

Christmas in Kentucky

for SATB Chorus with optional Oboe

Poem by James Stephens (1880-1950)

Music by Bruce Trinkley

James Stephens, 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. Stephens wrote "Christmas in Freeland" either at the home of his friend or in memory of his frequent visits to Freeland. To musicians, Stephens is today probably best-known as the author of the texts to Samuel Barber's *Reincarnations*.

The composer has altered the title to a better known locale, "Christmas in Kentucky".

CHRISTMAS IN FREELANDS

The Red-Bud, the Kentucky Tree,
Bloomed the spring to life for me
In Freeland; and the Mocking Bird,
— Nimble chorister of glee,
Sweet as poet ever heard
In a world of ecstasy—
Sang the summer, and the sun;
Sang the summer in to me.

The spring is gone! The summer gone!
The Cardinal has gone away!
The fire-flies, dancing on the lawn,
— Each a little moon at play—
Are gone, with summer, gone away!
And, where green acres were aglow,
Daisy munches in the snow!

A snowy field! A stable piled
With straw! A donkey's sleepy pow!
A mother beaming on a child!
A manger, and a munching cow!
— These we all remember now—
And airy voices, heard afar!
And three Magicians, and a Star!

Two thousand times of snow declare
That on the Christmas of the year
There is a singing in the air;
And all who listen for it hear
A fairy chime, a seraph strain,
Telling He is born again,
—That all we love is born again.

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For SATB Chorus with optional Oboe

Poem by James Stephens (1880-1950)

from *Collected Poems* (1926)

Bruce Trinkley

Robustly $\text{♩} = 108$

Soprano *f* The Red-Bud, the Ken - tuck - y Tree, Bloomed the spring to life for me In

Alto *f* The Red-Bud, the Ken - tuck - y Tree, Bloomed the spring to life for me In

Tenor *f* The Red-Bud, the Ken - tuck - y Tree, Bloomed the spring to life for me In

Bass *f* The Red-Bud, the Ken - tuck - y Tree, Bloomed the spring to life for me In

