

A CELTIC CHRISTMAS

Four Irish Carols for Mixed Chorus and Piano

BRUCE TRINKLEY

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ARRANGER'S NOTE

These Irish carols are drawn from three anthologies:

Songs of Ireland by J. L. Hatton and J. L. Molloy, published in 1880
Irish Minstrelsy, edited by H. Halliday Sparling, published in 1888
The Minstrelsy of Ireland, 206 Irish Songs, arranged for voice and piano
by Alfred Moffat, published in 1897

The arrangements were written during a residency at Dorland Mountain Arts Colony in Temecula, California, in July and August 1998.

GLOSSARY

1. John Keegan (c.1809-1849), Irish poet of peasant background, today best known for *Come Buy My Nice Fresh Ivy*
2. Francis Sylvester Mahoney (1805-1866), priest, wit and poet. Known as "Father Prout", he eventually left the priesthood to devote himself to literature. *The Bells of Shandon* was written while he was a student in Rome and homesick for the pealing of the bells of St. Anne's Church, north of the River Lee in Cork.
Cork, city in southwestern Ireland
River Lee, river of southwestern Ireland, flowing through Cork into the Irish Sea.
4. *wren-boys* (Note from F.W. Horncastle's *Music of Ireland*, 1844): "On the anniversary of St. Stephen's Day groups of young villagers carry about a holly bush adorned with ribbons and with several wrens depending from it. This is conveyed from house to house with much ceremony, the wren-boys chanting several verses. . . . Contributions are, of course, levied and the evening spent in merriment."
St. Stephen's Day, December 26, celebrating the first Christian martyr
furze, a spiny evergreen shrub, common throughout Europe

A Celtic Christmas Four Irish Carols for Mixed Chorus and Piano.

1. Come Buy My Nice Fresh Ivy Poem by **John Keegan** (c.1809-1849)

*Come, buy my nice fresh ivy, and my hollysprigs so green;
I have the finest branches that ever yet were seen.
Come, buy from me, good Christians, and let me home, I pray,
and I'll wish "Merry Christmastime" and a "Happy New Year's Day".*

*Ah, won't you buy my ivy? The loveliest ever seen!
Ah! won't you buy my holly? All you who love the green!
Do take a little branch of each, and on my knees I'll pray,
that God may bless your Christmas, and be with your New Year's Day.*

2. The Bells of Shandon Poem by **Francis Sylvester Mahoney** (1805-1866)

*With deep affection and recollection I often think of the Shandon Bells
whose sounds so wild would, in days of childhood, fling round my cradle their magic spells.
On this I ponder, where'er I wander, and thus grow fonder, sweet Cork, of thee;
with thy bells of Shandon, that sound so grand on the pleasant waters of the River Lee.*

*I've heard bells chiming full many a clime in, tolling sublime in cathedral shrine;
while at a glib rate brass tongues would vibrate, but all their music spoke not to thine;
for mem'ry dwelling on each proud swelling of thy belfry knelling its bold notes free,
made the Bells of Shandon sound far more grand on the pleasant waters of the River Lee.*

3. Forget Not the Angels Poem by **Walter Maynard** from **Songs of Ireland** (1880)

*Forget not that angels are hov'ring around,
and noiselessly passing unseen to and fro.
As softly as mem'ries our homes they surround,
while watch and ward keeping o'er all here below.*

*The fair smiles of beauty that gladden the earth;
the voices of children united in song.
When souls pure and holy receive renewed birth,
returning to heaven, to angels belong.*

4. The Wren-Boys' Song Irish Carol from **The Minstrelsy of Ireland** (1897)

*The wren, the wren, the king of all birds, Saint Stephen's Day was caught in a furze.
Although he is little, his family's great; I pray you, good landlady, give us a treat.*

*My box would speak if it had but a tongue, and two or three shillings would do it no wrong.
So show us some pity in order that we may drink you good health for your kind charity.*

*And if you draw it of the best, I hope in heaven your soul it may rest.
But if you draw it of the small, it won't agree with the wrenboys at all!*

*Sing hey! sing ho! Sing holly, sing holly! A drop just to drink, it would cure melancholy.
Sing hey! sing ho! Sing holly, sing holly! A drop just to drink, it would cure melancholy.*

1. Come Buy My Nice Fresh Ivy

John Keegan

For SATB Chorus, Solo Voice and Piano

Arr. Bruce Trinkley

from *The Minstrelsy of Ireland* (1897)

