

Good King Wenceslas

(Dramatised arrangement for for mixed chorus
with acted spoken soloist)

Arranged by
Stephen Potter

This arrangement was written for, and first performed by the
Milton Keynes Chorale
(conducted by Richard Farnes)
December 22nd 1990

Many thanks to Richard Farnes for his advice as I prepared this arrangement.

The way we enacted the story was that the Choir starts the first verse and then the King appeared 'looking out', calling the Page over from the chorus to be by his side. Meanwhile a somewhat scruffy peasant was working his way through the audience picking up sticks of wood that had been deposited there before the concert started. Don made a splendid King, Ann Marie his respectful page and Nick was a most disrespectful peasant. Great fun was had by all.
Stage directions are included in the score.

A purely SATB choir version of this arrangement is also available on IMSLP.

Good King Wenceslas

John Mason Neale (1818-66)

13th Century tune arranged by Stephen Potter, 1990

Allegro ♩ = 88

Solo

SOPRANO

ALTO
mp
Deep and crisp and, deep and crisp and, deep and crisp and, deep and crisp and,

TENOR
8 *mp*
Deep, Deep, Deep, Deep and

BASS
mp
Deep, Deep, Crisp and

(King appears to one side)

f
Good King Wence- slas looked out

deep and crisp and, deep and crisp and, deep and crisp and, deep and crisp and,

e - - - - ven on the

e - - - - ven on the

on the Feast of Steph - en, When the snow lay round a bout, deep and crisp and

on the Feast, the Feast of Steph - en, When the snow lay round a - bout deep and crisp and

Feast of Steph - en, When the snow lay deep and crisp and

Feast of Steph - en When the snow lay deep and crisp and

(Peasant enters other side to King, searching for fuel)

ev - en: *f* Brigh - tly shone the moon that night, *mf* though the frost was cru - el

ev - en: *mf* though the frost was cru - el

ev - en: *f* Brigh - tly shone the moon that night

ev - en: *mf* though the frost was cru - el

When a poor man came in sight, gath-er ing win - ter fu - el.

When a poor man came in sight, gath-er ing win - ter fu - el.

When a poor man came in sight, gath-er ing win - ter fu - el.

When a poor man came in sight, gath-er ing win - ter fu - el.

Verse 2

f Hith-er, page and

mp Bom bom bom

mp deep and crisp and, deep and crisp and, deep and crisp and, Bom bom bom bom,

mp Deep, Deep, Deep, Bom bom -

mp Deep, Deep, Deep, Bom bom -

stand by me, If thou know'st it, telling Yond er pea-sent who is he?

(Page goes over to King)

bom bom, bom bom bom bom bom bom, Bom bom bom bom bom

bom bom bom bom b-b bom bom bom, bom bom bom Bom, bom bom bom bom-

bom bom, bom bom bom bom bom, Bom bom bom bom

bom bom, bom bom - bom bom, Bom bom bom bom

Where and what his dwelling? *(Page mimes, explaining to King)*

bom bom bom bom bom bom. *f* Sire, he lives a good league hence,

bom bom bom bom bom. *f* Sire, he lives a good league hence,

bom bom bom bom bom. *f* Sire, he lives a good league hence

bom bom bom bom. *f* Sire, he lives a good league hence,

(Peasant shuffles off towards St. Agnes' fountain)

un-der-neath the moun-tain. *mf* Right a-gainst the for-est fence, by St. Ag - nes'

un-der-neath the moun tain. *mf* Right a-ganst the for-est fence, by St Ag - nes'

un-der-neath the moun - tain. *mf* Right a-gainst the for-est fence, by St. Ag - nes'

un-der-neath the moun - tain. *mf* Right a-gainst the for-est fence - by St. Ag- nes'

Verse 3

fou - ntain.

fou - ntain *mp* Deep and crisp and, deep and crisp and, deep and crisp and

fou - ntain. *mp* Deep, deep, deep.

fou - ntain. - *mp* Deep, deep, deep.

