

The Carol of the Wandering Boy

Words: Cath Carmichael

for the Henbury Singers

Music: Oliver Barton

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment and three vocal parts. It begins with a tempo marking of 'Slow and smooth' and a quarter note equal to 90 (♩ = 90). The piano part features a complex, flowing melody in the right hand and a more rhythmic accompaniment in the left hand. The score is divided into several systems, each with dynamic markings such as *f*, *pp*, *f*, *mp*, *fast*, *ff*, and *p*. The tempo markings include 'start slow and accel. a tempo' and 'fast'. The vocal parts enter at measure 12 with the lyrics: 'Knock - ing on my door in cold De - cem - ber Comes a lit - tle'. The score concludes with a final piano flourish.

This was originally written to be sung unaccompanied, and that is one way to perform it—omit any bars in which the organ plays alone. But this was found to be very tiring for the singers if they were to give it the necessary control and intensity, so an organ part was added to give them a little respite. The result is a rather different piece, with the organ adding a new dimension.

Breaths should only be audible where there are punctuation marks in the text. The rest of the time singers will have to cheat.

* Hold notes on and then release them from the top down as the line slopes, at the same time intervals as when they were sounded, so that only the last note sounds when the line ends.

©1998 MusicOlib

You may copy this score for performance and archival purposes only.

If you want to reproduce it in journals, books, websites or other publications, please obtain written consent from MusicOlib .

If you perform it, please let me know!

oliver.barton@virgin.net

18

boy, Knock - ing on my door in coldDecember Comes a lit - tle

boy, Knock - ing on my door in coldDecember Comes a lit - tle

boy, Knock - ing on my door in coldDecember Comes a lit - tle

pp

A boy, a boy, a boy, a boy, a boy, a boy,

25

boy. *sempre pp* Ah...

boy. He is ve - ry small and looks so hun - gry,

boy. He is ve - ry small and looks so hun - gry.

a boy, He is ve - ry small and looks so hun - gry,

floating pp

30

How can I en - joy All the things that

How can I en - joy All the things that

How can I en - joy All the things that

mp

35 *mp* bes - towed up - on me. *mf* All the things that
 life's bes - towed on me. *mf* How can I en - joy the things that
 8 life's bes - towed up - on me While that child's a - lone?
 life's bes - towed up - on me While that child's a - lone?

41 *f* life's bes - towed up - on me While that child's a - lone? *ff* I must
 life's bes - towed up - on me While that child's a - lone, that child's a - lone? *ff* I must
 8 bes - towed up - on me While that child's a - lone? *f* I must
 on me, While that child's a - lone? *ff* I must

†use the words above the stave

47 *sempre ff*

take him to my heart and give that Lit - tle boy a home.

take him to my heart and give that Lit - tle boy a home,

8 take him to my heart and give that Lit - tle boy a home,

take him to my heart and give that Lit - tle boy a home,

47 *sempre ff*

53

Ah

sub. mp

I must take him to my heart and give that Lit - tle

sub. mp

8 I must take him to my heart and give that Lit - tle

sub. mp

I must take him to my heart and give that Lit - tle

53 *sub. mp*

58

boy a home.

boy a home.

boy a home.

58 *p* *pp* *very slow*

64

a tempo *f* *mp start slow and accel.*

67

f fast *pp a tempo*

70

pp Knock - ing on my door in cold December Comes a lit - tle boy.

pp Knock - ing on my door in cold December Comes a lit - tle boy.

pp Knock - ing on my door in cold December Comes a lit - tle boy.

pp A boy, a boy, a boy, a boy, a boy, a boy, a boy.

70 *pp*

77 * *very slow*
mf *pp* *start slow and accel.*

81 *p*
 looks so hun -
 He is ve - ry small and hun -
 He is ve - ry small and looks so hun - gry,
 He is ve - ry small, so ve - ry small, and looks so hun - gry,
mp a tempo *p*

86 *mp*
 gry, He is ve - ry small and
 gry, His is ve - ry small, so ve - ry small and looks so
mp
 How can I en - joy
mp
 How can I en - joy, can I en - joy
pp

81

looks so hun-gry, How can I en - joy All the things that

hun - gry, How can I en - joy All the things that

8 looks so hun-gry, How can I en - joy All the things that

hun - gry How can I en - joy All the things that

81

87

life's bes - towed up - on me While that child's a - lone? _____

life's bes - towed up - on me While that child's a - lone? _____

8 life's bes - towed up - on me While that child's a - lone? _____

life's bes - towed up - on me While that child's a - lone, a -

87

ff *molto dim.*

ff *molto dim.*

ff *molto dim.*

ff *molto dim.*

ff *molto dim.*

102 *mf* *dim. sempre al fine* *mp* *p*

I must take him to my heart and give that Lit - tle

mf *dim. sempre al fine* *mp* *p*

I must take him to my heart and give that Lit - tle

mf *dim. sempre al fine* *mp* *p*

8 I must take him to my heart and give that Lit - tle

mf *dim. sempre al fine* *mp* *p*

lone, a - lone, a - lone, a - lone, a - lone, a - lone, a -

102 *mf* *dim. sempre al fine* *mp* *p*

Sopranos: Drop out if this is too low for you

108 *pp* *ppp*

boy, that lit - tle boy a home.

pp *ppp*

boy, that lit - tle boy a home.

pp *ppp*

8 boy, that lit - tle boy a home.

pp *ppp*

lone, a - lone, a - lone, a - lone, a home.

108 *pp* *ppp*

Maytree, 1999