Andante ♩ = 88

Solo

Piano

p *cresc.* *mf* *dim.* *p*

Come, __

6 buy my __ nice fresh i - vy, and my hol - ly - sprigs so green; __ I __ have the __ fin-est

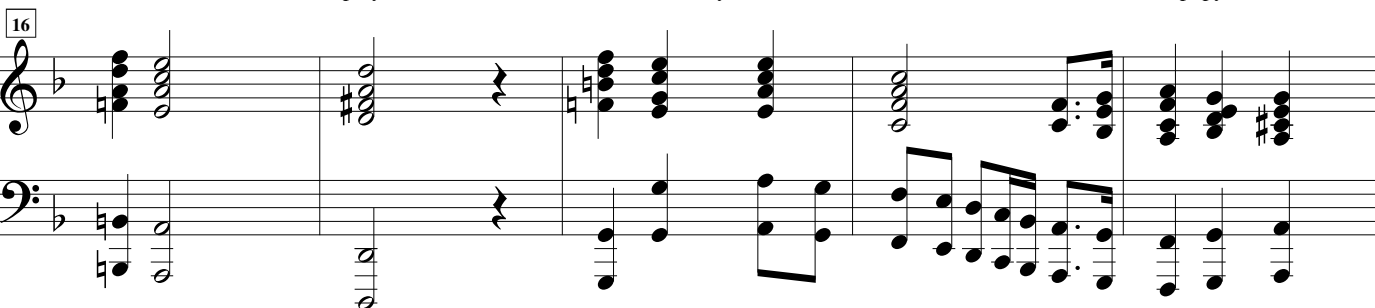
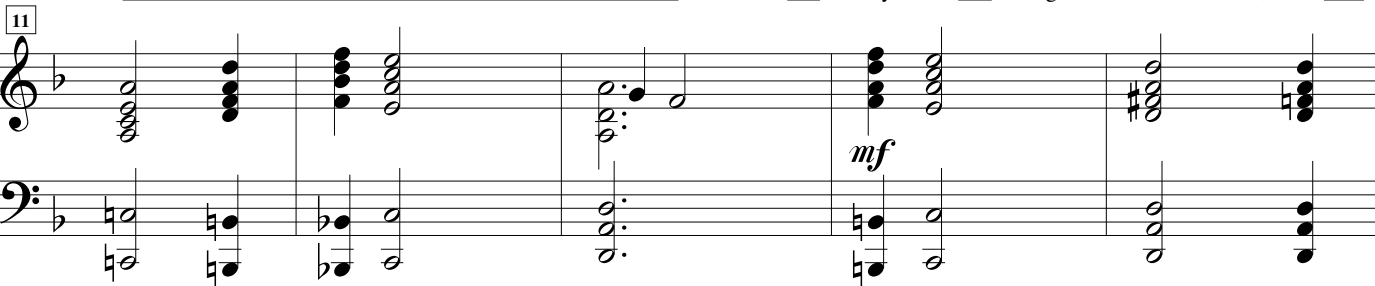
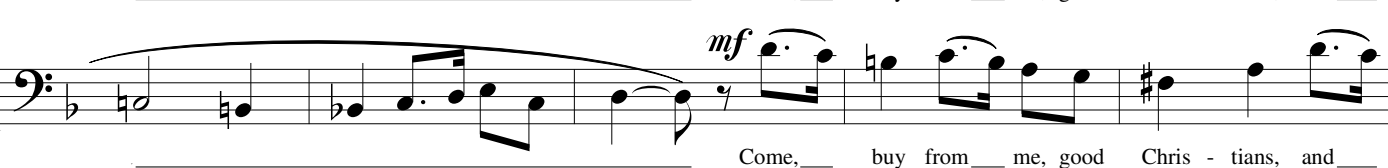
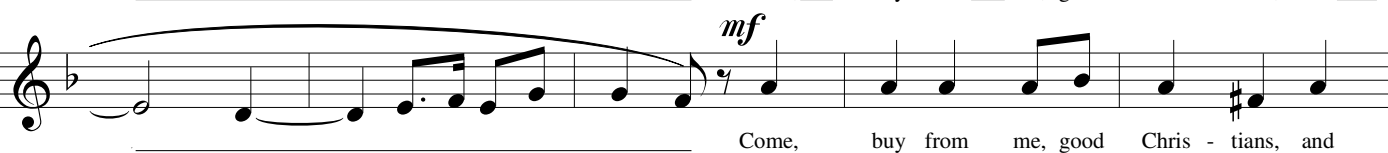
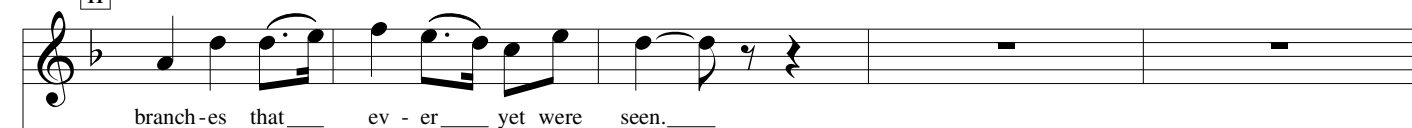
6 *pp* Oo Oo

