

for Janeal Krehbiel

Before the Paling of the Stars

Christina Rossetti

Tom Shelton

Violin $\text{♩} = 96$ *mf*

Treble

Piano $\text{♩} = 96$ *mf* *mp* *simile*

mf 6

Be-fore the pal - ing of the stars, Be-fore the win - ter

morn, Be-fore the ear - li - est cock - crow, Je - sus Christ_ was _

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14

born: Born in a sta - ble, Cra - dled in a

slight rit. A tempo 18

man - ger, In the world His hands had made.

A tempo slight rit.

22

Born a Stran - ger.

mp

26

mf

First system of the musical score. It consists of three staves: a vocal line (soprano) and a piano accompaniment (grand staff). The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The vocal line begins with a half note B-flat, followed by quarter notes G, F, and E. The piano accompaniment features a rapid sixteenth-note arpeggiated pattern in the right hand and a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand.

Second system of the musical score. The vocal line continues with a half note D, followed by quarter notes C, B, and A. The piano accompaniment maintains the arpeggiated pattern in the right hand and the eighth-note bass line in the left hand.

Third system of the musical score. The vocal line has a half note G, followed by a half note F, and then a half note E. The piano accompaniment continues with the arpeggiated pattern. The system concludes with a measure containing a whole rest in the vocal line and a half note G in the piano accompaniment, marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic.

Fourth system of the musical score, starting at measure 39. The vocal line begins with a half note G, followed by quarter notes F, E, and D. The piano accompaniment continues with the arpeggiated pattern. The system concludes with a measure containing a whole rest in the vocal line and a half note G in the piano accompaniment, marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic.

King lay fast a - sleep In Je - ru - sa - lem, Young and

Old lay fast a - sleep In crowd - ed Beth-le - hem:

47 Saint and An-gel Ox and Ass Kept a watch to - geth - er Be -

slight rit.

51 **A tempo** fore the Christ-mas day - break In the win - ter weath - er.

57 *mp* *mf*