No. 7441 | Healey | Before the paling of the stars | SATB (divisi) & Piano (ad lib.)

DEREK HEALEY Two Christina Rossetti Carols

for SATB Chorus (divisi) and Piano (ad lib.)

\rightarrow 1. Before the paling of the stars	No. 7441
2. Christmas hath a darkness	No. 7442

ECSPUBLISHING COMMITTED TO THE GOMPOSER'S CRAFT

Before the Paling of the Stars

Before the paling of the stars Before the winter morn Before the earliest cockcrow Jesus Christ was born: Born in a stable Cradled in a manger, In the world His Hands had made Born a Stranger.

Priest and King lay fast asleep In Jerusalem, Young and Old lay fast asleep In crowded Bethlehem: Saint and Angel Ox and Ass Kept a watch together Before the Christmas daybreak In the winter weather.

Jesus on His Mother's breast In the stable cold, Spotless Lamb of God was He Shepherd of the Fold: Let us kneel with Mary Maid With Joseph bent and hoary With Saint and Angel Ox and Ass To hail the King of Glory.

-Christina Rossetti (1830–1894)

Catalog No. 7441

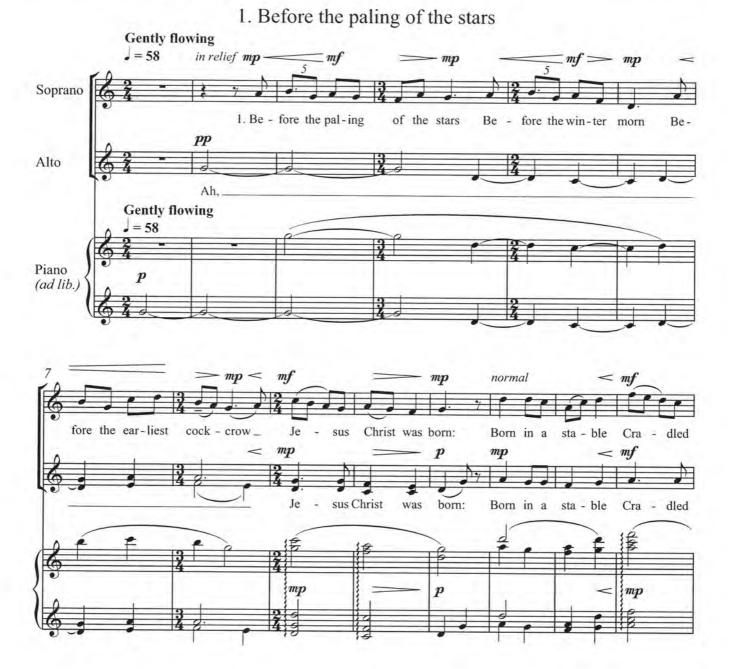
To Donald Kendrick

Two Christina Rossetti Carols

for SATB Chorus (divisi) and Piano (ad lib.)

A Christmas Carol

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)



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Derek Healey







Composer's Notes

The original ideas for these two carols first came to me during Christmas of 2005 while visiting Oxford, Mississippi. However, they were not completed until the early Spring of 2009 in Brooklyn, New York. Like many other composers, I am often drawn to Christina Rossetti's fresh and imaginative religious and secular poetry.

Before the paling of the stars is gentle and penitential, similar to plainsong, whereas *Christmas hath a darkness* is by contrast both strong and joyful. In both carols, the melody often moves to an inner voice and the words "in relief" appear. The singers should make this voice louder than the surrounding parts. Perfomers should not exaggerate the *crescendi* and *diminuendi* in the first carol except those at the work's close.

In *Christmas hath a darkness*, singers should perform the verse which begins "Earth strike up your music" with conviction, while the piano part (particularly the right hand) should be strong and evocative of clanging bells. The gradual relaxation of tension in the final two pages should be carefully controlled. Both pieces may be performed unaccompanied, the piano parts being *ad lib*. However, in the second carol, the fast scales are important. All ascending scales should be brilliant and descending, harp-like. I composed these two carols with college choruses in mind, but they are also suitable for liturgical use.

