

In the Bleak Midwinter, arr.  
SATB, 2 soloists, piano or harp  
AB-047-02

Abbie Betinis

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# ABBIE BETINIS

**PERUSAL ONLY**  
(PERFORMANCE PROHIBITED)

## In the Bleak Midwinter

SATB chorus, 2 soloists, piano or harp

Tune by Gustav Holst  
Text by Christina Rossetti

*Commissioned by  
Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministries,  
Unity Church-Unitarian, Saint Paul, Minnesota*



[abbiebetinis.com](http://abbiebetinis.com)

Commissioned by Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministries, Unity Church-Unitarian, St. Paul, Minnesota  
*Commissioned for and dedicated to one of pure heart, hope and joy.*

# In the Bleak Midwinter

SATB chorus, 2 soloists, piano or harp

CHRISTINA ROSSETTI (v.1)  
 John Andrew Storey (v.2)  
 Rossetti/Betinis (v.3, 4)

arr. ABBIE BETINIS  
 orig. Gustav Holst

**Gracefully** (♩ = c. 66)

*8va* -----

Piano or Harp

*p* *sub p* *mf*

**5** *poco rit.* ----- *a tempo*

**Solo or soli section: *p***

Solo

In the bleak mid - win - ter frost - y wind made

*poco rit.* ----- *a tempo*

*p* *8va* -----

**10**

Solo

moan, earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;

*8va* -----

The image shows a musical score for 'In the Bleak Midwinter'. It includes piano or harp accompaniment and solo sections for two soloists. The score is marked 'Gracefully' with a tempo of approximately 66 beats per minute. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The score is divided into three systems. The first system shows the piano/harp accompaniment with dynamics *p*, *sub p*, and *mf*. The second system shows a solo section starting at measure 5, with lyrics 'In the bleak mid - win - ter frost - y wind made'. The third system shows a solo section starting at measure 10, with lyrics 'moan, earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;'. The score includes performance markings such as *poco rit.* and *a tempo*. A large red watermark 'PERUSAL ONLY (PERFORMANCE PROHIBITED)' is overlaid on the score.

**PERUSAL SCORE. PERFORMANCE PROHIBITED.**

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15 *mp* *p*

Solo

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak mid-

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20 *poco rit.* *a tempo*

Solo

win - ter long a - go.

S

*poco rit.* *a tempo*

A *pp* Snow on snow, snow on snow,

T Snow on snow, snow on

B *poco rit.* *a tempo*

*mp, glassy*

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24 *mp*

S Christ a home - less

A snow on \_ snow, snow on \_ snow, snow on \_ snow, snow on \_ snow  
 snow, snow on \_ snow, snow on \_ snow, snow on \_ snow, snow on \_

T *pp* Snow \_\_\_\_\_ snow on \_ snow, \_\_\_\_\_ on snow,

B \_\_\_\_\_ snow on \_ snow, on snow, \_\_\_\_\_

28

S strang - er, so the gos - pels say, cra - dled in a

A Snow on \_ snow, snow on \_ snow, snow on \_ snow, snow on \_ snow,  
 snow, snow on \_ snow, snow on \_ snow, snow on \_ snow, snow on \_

T Snow \_ on \_ snow, \_\_\_\_\_ Snow \_ on \_ snow,

B \_\_\_\_\_ Snow on \_ snow, Snow \_ on \_ snow, \_\_\_\_\_

32

S  
man - - - ger and a bed of hay;

A  
snow on snow, snow on snow, snow on snow, snow on snow,

T  
snow, snow on snow, snow on snow, snow on snow,

B

35

*mf*

S  
in the bleak mid - win - ter, a sta - ble place suf - ficed,

A  
snow on snow, snow on snow, snow on snow, snow on snow,

T  
8 in the bleak mid - win ter, a sta ble place suf - ficed,

B  
in the bleak snow on snow, snow on snow, snow on snow,

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39 *mp* *f*

S Ma - ry and her ba - by, Je - sus Christ.

A Ma - ry and her ba - - - by, Je - sus Christ.

T Ma - ry and her babe, Ma-ry and her babe, Je - sus Christ.