6 *pp* Oo Oo

6 *pp* Oo Oo

6 *pp* Oo Oo

6 *p*



21

Day". Ah, won't you buy my

Day". Oo

Day". Oo

Day". Oo

21

mp *cresc.* *f* *dim.* *mp*

27

i - vy? The love - li - est ev - er seen! Ah! won't you buy my hol - ly? All

Oo

Oo

Oo

27

32

mf

you who love the green! Do take a lit-tle branch of each, and on my knees I'll

mf

Do take a lit-tle branch of each, and on my knees I'll

mf

Do take a lit-tle branch of each, and on my knees I'll

mf

Do take a lit-tle branch of each, and on my knees I'll

32

mf

37

*mp**rit.*

pray, that God may bless your Christ - mas, and be with your New Year's Day.

mp

pray, that God may bless your Christ - mas, and be with your New Year's Day.

mp

pray, that God may bless your Christ - mas, and be with your New Year's Day.

mp

pray, that God may bless your Christ - mas, and be with your New Year's Day.

37

*rit.**mp*

2. The Bells of Shandon

For SAB Chorus and Piano

Francis Sylvester Mahoney
from *Irish Minstrelsy* (1888)

Arr. Bruce Trinkley

Andante espressivo ♩ = 92

Unison

Piano

p cresc.

mf dim.

con pedale

p

div.

With deep af -

fec - tion and re - col - lec - tion I of - ten think of the Shan - don Bells whose sounds so

wild would, in days of child - hood, fling round my cra - dle their mag - ic spells. On this I

wild would, in days of child - hood, fling round my cra - dle their mag - ic spells. On this I

13

poco rit.

pon - der, wher-e'er I wan - der, and thus grow fon - der, sweet Cork, of thee; with thy bells of

pon - der, wher-e'er I wan - der, and thus grow fon - der, sweet Cork, of thee; with thy bells of

13

poco rit.

Shan - don, that sound so grand on the plea-sant wa-ters of the Riv-er Lee.

Shan - don, that sound so grand on the plea-sant wa-ters of the Riv-er Lee.

17

*a tempo**cresc. poco a poco*

21

*mf poco rit.**a tempo**mf* I've heard bells chim - ing full man - y a*mf* I've heard bells chim - ing full man - y a*mf* I've heard bells chim - ing full man - y a

21

*poco rit.**a tempo**f**mf*

25

clime in, toll-ing sub - lime in ca - the - dral shrine; while at a glib rate brass tongues would

clime in, toll-ing sub - lime in ca - the - dral shrine; while at a glib rate brass tongues would

clime in, toll-ing sub - lime in ca - the - dral shrine; while at a glib rate brass tongues would

25

clime in, toll-ing sub - lime in ca - the - dral shrine; while at a glib rate brass tongues would

29

mp cresc. poco a poco

vi - brate, but all their mu - sic spoke not to thine; for mem - 'ry dwell - ing on each proud

mp cresc. poco a poco

vi - brate, but all their mu - sic spoke not to thine; for mem - 'ry dwell - ing on each proud

mp cresc. poco a poco

vi - brate, but all their mu - sic spoke not to thine; for mem - 'ry dwell - ing on each proud

29

mp cresc. poco a poco

vi - brate, but all their mu - sic spoke not to thine; for mem - 'ry dwell - ing on each proud

33 *f* *ritard.*

swell - ing of thy bel - fry knell - ing its bold notes free, made the Bells of

swell - ing of thy bel - fry knell - ing its bold notes free, made the Bells of

swell - ing of bel - fry knell - ing its bold notes free, made the Bells of

33 *ritard.*

f

36 *a tempo* *rit. e dim.*

Shan - don sound far more grand on the plea - sant wa - ters of the Riv - er Lee.

Shan - don sound far more grand on the plea - sant wa - ters of the Riv - er Lee.

Shan - don sound far more grand on the plea - sant wa - ters of the Riv - er Lee.