Bring me flesh, and bring me wine. Bring me pine logs hith er; Thou and I will
(Page goes off to get them)

mp
 Tm, tm tm tm tm, tm tm tm tm tm tm, tm tm, tm tm tm
 deep, tm tm tm tm tm tm tm, t t tm tm tm tm tm tm tm, tm tm tm
 Tm, tm - tm tm, tm tm - tm tm, tm tm
 Tm, tm - tm tm, tm tm tm tm, tm tm

see him dine when we bear them thi-ther.

tm tm tm tm tm tm tm tm. *f* Page and mon-arch forth they went,
 tm tm - tm t tm tm tm tm. *f* Page and mon-arch forth they went,
 tm tm tm tm tm tm tm tm. *f* Page and mon-arch forth they went,-
 tm tm tm tm tm tm. *f* Page and mon-arch forth they went,

(Page returns with basket and they set off)

cresc.....

mf forth they went to - geth - er; through the rude wind's wild la - ment *f* and the bit - ter

cresc.....

mf forth they went to - geth - er; through the rude wind's wild la - ment *f* and the bit - ter

cresc.....

mf forth they went to - geth - er; through the rude wind's wild la - ment *f* and the bit - ter

cresc.....

mf forth they went to - geth - er; through the rude wind's wild la - ment *f* and the bit - ter

Verse 4

(Page struggles)

A little slower

wea - - ther. *mf* *p* Oo - - oo - - oo - -

wea - - ther. *mf* *mf* Sire, the night is dark-er now, and the wind grows

wea - - ther. *mf* *p* Oo - - oo - - oo - -

wea - - ther. *mf* *p* Oo - - oo - - oo - -

oo whoo *fp* oo - oo - oo - oo whoo

strong - er; Fails my heart, I know not how I can go no long - er.

oo whoo *fp* oo - oo - oo - oo whoo

oo - Whoo *f* oo - oo - oo - oo whoo

(Page treads behind King)

Mark my foot-steps good my page; tread thou in them bod-ly Thou shalt find the

mf oo oo oo oo *mp* oo

mf oo oo oo oo *mp* oo

mf oo oo oo oo *mp* oo

mf oo oo oo oo *mp* oo

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

a tempo

oo oo doo doo *f* doo doo

oo oo doo doo *f* doo doo doo doo

oo oo doo doo *f* doo doo doo doo

oo oo doo doo *f* doo doo doo doo

Verse 5

doo *ff* wah! *f* Bah wah, Bah wah In his_ma-ster's

doo *ff* wah! *f* Bah wah, Bah wah In his ma-ster's

doo doo wah! *ff* Bah wah Bah wah Bah wah

doo doo wah! *ff* *f* Doo be doo doo wah doo doo Bah wah

(Meet Peasant and gives him basket)

steps he trod, where the snow lay din - ted. Heat was in the ve - ry sod

steps he trod, where the snow lay din - ted. Heat was in the ve - ry sod

Bah wah doo doo din - ted Bah wah ve - ry

Bah wah doo doo din - ted Bah wah ve - ry

rit.

100 Moderato ♩ = 52

rit. Moderato ♩ = 52

which the saint had prin - ted. There fore Christ-ian men be sure, wealth or rank po -

which the saint had prin - ted. There-fore Christ-ian men be sure, wealth or rank po -

sod Doo Doo doo doo doo Bah wah Bah wah

rit. Moderato ♩ = 52

sod Doo Doo doo doo doo Bah wah Bah wah

ses - ing, Ye who now will bless the poor, Shall your-selves find ble - ssing,
 ses ing Ye who now will bless the poor, Shall your-selves find ble - *sf*
 Bah wah who will, who will, your-selves find bless - *sf*
 Bah wah who will, who will, your-selves find bless -

Allegro ♩ = 88

Allegro ♩ = 88 *(King, Page and Peasant move towards centre of Choir)*
 ble - ssing. *p*
mp ssing, and crisp and, deep and crisp and, deep and crisp and, deep and crisp and,
 ble - ssing. *p* Deep and e -
 ble - ssing. *p* Deep, deep deep

deep and crisp and, *ff* Ye who now will bless the poor,
 ven. *ff* Ye who now will bless the poor,
 deep. *ff* Ye who now will bless the poor,

(King, Page and Peasant form tableaux)

Shall your-selves find ble - ssing. Ble - ssing!
 Shall your-selves find ble - ssing. Ble - ssing!
 shall your-selves find ble - ssing. Ble - ssing!
 shall your- selves find ble - ssing. Ble - ssing!