PRAN-CER VIX-EN! COMET! CUP-ID! DON-NER\* and

Treble 2  
DASH-ER! DAN-CER! PRAN-CER VIX-EN! COMET! CUP-ID! DON-NER\* and

Alto  
*f*  
"Now, DASH-ER! now, DAN-CER! now, PRAN-CER and VIX-EN! On, COMET! on CUP-ID! on, DON-NER\* and

Pno  
*f*

To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall! Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

45 *mf*

Treble 1  
BLITZ-EN!" ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah

Treble 2  
BLITZ-EN!" ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah

Alto  
*mf*  
BLITZ-EN!" ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah

Pno  
*mf*

\* The original text was "Donder" translated as "thunder." Common English translation is "Donner."

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,

When they meet with an obstacle, mount to  
the sky,

49 *mp*

Treble 1  
ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah

Treble 2  
*mp*  
ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah

Alto  
*mp*  
ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah

Pno  
*mp*

So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,

With a sleigh full of toys, and  
St. Nicholas too.

53 *mp*

Treble 1  
ah ah ah ah ah ah St. Nic - o - las too

Treble 2  
*mp*  
ah ah ah ah ah ah St. Nic - o - las too

Alto  
*mp*  
ah ah ah ah ah ah St. Nic - o - las too

Pno  
*mp*



**And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof**

**The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.**

57

Treble 1  
ah ah\_ ah ah\_ ah\_ ah\_ ah ee ee ee ee ah

Treble 2  
ah ah\_ ah ah\_ ah\_ ah\_ ah ee ee ee ee ah

Alto  
ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah

Pno

**As I drew in my hand, and was turning around,**

**Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.**

61

Treble 1  
ah ah ah ah ah oo plop! ah ah ah ah

Treble 2  
ah ah ah ah ah oo plop! ah ah ah ah

Alto  
ah ah ah ah ah oo plop! ah ah ah ah

Pno

**He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,**      **And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot**

65

Treble 1  
oh \_\_\_\_\_ oh \_\_\_\_\_

Treble 2  
oh \_\_\_\_\_ oh \_\_\_\_\_

Alto  
oh \_\_\_\_\_ oh \_\_\_\_\_

Pno

**A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,**      **And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.**

69

Treble 1  
oh \_\_\_\_\_ oh \_\_\_\_\_

Treble 2  
oh \_\_\_\_\_ oh \_\_\_\_\_

Alto  
oh \_\_\_\_\_ oh \_\_\_\_\_

Pno

Hi eyes-- how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!

His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!

73

Treble 1  
ah \_\_\_\_\_ Twin-kle ah Twin-kle ah ah \_\_\_\_\_

Treble 2  
ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah Twin-kle ah Twin-kle ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_

Alto  
ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_

Pno

His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,

And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;

77

Treble 1  
ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah oh \_\_\_\_\_

Treble 2  
oh \_\_\_\_\_

Alto  
ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah oh \_\_\_\_\_

Pno

**The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,      And the smoke it enrircled his head like a wreath;**

81

Treble 1  
oh oh oh oh oh oh oh

Treble 2  
oh oh oh oh oh oh oh

Alto  
oh oh oh oh oh oh oh

Pno

**He had a broad face and a little round belly,      That shook, when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly.**

85

Treble 1  
ah ah ah ah ee ee ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ee ee ee

Treble 2  
ah ah ah ah ee ee ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ee ee ee

Alto  
ah ah ah ah ee ee ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ee ee ee

Pno

**He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,**

**And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;**

89

Treble 1  
ho ho ho ho ah ah ha ha ha ha ho

Treble 2  
ho ho ho ho ah ah ha ha ha ha ho

Alto  
ho ho ho ho ah ah ha ha ha ha ho

Pno

**A wink of his eye and a twist of his head**

**So gave me to know I had nothing to dread;**

93

Treble 1  
— ho ho ho ho ho ho ah

Treble 2  
— ho ho ho ho ho ho ah

Alto  
— ho ho ho ho ho ho ah

Pno

**He spoke not a word but went straight to his work,      And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,**

97

Treble 1  
mm ah

Treble 2  
mm ah

Alto  
mm ah

Pno

**And laying his finger aside of his nose,      And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;**

101

Treble 1  
oh oh oh oh ah ah oo

Treble 2  
oh oh oh oh ah ah

Alto  
oh oh oh oh ah ah oo

Pno

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle, And away they all flew like the down of a thistle,

105

Treble 1  
ah \_\_\_\_\_ \*whistle \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_ ha ha ha

Treble 2  
ah \_\_\_\_\_ \*whistle \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_ ha ha ha

Alto  
ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_ ha

Pno

But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,

109

Treble 1  
ha ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_ *rit.* Hap-py *a tempo* Christ-mas to all, and to all a good night!

Treble 2  
ha ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_ *rit.* Hap-py *a tempo* Christ-mas to all, and to all a good night!

Alto  
ha ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_ *rit.* Hap-py *a tempo* Christ-mas to all, and to all a good night!

Pno

Spoken by all: "HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD-NIGHT!"