

Good King Wenceslas

English Carol

Text: John Mason Neale, 1853

Melody: Finnish song collection Piae Cantiones 1582

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

The first system of musical notation for the carol. It consists of a grand staff with a treble clef and a bass clef, both with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Good King Wen - ces - las looked out on the feast of Ste - phan,"

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

The second system of musical notation, starting at measure 5. The melody and accompaniment continue. The lyrics are: "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,

The third system of musical notation, starting at measure 9. The melody and accompaniment continue. The lyrics are: "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.

The fourth system of musical notation, starting at measure 13. The melody and accompaniment continue. The lyrics are: "when a poor man came in sight, gath' - ring win - ter fu - el."

18

The fifth system of musical notation, starting at measure 18. This system contains only the piano accompaniment in the bass clef, with no lyrics. The melody from the previous system continues in the treble clef.

26

Musical score for measures 26-34. The piece is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand provides a steady accompaniment of eighth notes.

35

Musical score for measures 35-42. The right hand continues with a melodic line, and the left hand features a pattern of chords and eighth notes. The final measure of this system includes a fermata over the right hand and a circled fermata over the left hand.

ad lib.

43

Musical score for measures 43-51. The right hand has a melodic line, and the left hand consists of chords and eighth notes. The system concludes with a double bar line.

52

Musical score for measures 52-57. The right hand begins with a piano (*p.*) dynamic marking and features a melodic line. The left hand provides accompaniment with eighth notes and chords.

58

Musical score for measures 58-64. The right hand continues with a melodic line, and the left hand features a bass line with eighth notes and chords.

64

69

75

81

“Hither, page, and stand by me, if thou know’st it, telling,
 Yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?”
 “Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain,
 Right against the forest fence, by Saint Agnes’ fountain.”

“Bring me flesh and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither,
 Thou and I will see him dine, when we bear them thither.”
 Page and monarch, forth they went, forth they went together,
 Through the rude wind’s wild lament and the bitter weather.

“Sire, the night is darker now, and the wind blows stronger,
Fails my heart, I know not how; I can go no longer.”
“Mark my footsteps, good my page, tread thou in them boldly.
Thou shalt find the winter’s rage freeze thy blood less coldly.”

In his master’s steps he trod, where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure, wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing.