

for Janeal Krehbiel

# Before the Paling of the Stars

Christina Rossetti

Tom Shelton

Violin  $\text{♩} = 96$  *mf*

Treble

Piano  $\text{♩} = 96$  *mf* *mp* *simile*

*mf* 6

Be-fore the pal - ing of the stars, Be-fore the win - ter

morning, Be-fore the ear - li - est cock-crow, Je-sus Christ\_ was\_

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born: Born in a sta - ble, Cra - dled in a

slight rit. *A tempo* 18

man - ger, In the world His hands had made.

*mp*

*slight rit.*

*A tempo*

*slight rit.*

**For Perusal Only**

22

Born a Stran - ger.

*mp*

*mp*

26

*mf*

*mf*

First system of musical notation, featuring a vocal line and piano accompaniment in B-flat major.

Second system of musical notation, featuring a vocal line and piano accompaniment in B-flat major.

Third system of musical notation, featuring a vocal line and piano accompaniment in B-flat major. A large red watermark "For Perusal Only" is overlaid on the vocal line. The dynamic marking *mf* is present, and the instruction "Priest and" is written below the vocal line.

Fourth system of musical notation, featuring a vocal line and piano accompaniment in B-flat major. The vocal line includes the lyrics: "King lay fast a - sleep In Je - ru - sa - lem, Young and". The dynamic marking *mf* is present.

Old lay fast a - sleep In crowd - ed Beth - le - hem:

47 Saint and An-gel Ox and Ass Kept a watch to - geth - er Be- *slight rit.*

51 A tempo fore the Christ - mas day - break In the win - ter weath - er.

57 *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

First system of musical notation, featuring a vocal line and piano accompaniment in B-flat major.

Second system of musical notation, featuring a vocal line and piano accompaniment in B-flat major.

Third system of musical notation, featuring a vocal line and piano accompaniment in B-flat major. A large red watermark "For Perusal Only" is overlaid on the score.

Fourth system of musical notation, featuring a vocal line and piano accompaniment in B-flat major. The vocal line includes the lyrics "Je-sus on His Moth-er's breast In the sta - ble cold, Spot-less". The piano accompaniment includes a *mf* dynamic marking and a box containing the number 70.

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Mar - y Maid, With Jo - seph bent and hoar - y, With Saint and An - gel,

*slight rit.* **A tempo**

Ox and Ass To hail the King of Glo - ry.

*mp*

Be - fore the pal - ing of the

**91**

*mf*

The image shows a musical score for the Christmas carol 'Before the Paling of the Stars'. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system has two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The second system has two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The third system has two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'stars, Be-fore the pal - ing of the stars Born a Stran - ger.' The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp* and *p*, and performance instructions like *rit.* (ritardando). A large red watermark 'For Perusal Only' is overlaid on the bottom system of the score.

#### Before the Paling of the Stars

Before the winter morn  
 Before the earliest cockerow  
 Jesus Christ was born:  
 Born in a stable  
 Cradled in a manger,  
 In the world His Hands had made  
 Born a Stranger.

Priest and King lay fast asleep  
 In Jerusalem,  
 Young and Old lay fast asleep  
 In crowded Bethlehem:  
 Saint and Angel, Ox and Ass  
 Kept a watch together  
 Before the Christmas daybreak  
 In the winter weather.

Jesus on His mother's breast  
 In the stable cold,  
 Spotless Lamb of God was He  
 Shepherd of the Fold:  
 Let us kneel with Mary Maid,  
 With Joseph bent and hoary  
 With Saint and Angel, Ox and Ass  
 To hail the King of Glory.

#### About the arranger

Tom T. Shelton, Jr. (b.1966) is Assistant Professor of Sacred Music at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ. He also works with the Princeton Girlchoir organization as conductor of *Cantores*. Shelton is a native of Greensboro, N.C. and a graduate of UNC Greensboro, with both a bachelor of Music Education and a Master of Music in Choral Conducting. Prior to working at Westminster Choir College, Mr. Shelton was Associate Director of Music for Children and Youth at First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro. He taught middle school choral music for 18 years and was presented the NCMEA "Middle School Music Teacher of the Year" award in 1999. Active in the American Choral Directors Association, Shelton has served as President for the Southern Division, National R&S Chair for Middle School/Junior High Choirs, and North Carolina President. As a clinician and composer, Shelton has conducted and composed for state and regional festivals throughout the United States and in Hong Kong. [www.tomsheltonmusic.com](http://www.tomsheltonmusic.com)

#### About the poet

Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830-1894), was an English poet who wrote a variety of romantic, devotional, and children's poems. She is perhaps best known for her long poem *Goblin Market*, her love poem *Remember*, and for the words of the Christmas carol *In the Bleak Midwinter*.

#### Listen to a recording at [www.sbmp.com](http://www.sbmp.com)

Performed by the Greensboro Youth Chorus, Tom Shelton, conductor

Range: Eb4 - F5