

O Holy Night

Words: John Sullivan Dwight (1813-1893), 1855;

based on the original French poem "Minuit, Chrétiens" by Placide Cappeau (1808-1877), 1843.

Music: CANTIQUE DE NOEL by Adolphe Charles Adam (1803-1856), 1847; adapted.

Andante maestoso ♩. = 72
3

1. O ho-ly night!— the stars are bright-ly shin - ing; It is the

2. Led by the light— of faith se - rene - ly beam - ing, With glow-ing

3. Tru-ly He taught us to love one an - oth - er; His law is

mf

Detailed description: This block contains the first three verses of the hymn. Each verse is written on a separate staff with its own melody. The music is in 6/8 time and B-flat major. The piano accompaniment is in the bass clef, featuring a steady eighth-note pattern in the left hand and chords in the right hand. The first three verses are followed by a double bar line.

8 12

night of the dear Sav-ior's birth. Long lay the world— in sin and er - ror

hearts by His cra - dle we stand. So led by light of a star sweet-ly

love and His gos - pel is peace. Chains shall He break, for the slave is our

Detailed description: This block contains the continuation of the hymn, starting at measure 8. It includes the same three vocal staves and piano accompaniment as the first block. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern and chords. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Because the melody varies slightly from verse to verse, it has been spelled out with each verse getting its own staff.

O Holy Night

15

21

pin - ing, Till He ap - peared and the soul felt its worth. *p* A thrill of
 gleam - ing, Here came the Wise Men from the O - rient land. *p* The King of
 bro - ther, And in His name all op - pres - sion shall cease. *p* Sweet hymns of



22

hope— the wea - ry world re - joi - ces, For yon - der breaks a new and glo - rious morn.
 kings lay thus in low - ly man - ger, In all our tri - als born to be our Friend.
 joy in grate - ful chor - us raise we; Let all with - in us praise His ho - ly name.

O Holy Night

29

f Fall on your knees! oh, hear the an - gel
f He knows our need - to our weak - ness is no
f Christ is the Lord! oh, praise His name for -

The musical score for measures 29-34 consists of three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal staves are in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The piano accompaniment is in bass clef. The music features a strong dynamic of *f* (forte). The vocal lines are characterized by long, sweeping melodic lines with many ties, creating a sense of continuous, reverent prayer. The piano accompaniment provides a steady, rhythmic foundation with repeated eighth-note patterns in the right hand and sustained chords in the left hand.



35

voi - ces! O night di - vine! O
stran - ger. Be - hold your King, be -
ev - er! His pow'r and glo - ry

The musical score for measures 35-40 continues the vocal and piano parts. The vocal staves maintain the same treble clef and key signature. The piano accompaniment remains in bass clef. The dynamic *f* is maintained. The vocal lines continue with long, tied notes, emphasizing the grandeur and divinity of the subject. The piano accompaniment continues with its steady eighth-note accompaniment, supporting the vocal melody.

O Holy Night

41

night when Christ was born! O
 fore Him low - ly bend! Be -
 ev - - er - more pro - claim! His

The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a simple harmonic accompaniment in the left hand.

45

1. 2.
 night, O ho - - - ly night,
 hold your King be - fore

The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern in the right hand and harmonic accompaniment in the left hand.

50

O night di - vine!
 Him low - ly bend!

The piano accompaniment features a *mf* dynamic marking and a more active eighth-note pattern in the right hand, with a sustained harmonic accompaniment in the left hand.

O Holy Night

5

53 **3.**

pow'r and glo - ry

57 *rall.* *a tempo*

ev - er - more pro - claim!

61

66 *rall.*