

White Fields

For SATB Voices and Piano

Poem by
James Stephens

Music by
Bruce Trinkley

White Fields

I

*In the winter time we go
Walking in the fields of snow;*

*Where there is no grass at all,
Where the top of every wall,*

*Every fence and every tree
Is as white as white can be.*

II

*Pointing out the way we came,
-Every one of them the same-*

*All across the fields there be
Prints in silver filigree;*

*And our mothers always know,
By our footprints in the snow*

Where it is the children go.

James Stephens (1880-1950), Irish poet, novelist and political activist, was an ardent Irish Republican and wrote and spoke Gaelic. He became famous for his versions of Irish folktales and legends. He lived in Paris, London and Dublin, and in the 1930s was a friend of James Joyce. Between 1925 and 1935 he went almost annually to the United States, giving lectures and staying frequently with his friend, W. T. H. Howe, President of the American Book Company, who had a home in Freeland, Kentucky. To musicians, Stephens is today probably best-known as the author of the texts to Samuel Barber's *Reincarnations*. "White Fields" first appeared in *Poetry Review* in June 1912.

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James Stephens (1880-1950)

Bruce Trinkley

Andante cantabile $\text{♩} = 58$ *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

Soprano

In the win - ter time we go walk - ing

Alto

Du du du du du du du du

Tenor

Du du du du du du du du

Bass

Du du du du du du du du

Piano

mp *cresc. poco a poco*

5 in the fields of snow; Where there is no grass at all, where the top of

mf *p* *mp* *pp*

du du Oo

du Oo

du du du Du du du du du

5

10 *mp* ev-'ry wall,___ Ev'-ry fence___ and ev-'ry tree is as white as white can be.____

p Oo_____

p Oo_____

p du_____ Du du du Du du du du du du

10 *mp*

15 Ev' - ry fence___ and ev - 'ry tree is as white as white can be.

mp Oo_____ is as white as white can be.

mp Oo_____ is as white as white can be. In the

mp Du du du Du du du du du In the

15 *p*

19 *p cresc. poco a poco*

Oh

p cresc. poco a poco

Oh

cresc. poco a poco

win - ter time we go walk-ing in the fields of

cresc. poco a poco

win - ter time we go walk-ing in the fields of

19 *cresc. poco a poco*

22 *mp dim.*

Ah

mp dim.

Ah

mf

snow; Where there is no grass at all, where the top of

mf

snow; Where there is no grass at all, where the top of

22 *mf*

p

26

p Ev' - ry fence and ev - 'ry tree is as

pp Oo is as

pp ev - 'ry wall, Oo is as

p ev - 'ry wall, Ev' - ry fence ev - 'ry tree

26

p

29

white as white can be. Ev' - ry fence and

pp white as white can be. Oo

pp white as white can be. Oo

white as white can be. Ev' - ry fence

29

32 *mf* Point-ing

ev - 'ry tree is as white as white can be.

mf Point-ing

is as white as white can be.

mf Point-ing

is as white as white can be.

mf Point-ing

ev - 'ry tree white as white can be.

32 *mf*

35 *with great warmth*

out the way we came, ev' - ry one of them the

with great warmth

out the way we came, ev' - ry one of them the

with great warmth

out the way we came, ev' - ry one of them the

with great warmth

out the way we came, ev' - ry one of them the

35 *with great warmth*

38 *mf* *f*

same. _____ All a - cross the fields there be _____

same. _____ All a - cross the fields there be _____

same. _____ All a - cross the fields there be

same. _____ All a - cross the fields there be

41 *p cresc. poco a poco*

prints in sil - ver fil - i - gree; _____ And our moth - ers al - ways know,

prints in sil - ver fil - i - gree; _____ And our moth - ers al - ways know,

prints in sil - ver fil - i - gree; _____ And our moth - ers al - ways know,

prints in sil - ver fil - i - gree; _____ And our moth - ers al - ways know,

Poco meno mosso ♩ = 48

mf allarg. mp

by our foot - prints in the snow where it is the chil - dren go.

mf mp

by our foot - prints in the snow where it is the chil - dren go.

mf mp

by our foot - prints in the snow where it is the chil - dren go.

mf

by our foot - prints in the snow

mf allarg. mp

where it is the chil - dren go.

p

where it is the chil - dren go.

p

where it is the chil - dren go.

p

where it is the chil - dren go.

p

pp