

Christopher Beardsley

# Carol of the Field Mice

for Children's Choir, SATB chorus  
and piano

**CHRISTOPHER BEARDSLEY  
CAROL OF THE FIELD MICE**

Villagers all, this frosty tide,  
Let your doors swing open wide,  
Though wind may follow, and snow beside,  
Yet draw us in by your fire to bide;  
Joy shall be yours in the morning!

Here we stand in the cold and the sleet,  
Blowing fingers and stamping feet,  
Come from far away you to greet—  
You by the fire and we in the street—  
Bidding you joy in the morning!

For ere one half of the night was gone,  
Sudden a star has led us on,  
Raining bliss and benison—  
Bliss to-morrow and more anon,  
Joy for every morning!

Goodman Joseph toiled through the snow—  
Saw the star o'er a stable low;  
Mary she might not further go—  
Welcome thatch, and litter below!  
Joy was hers in the morning!

And then they heard the angels tell  
'Who were the first to cry NOWELL?  
Animals all, as it befell,  
In the stable where they did dwell!  
Joy shall be theirs in the morning!'

Kenneth Grahame "Wind in the Willows"

<p>First performed by St. Francis' School and the Valley Singers conducted by the composer in Hill Chapel, Goosnargh, Lancashire on December 5th 2019</p>
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# Carol of the Field Mice

("The Wind in the Willows")

Kenneth Grahame

Christopher Beardsley

**Sprightly but not too fast** (♩=c120)

Piano

*p delicate*

The piano introduction consists of two staves. The right hand plays a series of chords in the treble clef, while the left hand plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the bass clef. The tempo is marked as 'Sprightly but not too fast' with a quarter note equal to 120 beats per minute.

Children

*p*

Vil - la-gers all, this fros - ty tide,

Pf.

The first vocal line starts at measure 10. The children sing 'Vil - la-gers all, this fros - ty tide,'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern as the introduction.

Children

Let your doors swing o - pen wide, Though wind may

Pf.

The second vocal line starts at measure 19. The children sing 'Let your doors swing o - pen wide, Though wind may'. The piano accompaniment continues.

Children

fol - low, and snow be - side, Yet draw us in by your

Pf.

The third vocal line starts at measure 26. The children sing 'fol - low, and snow be - side, Yet draw us in by your'. The piano accompaniment continues.

Children

fire to bid; Joy shall be yours in the mor - ning!

Pf.

The fourth vocal line starts at measure 34. The children sing 'fire to bid; Joy shall be yours in the mor - ning!'. The piano accompaniment concludes the piece.

42

Children

*mf* Here we stand in the cold and the sleet, Blo - wing

S. *mf* Here we stand in the cold and the sleet, Ah,

A. *mf* Here we stand in the cold and the sleet, Ah,

T. *mf* Here we stand, Blo - wing

B. *mf* Here we stand, Blo - wing

Pf. *mf*

51

Children

fin - gers (blow), (blow), (blow) and stam - ping feet, (stamp), (stamp), (stamp) Come from far a -

S. (blow), (blow), (blow) and stam - ping feet, (stamp), (stamp), (stamp) Come from far a -

A. (blow), (blow), (blow) and stam - ping feet, (stamp), (stamp), (stamp) Come from

T. fin - gers (blow), (blow), (blow) and stam - ping feet, (stamp), (stamp), (stamp) Come from

B. fin - gers (blow), (blow), (blow) and stam - ping feet, (stamp), (stamp), (stamp) Come from far a -

Pf.

59

Children

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pf.

way you to greet— You by the fire and

way you to greet— You by the fire and

far a - way you to greet— You by the fire and

far a - way you to greet— You by the fire and

way, a - way you to greet— You by the fire and

67

Children

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pf.

we in the street— Bid - ding you joy in the mor - ning!

we in the street— Bid - ding you joy in the mor - ning!

we in the street— Bid - ding you joy in the mor - ning!

we in the street— Bid - ding you joy in the mor - ning!

we in the street Bid - ding you joy in the mor - ning!