36 *a tempo* *rit. e dim.*

3. Forget Not the Angels

For SATB Chorus and Piano

Walter Maynard
from *Songs of Ireland* (1880)

Arr. Bruce Trinkley

Andante ♩ = 98 *mp* *sempre legato*

Soprano

For - get not that an - gels are hov - 'ring a -

Alto

For - get not that an - gels are hov - 'ring a -

Piano

mf *simile* *mp*

6 *p* *pp*

round, and noise - less - ly pass - ing un - seen to and fro. As

p *pp*

round, and noise - less - ly pass - ing un - seen to and fro. As

tenors *p* *sempre legato* *pp*

and noise - less - ly pass - ing un - seen to and fro. As

6

11

p

soft - ly ___ as ___ mem - 'ries our ___ homes they ___ sur - round, ___ while ___ watch and ___ ward ___

p

soft - ly ___ as ___ mem - 'ries our ___ homes they ___ sur - round, ___ while ___ watch and ___ ward ___

p

soft - ly ___ as ___ mem - 'ries our ___ homes they ___ sur - round, ___ while ___ watch and ___ ward ___

p sempre legato

while ___ watch and ___ ward ___

pp

p

16

keep - ing ___ o'er ___ all here ___ be - low.

keep - ing ___ o'er ___ all here ___ be - low.

keep - ing ___ o'er ___ all here ___ be - low.

keep - ing ___ o'er ___ all here ___ be - low.

16

f

21 *mf*

The fair smiles of beau - ty that glad - den the

21 *mf*

The fair smiles of beau - ty that glad - den the

21 *mf*

The fair smiles of beau - ty that glad - den the

21 *mf*

The fair smiles of beau - ty that glad - den the

26 *ten. mp*

earth; the voic - es of chil - dren u - ni - ted in song. When

26 *ten. mp*

earth; the voic - es of chil - dren u - ni - ted in song. When

26 *ten. mp*

earth; the voic - es of chil - dren u - ni - ted in song. When

26 *ten. mp*

earth; the voic - es of chil - dren u - ni - ted in song. When

31 *poco rit.* *ten. p*

souls pure and ho - ly re - ceive re - newed birth, re -

souls pure and ho - ly re - ceive re - newed birth, re -

8 souls pure and ho - ly re - ceive re - newed birth, re -

souls pure and ho - ly re - ceive re - newed birth, re -

31 *poco rit.* *ten. p*

turn - ing to heav - en, to an - gels be - long.

turn - ing to heav - en, to an - gels be - long.

8 turn - ing to heav - en, to an - gels be - long.

turn - ing to heav - en, to an - gels be - long.

35 *a tempo* *molto rit.*

turn - ing to heav - en, to an - gels be - long.

turn - ing to heav - en, to an - gels be - long.

8 turn - ing to heav - en, to an - gels be - long.

turn - ing to heav - en, to an - gels be - long.

35 *a tempo* *molto rit.*

turn - ing to heav - en, to an - gels be - long.

turn - ing to heav - en, to an - gels be - long.

8 turn - ing to heav - en, to an - gels be - long.

turn - ing to heav - en, to an - gels be - long.

4. The Wren-Boys' Song

For SATB Chorus and Piano

Irish Carol

from *The Minstrelsy of Ireland* (1897)

Arr. Bruce Trinkley

Allegro spiritoso $\text{♩} = 72$

Piano

The piano introduction is in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. It begins with a forte (*ff*) dynamic, featuring a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, while the bass line is primarily quarter notes. The introduction concludes with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic, where the right hand plays a sustained chord and the left hand plays a single note.

6

mp *cresc.*

The wren, the wren, the king of all

mp *cresc.*

The wren, the wren, the king of all

mp *cresc.*

The wren, the wren, the king of all

mp *cresc.*

The wren, the wren, the king of all

6

The vocal parts (SATB) and piano accompaniment are presented in two systems. The first system shows the vocal entries, each starting with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a crescendo (*cresc.*) marking. The piano accompaniment in the first system features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a crescendo (*cresc.*) marking. The second system continues the vocal and piano parts, with the piano accompaniment featuring a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a crescendo (*cresc.*) marking.

