

Good King Wenceslas

melody *Tempus adest florum* 14th century, from *Piae Cantiones* (1582)

words by John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

arranged for voices and piano (optional double bass and light drum kit) by Paul Ayres
there are three 'characters': KING, PAGE, and NARRATOR, which may be sung by any voices

Medium fast tempo: all quavers (eighth-notes) are swung (ie 12/8 feel)

NARRATOR *mf*

Good King Wen-ces - las looked out

mp *mf*

non legato

7

On the feast of Ste - phen, When the snow lay round a-bout, Deep and crisp and

12

e - ven; Bright - ly shone the moon that night, Though the frost was cru - el,

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17

When a poor man came in sight, Ga-th'ring win-ter fu - - - el.

23 KING

"Hi - ther, page, and stand by me, If thou know'st it, tel - ling, Yon - der pea - sant,

28 PAGE

who is he, Where and what his dwel - ling?" "Sire, he lives a

32

good league hence, Un - der-neath the moun-tain, Right a-against the fo-rest fence,

37 KING *f*

By Saint Ag - nes' foun - - - tain." "Bring me flesh, and

42

bring me wine, Bring me pine logs hi - ther, Thou and I will

46 NARRATOR

see him dine, When we bear them thi - ther." Page and mo - narch,

50

forth they went, Forth they went to - ge - ther, Through the rude wind's

54

wild la-ment, And the bit - ter wea - - - ther.

PAGE

59 *p*

"Sire, the night is dark - er now, And the wind blows strong - er, Fails my heart, I

8^{va}

p

KING

64 *mf*

know not how, I can go no long - er." "Mark my foot - steps,

(8^{va})

mf

68

good my page, Tread thou in them bold - ly, Thou shalt find the

72

win-ter's rage Freeze thy blood less cold - - - ly."

NARRATOR (I)

77 *f*

In his mas-ter's steps he trod, Where the snow lay din - ted;

NARRATOR (II) *f*

In his mas-ter's steps he trod, Where the snow lay

81

Heat was in the ve - ry sod Which the saint had print - ed.

din - ted; Heat was in the ve - ry sod Which the saint had print - ed.

85

There-fore, Christ - ian men, be sure, Wealth or rank pos - ses - sing,

There-fore, Christ - ian men, be sure, Wealth or rank pos - ses - sing,

89 *diminuendo*

Ye who now will bless the poor Shall your-selves find bles - sing,

Ye who now will bless the poor Shall your-selves find

diminuendo

94 *optional divisi* **p**

shall your-selves find bles - - - sing.

bles - sing, shall your-selves find bles - - - sing.

optional divisi **p**

8va

p

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