

The Night Before Christmas

A poem by Clement Clarke Moore

Adapted for Santa and Piano by John M. Chilson



Twas The Night Before Christmas

For Santa and Pianist

Poem by Clement Clarke Moore, updated and
Music Arranged by John M. Chilson based on
Orchestral Arrangement by Jack Bullock

Notes to Santa: This poem has been edited so as to be read in the first person by Santa Claus. In front of a large group, don't hesitate to slightly "over-act" with bigger, broader motions of your arms and hands so that they will be seen by all. Don't read, **ACT!** Santa is sharing a story of his experience and his emotions. Enjoy the telling of it. Keep your entrances crisp and don't let the performance drag at any place.

Notes to Pianist: Disregard ALL rests BEFORE the first note of any section, come in quickly. Due to software limitations I cannot start each section with a pickup measure. Play the glissandos **immediately** after Santa's text that is underlined. See Section 5 for an example. Feel free to "ham it up" a bit and to add musical humor wherever it fits. Have fun!

Introduction Spirited ♩ = 112

Piano

Play as written to end
Ritard & Soften to End

mp
pp

Twas The Night Before Christmas

- 1) Twas the night before Christmas,
and all through the house not a creature was stirring,
Not even a mouse.
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas (me) soon would be there.

Jolly Old St. Nicholas

Moderately

18

f *Ritard*

Musical score for 'Jolly Old St. Nicholas' in B-flat major, 4/4 time. The score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The music begins at measure 18. The treble staff features a melody of eighth notes, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment of chords. The piece concludes with a fermata over the final note. Dynamics include a forte (*f*) marking and a *Ritard* (ritardando) instruction.

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

Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy

Moderately

22

f *Sua-*

Musical score for 'Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy' in B-flat major, 4/4 time. The score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The music begins at measure 22. The treble staff features a melody of eighth notes, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment of chords. The piece concludes with a fermata over the final note. Dynamics include a forte (*f*) marking and a *Sua-* (sustained) instruction.

- 3) And Mama in her nightgown and Papa and the cat,
Had just settled down for a long winter's nap.

Rock A-Bye Baby

Moderately Slow, Smoothly & Sweetly

26

mp

Musical score for 'Rock A-Bye Baby' in B-flat major, 3/4 time. The score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The music begins at measure 26. The treble staff features a melody of quarter notes, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment of chords. The piece concludes with a fermata over the final note. Dynamics include a mezzo-piano (*mp*) marking.

Twas The Night Before Christmas

- 4) When out on the lawn, there arose such a clatter.
Papa sprang from his bed to see what was the matter.

Star Wars Theme

30 *Bold March*

ff

- 5) Away to the window he flew like a flash,
Tore open the curtains and threw up the sash

35 *8va*

mf

- 6) When what to Papa's wondering eyes should appear,
But a beautiful sleigh and nine powerful reindeer.

First Call

36 *Spread Out*

f

Twas The Night Before Christmas

- 7) With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
He knew in a moment it must be me, St. Nick.

Santa Claus Is Coming to Town

⁴⁰ *Quickly / Cut Time*

ff

F B^b F D^m G^m C F

- 8) More rapid than eagles my reindeer they came, and I whistled,
and shouted, and called them by name;
"Now Rudolph, now Dasher and Dancer!
Now Prancer and Vixen!
On Comet! On Cupid!
On Donner and Blitzen!

Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer

⁴⁶

ff

F F^m C

Twas The Night Before Christmas

- 9) To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall!
Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!"

William Tell Overture

50

f *Ritard*

- 10) So up to the house-top the reindeer they flew,
With a sleigh full of toys, and me, St. Nicholas, too.

Up On The Housetop

55

f *Ritard*

- 11) And then, in a twinkling, Papa heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each reindeer hoof.

PIANO: Galloping rhythm using hands on keyboard cover

- 12) As Papa drew in his head and was turning around,
Down the chimney I came with a bound.

59

f *ff*

8vb

Twas The Night Before Christmas

- 13) I was dressed all in fur, from my head to my foot,
And my clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;

Chim Chim Cher-ee from Mary Poppins

60

mf *Ritard*

This musical score is for the piano accompaniment of 'Chim Chim Cher-ee' from the movie Mary Poppins. It is written in 3/4 time and B-flat major. The piece starts at measure 60. The right hand features a melody with eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand provides a simple bass line. A dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte) is present, and the piece concludes with a *Ritard* (ritardando) instruction.

- 14) A bundle of toys I had flung on my back,
And I looked like a peddler just opening his pack.

Toy Land

66

F Am Gm C7 Bb F

Ritard

This musical score is for the piano accompaniment of 'Toy Land'. It is written in 6/8 time and B-flat major. The piece starts at measure 66. The right hand has a melody with dotted quarter and eighth note patterns. The left hand is mostly silent, with some bass notes. Chord symbols F, Am, Gm, C7, Bb, and F are indicated above the right hand. A *Ritard* instruction is placed towards the end of the piece.

- 15) My eyes - how they twinkle! My dimples - how merry!
My cheeks are like roses, My nose like a cherry!
My droll little mouth draws up like a bow,
And the beard on my chin is as white as the snow.

Here Comes Santa Claus

70

Ritard

This musical score is for the piano accompaniment of 'Here Comes Santa Claus'. It is written in 4/4 time and B-flat major. The piece starts at measure 70. The right hand features a melody with eighth and quarter notes, and the left hand provides a bass line with some rests. A *Ritard* instruction is placed towards the end of the piece.

Twass The Night Before Christmas

- 16) I have a broad face and a big round belly,
That shakes when I laugh like a bowlful of jelly.

Santa: Ho Ho Ho HO!

- 17) I am chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And Papa laughed when he saw me, in spite of himself;
A wink of my eye and a twist of my head,
Soon gave him to know he had nothing to dread.

For He's A Jolly Good Fellow

Musical notation for the piano accompaniment of 'For He's A Jolly Good Fellow'. The score is in 6/8 time and begins at measure 74. The right hand starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (Bb), and a dynamic marking of *f*. The tempo is marked *Fast*. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. Chord symbols F, Bb, F, C7, and F are placed above the staff. The piece concludes with a *Ritard* marking. The left hand has a bass clef and contains whole rests throughout the piece.

- 18) I spoke not a word, but went straight to my work,
And filled all the stockings;
Then turned with a jerk,
And laying my finger aside of my nose,
And giving a nod,
Up the chimney I rose.

Musical notation for the piano accompaniment of 'Up the chimney I rose'. The score is in 2/4 time and begins at measure 79. The right hand has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The tempo is marked *8va*. The melody is a single eighth note followed by a wavy line representing a tremolo, ending with a quarter note. The left hand has a bass clef and contains a whole rest.

Twass The Night Before Christmas

- 19) I sprang to my sleigh, To my team gave a whistle,
And away we all flew like the down of a thistle.

Sleigh Ride

FAST

80

f *Ritard*

- 20) And Papa heard me exclaim, as we drove out of sight,
"Merry Christmas to all, and to ALL a Good-Night!"

We Wish You A Merry Christmas

84

Don't rush

f

88

Ritard to end... *ff*