12 *mf* *dim.* *mp* *cresc.*

birds, Saint Ste - phen's Day was caught in a furze. Al - though he is

mf *dim.* *mp* *cresc.*

birds, Saint Ste - phen's Day was caught in a furze. Al - though he is

mf *dim.* *mp* *cresc.*

birds, Saint Ste - phen's Day was caught in a furze. Al - though he is

mf *dim.* *mp* *cresc.*

birds, Saint Ste - phen's Day was caught in a furze. Al - though he is

12 *mf* *dim.* *mp* *cresc.*

mf *dim.* *mp* *cresc.*

18 *mf* *dim.*

lit - tle, his fam - i - ly's great; I pray you, good land - la - dy, give us a

mf *dim.*

lit - tle, his fam - i - ly's great; I pray you, good land - la - dy, give us a

mf *dim.*

lit - tle, his fam - i - ly's great; I pray you, good land - la - dy, give us a

mf *dim.*

lit - tle, his fam - i - ly's great; I pray you, good land - la - dy, give us a

18 *mf* *dim.*

mf *dim.*

24 *f* *mp*

treat. Sing hey! sing ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A

24 *f* *mp*

treat. Sing hey! sing ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A

24 *f* *mp*

treat. Sing hey! sing ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A

24 *f* *mp*

treat. Sing hey! sing ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A

24 *f* *mp*

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. Sing hey! sing

29 *cresc.* *f*

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. Sing hey! sing

29 *cresc.* *f*

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. Sing hey! sing

29 *cresc.* *f*

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. Sing hey! sing

29 *cresc.* *f*

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. Sing hey! sing

34

ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A drop just to drink, it would

34

ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A drop just to drink, it would

34

ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A drop just to drink, it would

34

ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A drop just to drink, it would

39

cure mel - an - chol - y.

39

cure mel - an - chol - y.

39

cure mel - an - chol - y.

39

cure mel - an - chol - y.

39

ff *mf*

46 *solo mf*

My box would speak if it had but a

46 *mp*

52

tongue, and two or three shil - lings would do it no wrong. So show us some

52

58

pit - y in or - der that we may drink you good health for your kind cha - ri -

58

64 *tutti f* *mp*

ty. Sing hey! sing ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A

f *mp*

Sing hey! sing ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A

f *mp*

Sing hey! sing ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A

f *mp*

Sing hey! sing ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A

64 *f*

cresc. *f*

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. Sing hey! sing

cresc. *f*

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. Sing hey! sing

cresc. *f*

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. Sing hey! sing

cresc. *f*

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. Sing hey! sing

69 *mp cresc.* *f*

mp cresc. *f*

74

ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A drop just to drink, it would

ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A drop just to drink, it would

ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A drop just to drink, it would

ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A drop just to drink, it would

74

79

cure mel - an - chol - y.

cure mel - an - chol - y.

cure mel - an - chol - y.

cure mel - an - chol - y.

79

ff

84 *mp* *cresc.* And if you

84 *mp* *cresc.* And if you

84 *mp* *cresc.* And if you

84 *mp* *cresc.* And if you

84 *mf* *mp cresc.*

90 *mf* *dim.* draw it of the best, I hope in hea - ven your soul it may

90 *mf* *dim.* draw it of the best, I hope in hea - ven your soul it may

90 *mf* *dim.* draw it of the best, I hope in hea - ven your soul it may

90 *mf* *dim.* draw it of the best, I hope in hea - ven your soul it may

90 *mf* *dim.*

96 *mp* *cresc.*

rest. But if you draw it of the small, it won't a -

96 *mp* *cresc.*

rest. But if you draw it of the small, it won't a -

96 *mp* *cresc.*

rest. But if you draw it of the small, it won't a -

96 *mp* *cresc.*

rest. But if you draw it of the small, it won't a -

102 *f*

gree with the wren - boys at all! Sing hey! sing ho! Sing

102 *f*

gree with the wren - boys at all! Sing hey! sing ho! Sing

102 *f*

gree with the wren - boys at all! Sing hey! sing ho! Sing

102 *f*

gree with the wren - boys at all! Sing hey! sing ho! Sing

102

gree with the wren - boys at all! Sing hey! sing ho! Sing

107 *mp* *cresc.*

hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an -

107 *mp* *cresc.*

hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an -

107 *mp* *cresc.*

hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an -

107 *mp* *cresc.*

hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an -

107 *mp* *cresc.*

chol - y. Sing hey! sing ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A

112 *ff*

chol - y. Sing hey! sing ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A

112 *ff*

chol - y. Sing hey! sing ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A

112 *ff*

chol - y. Sing hey! sing ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A

112 *ff*

chol - y. Sing hey! sing ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A

117

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. A

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. A

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. A

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. A

117

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. _____

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. _____

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. _____

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. _____

8^{va}

121

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. _____

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. _____

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. _____

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. _____

121