Piano (for rehearsal only) *f* *mp*

S. *mp* *mf* Free - lands; and the Mock - ing Bird, Nim - ble chor - ist - er of glee, $\frac{3}{4}$

A. *mp* *mf* Free - lands; and the Mock - ing Bird, Nim - ble chor - ist - er of glee, $\frac{3}{4}$

T. *mp* *mf* Free - lands; and the Mock - ing Bird, Nim - ble chor - ist - er of glee, $\frac{3}{4}$

B. *mp* *mf* Free - lands; and the Mock - ing Bird, Nim - ble chor - ist - er of glee, $\frac{3}{4}$

Piano *mf*

Andante, poco espressivo ♩ = 100

9 *mp*

S. Sweet as po - et ev - er heard _____ In a

A. *mp* Sweet as po - et ev - er heard _____ In a

T. *mp* Sweet as po - et ev - er heard _____ In a

B. *mp* Sweet as po - et ev - er heard _____ In a

14

S. world of ec - sta - sy, Sang the sum - mer, _____

A. world of ec - sta - sy, Sang the sum - mer, _____

T. world of ec - sta - sy, Sang the sum - mer, _____

B. world of ec - sta - sy, Sang the sum - mer, _____

19

S. — and the sun; Sang the sum - mer in to me. The *f*

A. — and the sun; Sang the sum - mer in to me. The *f*

T. 8 — and the sun; Sang the sum - mer in to me. The *f*

B. — and the sun; Sang the sum - mer in to me. The *f*

25 **Robustly**

S. spring is gone! The sum - mer gone! The Car - di - nal has gone a - way! — The

A. spring is gone! The sum - mer gone! The Car - di - nal has gone a - way! — The

T. 8 spring is gone! The sum - mer gone! The Car - di - nal has gone a - way! — The

B. spring is gone! The sum - mer gone! The Car - di - nal has gone a - way! — The

29 *mp*

S. fire - flies, danc - ing on the lawn, Each a lit - tle moon at play, ____ Are

A. fire - flies, danc - ing on the lawn, Each a lit - tle moon at play, ____ Are

T. fire - flies, danc - ing on the lawn, Each a lit - tle moon at play, ____ Are

B. fire - flies, danc - ing on the lawn, Each a lit - tle moon at play, ____ Are

29 *mp*

33 **Andante, poco espressivo**

S. gone, with sum - mer, gone a - way! And, where green a - cres

A. gone, with sum - mer, gone a - way! And, where green a - cres

T. gone, with sum - mer, gone a - way! And, where green a - cres

B. gone, with sum - mer, gone a - way! And, where green a - cres

33

39

S. *p* were a - glow, Dai - sy munch - es in the snow! *f* A

A. *p* were a - glow, Dai - sy munch - es in the snow! *f* A

T. *p* were a - glow, Dai - sy munch - es in the snow! *f* A

B. *p* were a - glow, Dai - sy munch - es in the snow! *f* A

45 **Robustly**

S. *p* snow - y field! A sta - ble piled With straw! A don - key's sleep - y pow!____ A

A. *p* snow - y field! A sta - ble piled With straw! A don - key's sleep - y pow!____ A

T. *p* snow - y field! A sta - ble piled With straw! A don - key's sleep - y pow!____ A

B. *p* snow - y field! A sta - ble piled With straw! A don - key's sleep - y pow!____ A

49 *cresc.* *mf*

S. moth - er beam - ing on a child! A man-ger, and a munch - ing cow!

A. *cresc.* *mf*

A. moth - er beam - ing on a child! A man-ger, and a munch - ing cow!

T. *cresc.* *mf*

T. 8 moth - er beam - ing on a child! A man-ger, and a munch - ing cow!

B. *cresc.* *mf*

B. moth - er beam - ing on a child! A man-ger, and a munch - ing cow!

49

Andante, poco espressivo

53 *mp*

S. These we all re - mem - ber now, And air - y voic - es,

A. *mp*

A. These we all re - mem - ber now, And air - y voic - es,

T. *mp*

T. 8 These we all re - mem - ber now, And air - y voic - es,

B. *mp*

B. These we all re - mem - ber now, And air - y voic - es,

53 *mp*

59

S. heard a - far! And three Ma - gi - cians, ____ and a Star! Two *f*

A. heard a - far! And three Ma - gi - cians, ____ and a Star! Two *f*

T. heard a - far! And three Ma - gi - cians, ____ and a Star! Two *f*

B. heard a - far! And three Ma - gi - cians, ____ and a Star! Two *f*

59

65 **Risoluto, gioioso** ♩ = 96

S. thou - sand times of snow de - clare That on the Christ - mas of the year ____ There

A. thou - sand times of snow de - clare That on the Christ - mas of the year ____ There

T. thou - sand times of snow de - clare That on the Christ - mas of the year ____ There

B. thou - sand times of snow de - clare That on the Christ - mas of the year ____ There

65

69 *molto allarg.* *dim.* *p*

S. is a sing - ing in the air; And all who lis - ten for it hear ____ A

A. *dim.* *p*

A. is a sing - ing in the air; And all who lis - ten for it hear ____ A

T. *dim.* *p*

T. is a sing - ing in the air; And all who lis - ten for it hear ____ A

B. *dim.* *p*

B. is a sing - ing in the air; And all who lis - ten for it hear ____ A

69 *molto allarg.* *dim.* *p*

Andante, poco espressivo

73 *cresc. poco a poco* *f*

S. fair - y chime, a ser - aph strain, ____ Tell - ing He is

A. *cresc. poco a poco* *f*

A. fair - y chime, a ser - aph strain, ____ Tell - ing He is

T. *cresc. poco a poco* *f*

T. fair - y chime, a ser - aph strain, ____ Tell - ing He is

B. *cresc. poco a poco* *f*

B. fair - y chime, a ser - aph strain, ____ Tell - ing He is

73 *cresc. poco a poco* *f*

79 *dim. poco a poco al fine*

S. born a - gain, That all we love is born a - gain._____

A. born a - gain, That all we love is born a - gain._____

T. born a - gain, That all we love is born a - gain._____

B. born a - gain, That all we love is born a - gain._____

dim. poco a poco al fine

85 *mp* *p*

S. All we love is born a - gain.

A. All we love is born a - gain.

T. All we love is born a - gain.

B. All we love is born a - gain. *opt. divisi*

mp *p*