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The Night Before Christmas

A Spoken Song or Recitation

By HANNA VAN VOLLENHOVEN



Price, 75 cents

THE BOSTON MUSIC CO., BOSTON, MASS.



The Night Before Christmas

(A Visit from St. Nicholas)

By CLEMENT C. MOORE

'Twas the night before Christmas, when 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 soon would be there;

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;
And mamma in her kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,

With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;

"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen!
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on Donner and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a pedler just opening his pack.

His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a little round belly,
That shook when he laughed, like a bowlful of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night."



The Night Before Christmas

"A Visit from St. Nicholas" by
Clement C. Moore

A spoken song by
Hanna Van Vollenhoven

Moderato (♩ = 96)

Piano

p *poco rall.* *a tempo*

Andantino (♩ = 96)

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house Not a creature was

p

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stirring, not even a mouse;

The



musical notation for the first system, featuring piano (*p*) and pianissimo (*pp*) dynamics.

stockings were hung by the chimney with care, In hopes that St.

musical notation for the second system, featuring piano (*p*) and piano (*p*) dynamics.

Nicholas soon would be there; The children were nestled all snug in their beds, While

musical notation for the third system, featuring piano (*p*) and piano (*p*) dynamics.

visions of sugar-plums danced *p* in their heads; And Mamma in her

musical notation for the fourth system, featuring piano (*p*) and piano (*p*) dynamics, and a section marked *dim.* (diminuendo).

the old family clock strikes

kerchief, and I in my cap Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap;

musical notation for the fifth system, featuring piano (*p*) and piano (*p*) dynamics, and a section marked *dim.* (diminuendo).

Vivace
leggiero

When out on the lawn there

mp

arose such a clatter, I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter; Away to the window I

flew like a flash, Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

Andantino The

mf

p dolce espressivo

moon on the breast of the new fallen snow

Gave the lustre of mid-day to

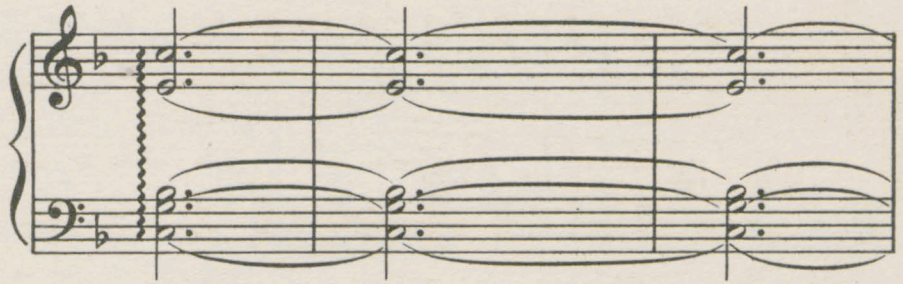
objects

below,

When, what to my wondering eyes should appear



But a minature sleigh and eight tiny



reindeer With a little old driver, so



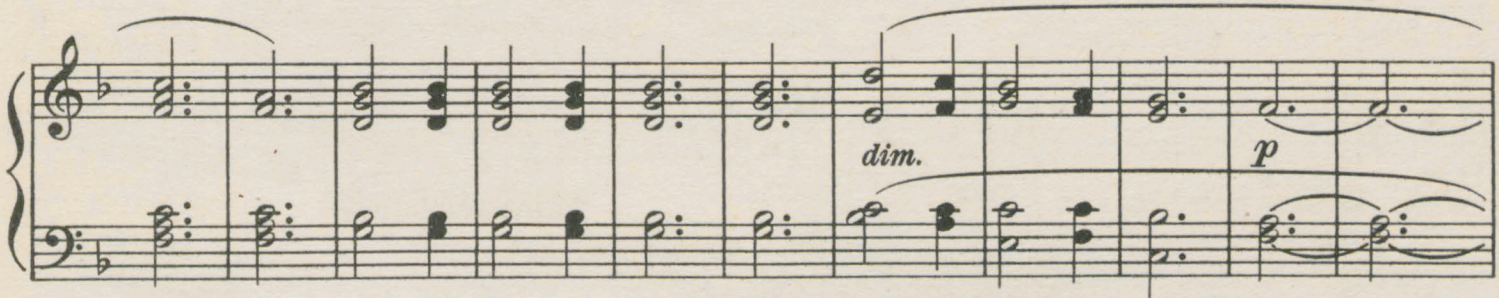
Vivace

lively and quick, I knew in a moment

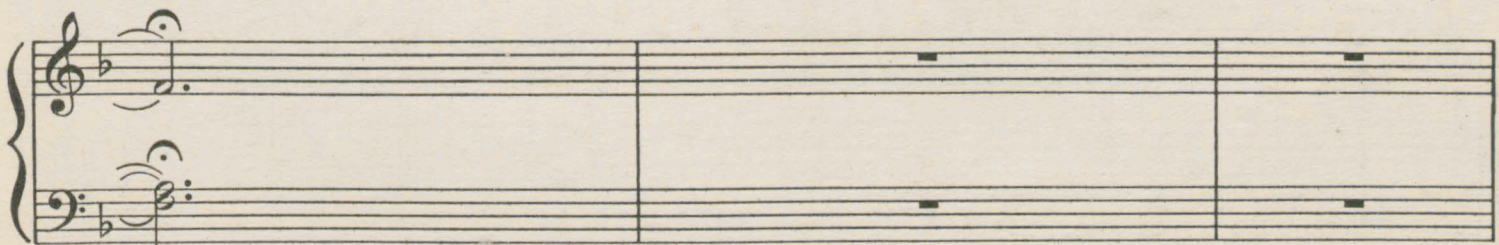


it must be St. Nick.

More rapid than



eagles his course they came, And he whistled and shouted and called them by



name. "Now, Dasher!

now, Dancer!

now, Prancer

Musical notation for the first system, featuring piano (p) and dynamic markings.

and

Vixen!

On,

Comet!

on,

Musical notation for the second system, featuring a triplet (3) and piano (p) marking.

Cupid!

On, Donner and Blitzen! To the top of the

Musical notation for the third system, featuring various chords and melodic lines.

porch, to the top of the wall! Now dash away, dash away, dash away,
glissando

Musical notation for the fourth system, featuring sfz, glissando, and una corda markings.

all!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly, When they meet with an
 obstacle, mount to the sky, So, up to the house-top the coursers they flew, With the

Musical notation for the fifth system, featuring various chords and melodic lines.

Vivace

sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas, too. And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof the



pranking and pawing of each little hoof. As I drew in my head and was turning around, Down the



chimney St. Nicholas came with a



bound!

He was



Allegretto

dressed all in fur from his head to his foot, And his
eyes how they twinkled, his dimples, how merry! His

* *p*

clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot; A
cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry! His

bundle of toys he had flung on his back, And he
droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow, And the

looked like a peddler just opening his 1. pack. His 2.
beard of his chin was as white as the snow. The

* This melody may be sung.

stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, And the



smoke it en - circled his head like a wreath.



He had a round face and a little round belly, That



shook when he laughed like a bowl full of jelly. He was



chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf, And I



laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself; A



wink of his eye and a twist of his head, Soon gave me to



know I had nothing to dread. He spoke not a



Presto

word but went straight to his work, And filled the stockings,



then turned with a jerk, And laying his fingers aside of his



nose, And giving a nod up the chimney he rose,



Vivace

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a



whistle, And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.



But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,

"Happy



Christmas to all, and to all a good - night."

*If desired, these six measures may be omitted from % to %*

all a good - night?"