B Ma - ry and her ba - by, Je - sus Christ.

43 *mp* *pp* *mf*

S An-gels and arch-an - gels

A An-gels and arch-an - gels

T

B An-gels and arch - an - - - gels May have thronged the

48 *mp*

S They may have thronged the air, Shep-herds, beasts and wise \_\_\_\_\_ men,

A *mf*

T *mp*

B *mp*

air, Shep-herds, beasts and wise \_\_\_\_\_ men,

52 *p*

S They may have gath - ered Oo... \_\_\_\_\_ In her ten - der

A *mp* *p*

T *mp*

B *mf* *mp*

there, Oo... \_\_\_\_\_ In her ten - der

They may have gath - ered Oo... \_\_\_\_\_ In her ten-der bliss

But on-ly his moth - er In her ten-der bliss

57

S bliss *p* Blessed\_ this new re - deem - er -

A bliss *p* Blessed him

T *p* Blessed\_ this new re - deem er

B *p* Blessed this new re - deem - er *p* Blessed\_ this new re -

61

S With a kiss. *mf* Mm...

A Mm... Mm... Mm... Mm... *mf* (mm...)

T *molto f* With a kiss.

B deem - er *mf* Mm...

*choral reduction (as necessary)*

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65 *mf* *espressivo*

Solo 1  
What can I give you, ——— poor as I am?

Solo 2  
*mf* *espressivo*  
What can I give you, ——— poor as I am?

S/A  
*p*  
(mm...)

T/B  
*p*  
(mm...)

69

Solo 1  
If — I were a shepherd I ——— would bring a lamb;

Solo 2  
If — I were a wise man I would do my

S/A  
(mm...) Mm...

T/B  
(mm...) Mm...

73

Solo 1: I \_\_\_ would do my part; \_\_\_\_\_

Solo 2: part; \_\_\_\_\_

S/A: \_\_\_\_\_

T/B: \_\_\_\_\_

Tempo markings: *poco rit.*, *a tempo*, *mp*

Lyrics: Yet what I can Oo... Oo...

77

Solo 1: Yet what I can I give you: Give my heart. I give my heart...

Solo 2: give you: Give my heart. I give my heart... I give my

S/A: \_\_\_\_\_

T/B: \_\_\_\_\_

Tempo markings: *f*, *mp cresc.*

Lyrics: Mm... Mm...

81 *rit.* **Slower** *f*

Solo 1 I give my heart... I give my heart...

Solo 2 heart... I give my heart...

S/A *rit.* *mp* *cresc.* What I can I

T/B *rit.* *mp* *cresc.* What I can I

*rit.* **Slower**

84 *f* *p*

S give you: Give my heart.

A give you: Give my heart.

T give you: I give my heart.

B give you: I give my heart.

*f* *p*

*mp* *8va*

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87 *pp introspectively*

S/A I give my heart.

T/B I give my heart.

90

S/A

T/B

Composer Abbie Betinis writes music called "inventive, richly melodic" (The New York Times) and "superb... whirling, soaring" (Tacoma News Tribune). A two-time McKnight Artist Fellow, listed in NPR Music's "100 Composers Under Forty," and named by Musical America as "at the vanguard of young composers writing for chorus," she has written over 60 commissioned pieces and has been composer-in-residence with The Schubert Club, The Rose Ensemble and, for a decade, The Singers—Minnesota Choral Artists.

Abbie studied composition at St. Olaf College, the University of Minnesota, and through the European American Musical Alliance, where she spent two summers in Paris, France studying harmony and counterpoint in the tradition of Nadia Boulanger. Her music is primarily published through her own Abbie Betinis Music Co., with additional scores available through Graphite Publishing, Hal Leonard, Kjos, Santa Barbara Music, and in G. Schirmer's *Dale Warland Series*.

Abbie's not the only composer in her family. Renowned Christmas carol composer Alfred Burt was her great uncle, and Abbie continues the Burt family carol tradition by writing an original carol each year and sending it as a Christmas card to friends and family.

She lives in Minnesota, where she is adjunct professor of composition at Concordia University-St Paul.

