

James Lavino

Before the paling of the stars
for SATB a cappella

Dixon & Hughes Music Publishers
— www.jameslavino.com —

*Commissioned by Dean Close School for Christmas 2009.
First performed by Tewkesbury Abbey Schola Cantorum,
conducted by Benjamin Nicholas,
on 13 December 2009.*

A Christmas Carol

Before the paling of the stars,
Before the winter morn,
Before the earliest cock crow,
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 Rosetti (1830-1894)

Duration: c. 2'45"

Before the paling of the stars

Christina Rosetti (1830-1894)

James Lavino (b.1973)

Lento misterioso, sempre rubato ♩ = 44

mp

Soprano
Be - fore the pal - ing of the stars, Be - fore the win - ter morn, Be - fore the earl - iest cock - crow,

p

Alto
ah, ah,

p

Tenor
ah, ah,

Bass

Lento misterioso, sempre rubato ♩ = 44

mp

Piano
(for rehearsal only)

4

mp

Je - sus Christ was born: Born in a sta - ble, Cra - dled in a man - ger,

mp

Je - sus Christ was born: Born in a sta - ble, Cra - dled in a man - ger,

mp

Born in a sta - ble, Cra - dled in a man - ger,

p

ah, *mp* Born in a sta - ble, Cra - dled in a man - ger,

mp

7

In the world his hands had made Born a stran - ger. ah,

In the world his hands had made Born a stran - ger. ah,

In the world his hands had made Born a stran - ger. ah,

In the world his hands had made Born a stran - ger. ah,

11

p ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah,

p ah, ah, ah, ah, Young and old lay fast a - sleep In

mf Priest and king lay fast a - sleep In Je - ru - sa - lem; *p* ah, ah,

p *mf* *p*

14

mp **poco rall** **a tempo**

ah. _____ Saint and an - gel, ox and ass, Kept a watch to - geth - er Be -

crowd - ed Beth - le - hem; Saint and an - gel, ox and ass, Kept a watch to - geth - er Be -

ah, _____ Saint and an - gel Kept a watch to - geth - er Be -

p *mp*

ah, _____ Saint and an - gel Kept a watch to - geth - er Be -

poco rall **a tempo**

mp

17

fore the Christ - mas day - break, In the win - ter weath - er.

fore the day - break, In the win - ter weath - er.

fore the day - break, In the win - ter weath - er.

fore the day - - - break, In the weath - - - er.

20

p dolce

Je - sus on his moth-er's breast In the sta - ble cold, Spot-less lamb of God was he,

p dolce

Je - sus in the sta - ble cold, Spot-less lamb of God was he,

p dolce

Je - sus in the sta - ble cold, Spot - less shep - herd

p dolce

Je - sus in the sta - ble cold, Spot - less shep - herd

p dolce

23

mp

Shep - herd of the fold: Let us kneel with Mar - y maid, With

mp

Shep - herd of the fold: Let us kneel with Mar - y maid, With

mp

of the fold: Let us kneel with Mar - y maid, With

mp

of the fold: Let us kneel with Mar - y maid, With

mp

25

poco rall

a tempo

Jo - seph bent and hoar - y, With saint and an - gel, ox and ass, To

Jo - seph bent and hoar - y, With saint and an - gel, ox and ass, To

Jo - seph bent and hoar - y, With saint and an - gel, ox and ass, To

Jo - seph bent and hoar - y, With saint and an - gel, ox and ass, To

poco rall **a tempo**

27

rall

hail the King of Glo - - - ry.

hail the King of Glo - - - ry.

hail the King of Glo - - - ry.

hail the King of Glo - - - ry.

rall