-Derek Healey

Derek Healey (b. 1936)

For biographical information about the composer, please visit his Web site. <www.derekhealey.com>

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1. Before the paling of the starsNo. 7441→ 2. Christmas hath a darknessNo. 7442

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Catalog No. 7442 To Donald Kendrick

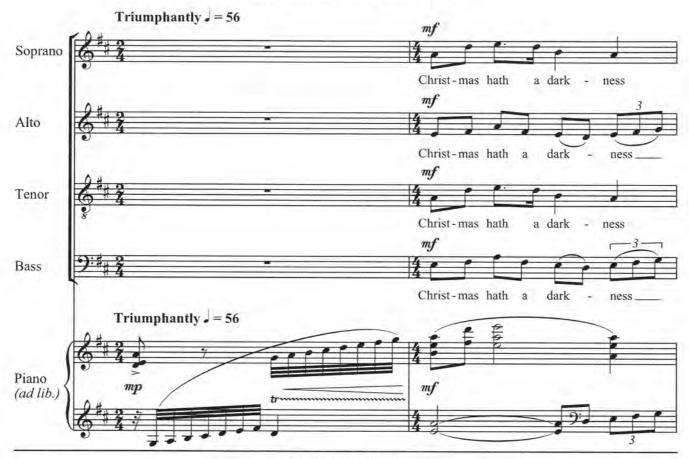
Two Christina Rossetti Carols

for SATB Chorus (divisi) and Piano (ad lib.)

Christmas Eve

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

2. Christmas hath a darkness



Composer's Notes

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Before the paling of the stars is gentle and penitential, similar to plainsong, whereas *Christmas hath a darkness* is by contrast both strong and joyful. In both carols, the melody often moves to an inner voice and the words "in relief" appear. The singers should make this voice louder than the surrounding parts. Perfomers should not exaggerate the *crescendi* and *diminuendi* in the first carol except those at the work's close.

In Christmas hath a darkness, singers should perform the verse which begins "Earth strike up your music" with conviction, while the piano part (particularly the right hand) should be strong and evocative of clanging bells. The gradual relaxation of tension in the final two pages should be carefully controlled.

Both pieces may be performed unaccompanied, the piano parts being *ad lib*. However, in the second carol, the fast scales are important. All ascending scales should be brilliant and descending, harp-like. I composed these two carols with college choruses in mind, but they are also suitable for liturgical use.

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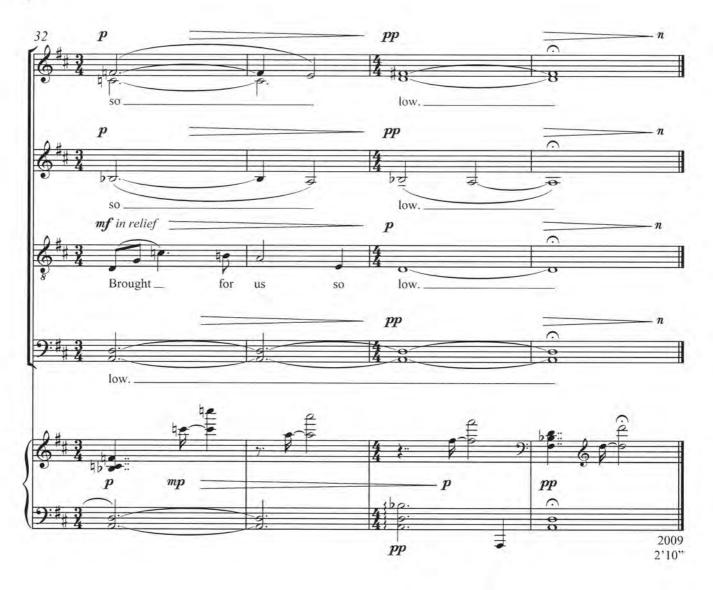












Christmas Eve

Christmas hath a darkness Brighter than the blazing noon, Christmas hath a chillness Warmer than the heat of June, Christmas hath a beauty Lovelier than the world can show: For Christmas bringeth Jesus, Brought for us so low. Earth, strike up your music, Birds that sing and bells that ring;

Heaven hath answering music For all Angels soon to sing: Earth, put on your whitest Bridal robe of spotless snow: For Christmas bringeth Jesus, Brought for us so low.

-Christina Rossetti (1830–1894)

Derek Healey (b. 1936)

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