

CM9762

Good King Wenceslas / Traditional Christmas Song

Arranged by Russell Robinson

SATB Voices with Piano

Duration: 2:33

Good King Wenceslas

Traditional Christmas Song
arr. Russell Robinson



CARL FISCHER

Arranger's Notes

Good King Wenceslas is a Christmas carol written by John Mason Neal in 1853. Neal, an English hymn writer, incorporated the story about King Wenceslas of Bohemia, which is in the western part of the Czech Republic. The story takes place in the 10th century where Wenceslas is traveling by foot through the snow with his Page to the Feast of Saint Stephens Day (December 26th, the day after Christmas). This now famous song weds this wonderful nineteenth-century tale with a beautiful melody from a thirteenth-century carol.

In this arrangement for SATB choirs and piano, I wanted the story to be highlighted with a different meter setting (in $\frac{5}{4}$) while incorporating a “swing” or “jazzy” feel. As I was writing this arrangement, I could “hear” Wenceslas and his “page” going over hills and valleys in the deep snow as they walked to their destination. I tried to make it accessible to all choirs and provide a fresh version of this trek to the Feast over 1200 years ago.

Sing it light and easy, and make the story come “alive!”

Russell Robinson, Arranger



About the Arranger

Dr. Russell L. Robinson, Emeritus Professor of Music Education at the University of Florida, has made over 300 appearances as a conductor, keynote speaker, consultant and presenter at festivals, workshops, honor choirs, all-state choirs and state, regional, national and international conferences in the US, Europe, Asia, Africa, Central America, South America, Mexico, Canada, the Middle East, and Australia as well as conducting venues, which include: Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, Boston’s Symphony Hall, the White House, Washington’s National Cathedral and the Wiesbaden, Germany Kurhaus. Dr. Robinson was the 2016 inductee into the Florida Music Educators Association (FMEA) Hall of Fame, and is a past President of FMEA, Associate Dean of the UF College of the Arts, National Collegiate Chair and Choral Adviser for the National Association for Music Education (NAfME). Dr. Robinson is a published author, composer and arranger with over 500 publications in print, including choral compositions, arrangements, articles, books, and instructional DVD’s.

Good King Wenceslas

for SATB Voices with Piano

JOHN MASON NEAL (1818–1866)

Traditional Carol
Arranged by Russell Robinson

With a "swing" feel ♩ = 144 (♩♩ = ♩³)

Piano *mf*

4 Soprano, Alto *mf*
Tenor, Bass *mf*

Good King_ Wen - ces - las looked_ out
Good King_ Wen - ces - las looked_ out

7
on the_ Feast of Steph - en. When the_ snow lay
on the_ Feast of Steph - en. When the_ snow lay

10

round a - bout, deep and_ crisp and e - - ven.

round a - bout, deep and_ crisp and e - - ven.

13

Bright ly_ shone the moon that_ night, Tho' the_ frost was

Bright - ly_ shone the moon that_ night, Tho' the_ frost was

16

cru - - el, when a_ poor man came in_ sight,

cru - - el, when a_ poor man came in_ sight,

28

mf

Yon - der__ peas - ant, who is__ he?
 tell - - ing.

31

Where and__ what his dwell - ing? Page and__ mon - arch
 Page and__ mon - arch

34

forth they__ went, Forth they__ went to - geth - - er;
 forth they__ went, Forth they__ went to - geth - - er;

37

Through the rude wind's wild lament and the bitter

Through the rude wind's wild lament and the bitter

40

weath - er. Good King Wen-ces-las,

43

mf Good King Wen - ces - las, *f* Good King Wen - ces - las!

mf Good King Wen - ces - las, *f* Good King Wen - ces - las!

mf Good King Wen - ces - las, *f* Good King Wen - ces - las!

45

mp Good King Wen-ces-las, *mf* Good King Wen-ces-las,

mp Good King Wen-ces-las, *mf* Good King Wen-ces-las,

mp *mf*

48

f Good King Wen - ces-las! *mp* Sire, the night is dark - er now,

f Good King Wen - ces-las! *mf* Sire, the night is dark - er now,

f *mf*

51

and the winds blow strong - er; *mf* Fails my heart I

and the winds blow strong - er; *mp* Fails my heart I

54

know not how, I can go no long - - er.

— know not how, I can go no long - - er.

57

There - fore all should be as - sured, Wealth or rank pos -

mf There - fore all should be as - sured, Wealth or rank pos -

60

ses - - sing Ye who now will bless the poor, —

ses - - sing Ye who now will bless the poor, —

63

Shall your - selves find bless - - - ing.

Shall your - selves find bless - - - ing.

66

mp Good King Wen-ces-las, *mf* Good King Wen-ces-las, *f* Good King Wen-ces-las,

mp Good King Wen-ces-las, *mf* Good King Wen-ces-las, *f* Good King Wen-ces-las,

mp *mf* *f*

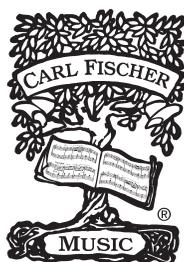
69

mf Good King Wen - ces - las! *ff* Good King Wen - ces - las!

mf *ff*

mf *ff*

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