

Good King Wenceslas

Christmas carol

Lyrics by John Mason Neale, 1853

The musical score is written for four voices: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). It is in the key of B-flat major (three flats) and 4/4 time. The score is divided into four systems, each with a measure number (5, 9, 13) at the beginning. The lyrics are written below the vocal staves. The music features a simple, homophonic setting with block chords and single notes.

S
A
T
B

Good King Wen - ces - las looked out on the feast of Ste - phen,

5
when the snow lay round a - bout deep and crisp and e - ven,

9
Bright - ly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cru - el,

13
when a poor man came in sight gath' - ring win - ter fu - el.

2
King:
"Hither, page, and stand by me,
if thou know'st it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?"

Page:
"Sire, he lives a good league hence,
underneath the mountain;
Right against the forest fence,
by Saint Agnes' fountain."

3
King:
"Bring me flesh, and bring me wine,
bring me pine logs hither:
Thou and I shall see him dine,
when we bear them thither."

Choir:
Page and monarch, forth they went,
forth they went together;
Through the rude wind's wild lament
and the bitter weather.

4
Page:
"Sire, the night is darker now,
and the wind blows stronger;
Fails my heart, I know not how;
I can go no longer."

King:
"Mark my footsteps, good my page.
Tread thou in them boldly
Thou shalt find the winter's rage
freeze thy blood less coldly."

5
Choir:
In his master's steps he trod,
where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod
which the saint had printed.

Together:
Therefore, Christian men, be sure,
wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor,
shall yourselves find blessing.