75

Children

S. *p*  
For ere one half of thenight was gone,\_\_\_\_ Sud - den a star has led us on,\_\_\_\_

A. *p*  
For ere one half of thenight was gone,\_\_\_\_ Sud - den a star has led us on,\_\_\_\_

T. *p*  
For ere one half of thenight was gone,\_\_\_\_ Sud - den a star has led us on,\_\_\_\_

B. *p*  
For ere one half of thenight was gone,\_\_\_\_ Sud - den a star has led us on,\_\_\_\_

Pf. *p*

85

Children

S.  
Rain - ing bliss and ben - i - son,\_\_\_\_ Bliss to - mor-row and more a - non!\_\_\_\_

A.  
Rain - ing bliss and ben - i - son,\_\_\_\_ Bliss to - mor-row and more a - non!\_\_\_\_

T.  
Rain - ing bliss and ben - i - son,\_\_\_\_ Bliss to - mor-row and more a - non!\_\_\_\_

B.  
Rain - ing bliss and ben - i - son,\_\_\_\_ Bliss to - mor-row and more a - non!\_\_\_\_

Pf.

95 rit. . . . .

Children

S. *mf*  
Joy for\_ ev-'ry\_ mor - ning!

A. *mf*  
Joy for\_ ev-'ry\_ mor - ning!

T. *mf*  
Joy for\_ ev-'ry\_ mor - ning!

B. *mf*  
Joy for\_ ev-'ry\_ mor - ning!

Pf. *mf* rit. . . . .

106 **Slower** (♩=c72)

Children

S. *p*  
Good - man Jo-seph toiled through the snow- Saw the star o'er the sta - ble low; Ma - ry she might not  
*p*  
Ma - ry she might not

A. *p*  
Ma - ry she might not

T. *p*  
Good - man Jo-seph toiled through the snow- Saw the star o'er the sta - ble low;

B. *p*  
Good - man Jo-seph toiled through the snow- Saw the star o'er the sta - ble low;

Pf. *p* **Slower** (♩=c72)

116

Children

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pf.

*p* *mf*

fur - ther go - Wel - come thatch and lit - ter be - low! Joy shall be hers in the mor - ning!

Wel - come thatch and lit - ter be - low! Joy shall be hers in the mor - ning!

Wel - come thatch and lit - ter be - low! Joy shall be hers in the mor - ning!

**A tempo (jubilant)**

126

Children

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pf.

*f* *f marcato*

And then they heard the



137 (shout!)

Children an-gels tell \_\_\_\_\_ "Who were the first to cry NO- WELL?"

S. *f* then they heard the an-gels tell \_\_\_\_\_ "No - well, No - well,

A. *f* then they heard the an-gels tell \_\_\_\_\_ "No well, \_

T. *f* then they heard the an-gels tell \_\_\_\_\_ "No- well, \_\_\_\_\_ No -

B. *f* then they heard the an-gels tell \_\_\_\_\_ "No - well, \_\_\_\_\_

Pf.

147

Children A - ni - mals all, as it be - fell, \_\_\_\_\_ In the sta - ble where they did

S. No - well, No - well, No - well, In the sta - ble where they did

A. No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well, No -

T. well, No - well, No - well, No - well, No -

B. No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well, No -

Pf.

156

Children

dwell! Joy shall be theirs in the mor - - ning!"

S. dwell! Joy shall be theirs, Joy shall be theirs in the mor - - ning!"

A. well, Joy shall be theirs in the mor - ning!"

T. well, Joy shall be theirs, Joy shall be theirs in the mor - ning!"

B. well, Joy shall be theirs in the mor - ning!"

Pf.

165

Children

"Joy shall be theirs in the mor - - ning!"

S. "Joy shall be theirs in the mor - - ning!"

A. "Joy shall be theirs in the mor - - ning!"

T. "Joy shall be theirs in the mor - - ning!"

B. "Joy shall be theirs in the mor - - ning!"

Pf.

*molto rit.* . . . *Presto*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*