

In natiuitate Domini



Uernatus est no bis:
 z fi li us da tus est no.
 bis: cuius imperium
 sup hu meruz e ius: z vocabitur no.
 mēe ius magni z fili jan gel^o. ps. Oātate
 dño cāticū nouū: ga mirabilia fecit. ✠. Gloria.
 Gradua.
 Uiderūt om nes fines ter re

On
 a
 Christmas
 Eve

The poetry of
 Robert Herrick (1591-1634)

with original music by
 Cheryl Lynn Helm

On a Christmas Eve

Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

Cheryl Lynn Helm (b. 1957)

The recorder (or soprano vocalist) should be somewhat apart from the choir, so as to effect the "at a distance."

Freely, and as if at a distance *moderately, in 2*
(♩ = 120)

Alto Recorder or Soprano solo

fade to silence

Choir

Soprano *p* *mp* *gently, child-like*

Alto *p*

Tenor *p*

Bass *p*

Pu - er ná - - - tus est nó - - - - bis,

Loo Loo Loo Loo Come guard this night the Christ-mas Pie,

Loo Loo Loo Loo Loo Loo

Loo Loo Loo Loo Loo Loo

Loo Loo Loo Loo Loo Loo

Loo Loo

The recorder (soprano vocalist) represents a distant Christmas Eve religious service which the villagers (choir) are preparing to attend. The villagers are engaged in traditional holiday preparations and revelry. At the end, they join the *Puer natus est* chant and fade away.

The text incorporates following two poems by 17th-century poet Robert Herrick:

Christmas-Eve, Another Ceremony

*Come guard this night the Christmas-Pie,
That the thief, though ne'er so sly,
With his flesh-hooks, don't come nigh
To catch it*

*From him, who all alone sits there,
Having his eyes still in his ear,
And a deal of nightly fear
To watch it.*

Another to the Maids

*Wash your hands, or else the fire
Will not tind to your desire;
Unwashed hands, ye maidens, know,
Dead the fire, though ye blow.*

15

Rec. or Sop. solo

Choir Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

mf *p* *mp*

That the thief, though ne'er so sly, With his flesh-hooks, don't come nigh To

Loo Loo Loo don't come nigh

Loo Loo Loo don't come nigh

Loo Loo Loo don't come nigh

22

Rec. or Sop. solo

Choir Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

mp *p*

et fi - li - us da - tus est nó - bis:

catch it Loo Loo Loo Loo Loo Loo Loo

Loo Loo Loo Loo Loo Loo Loo

Loo Loo Loo Loo Loo Loo Loo

Loo Loo Loo Loo Loo Loo Loo

29 **Rec. or Sop. solo** *mp* (C) *cú-jus im - pé - - ri - - um su - per hú - - -*

29 **Choir Soprano** *mf* (C) *From him, who all a - lone sits there, Hav - ing his eyes still in his ear, And a deal of*

29 **Alto** (C) *p* *Loo Pu - er na - tus est no - - - bis, And a deal of*

29 **Tenor** (C) *p* *Loo Pu - er na - tus est no - - - bis, And a deal of*

29 **Bass** (C) *mp* *Loo From him, who all a - lone sits there, Hav - ing his eyes still in his ear, And a deal of*

35 **Rec. or Sop. solo** *me - rum é - - - jus: slight accel.*

35 **Choir Soprano** *mf* *sfp* *pp* *p* *night - ly fear To watchit. Loo Loo Loo Ah slight accel.*

35 **Alto** *mf* *sfp* *pp* *night - ly fear Loo Loo Loo Ah slight accel.*

35 **Tenor** *mf* *sfp* *pp* *night - ly fear Loo Loo Loo Ah slight accel.*

35 **Bass** *mf* *sfp* *pp* *night - ly fear Loo Loo Loo Ah slight accel.*

(♩ = 140)

Rec. or Sop. solo *mp* 43 *D*

et vo - ca - bi - tur no - men e - - - ius,

Choir Soprano *mf* 43 *D*

Wash your hands, or else the fire Will not tind to your de - sire;

Alto *mf* 43 *D*

Wash your hands, or else the fire Will not tind to your de - sire;

Tenor *mp* 43 *D*

Ah Ah your de - sire;

Bass *mp* 43 *D*

Ah Ah Ah de - sire;

Rec. or Sop. solo *mp* 51 *E*

má - gni con - sí - li - i An - - - ge - lus.

Choir Soprano *mp* 51 *E* *sub p*

Ah Ah Dead the fire, though ye

Alto *mp* 51 *E* *sub p*

Ah Ah Dead the fire, though ye

Tenor *mf* 51 *E* *sub p*

8 Un-washed hands, ye maid - ens, know, Dead the fire, though ye

Bass *mf* 51 *E* *sub p*

Un-washed hands, ye maid - ens, know, Dead the fire, though ye

59 **Rec. or Sop. solo**  (F) (♩ = 120)

Choir

Soprano  *f* *p* *mp* *3*

Alto  *f* *p*

Tenor  *f* *p*

Bass  *f* *p*

67 **Rec. or Sop. solo** 

Choir

Soprano  *pp* *3* *3* *3*

Alto  *pp*

Tenor  *pp*

Bass  *pp*

75 **Rec. or Sop. solo** *pp* (G) Pu - er ná - tus est nó - - - - bis.

Choir
Soprano 75 *pp* (G) catch it Loo Loo Loo Loo Loo Loo Loo Loo Loo

Alto 75 (G) Loo Loo Loo Loo Loo Loo Loo Loo

Tenor 75 (G) Loo Loo Loo Loo Loo Loo

Bass 75 (G) Loo Loo Loo Loo Loo

84 **Rec. or Sop. solo** *pp* *Fade away* A - - - - - men.

Choir
Soprano 84 *pp* *p* *pp* Pu - er na - tus est no - - - - bis.

Alto 84 *pp* *p* *pp* Pu - er na - tus est no - - - - bis.

Tenor 84 *pp* *p* *pp* Pu - er na - tus est no - - - - bis.

Bass 84 *pp* *p* *pp* Pu - er na - tus est no - - - - bis.