

Program Notes

Walter de la Mare's poem "Mistletoe" was first published in 1913, and remains popular today. His poetry frequently references the supernatural. The scene of this poem is someone sitting alone at Christmas time in a room under mistletoe. It is nighttime, as there is "one last candle burning low." The narrator is tired and lonely, and somehow, mysteriously, the narrator receives a kiss from an angel or spirit. The message of the poem is that at Christmas time, there is love for everyone, even if we cannot see it. In ancient British cultures, mistletoe was thought to bring good luck. My musical setting is at turns mysterious, eerie, and joyful, as the narrator gratefully receives the good fortune of this mysterious "kiss."

Text

Sitting under the mistletoe
(Pale-green, fairy mistletoe),
One last candle burning low,
All the sleepy dancers gone,
Just one candle burning on,
Shadows lurking everywhere:
Some one came, and kissed me there.

Tired I was; my head would go
Nodding under the mistletoe
(Pale-green, fairy mistletoe),
No footsteps came, no voice, but only,
Just as I sat there, sleepy, lonely,
Stooped in the still and shadowy air
Lips unseen—and kissed me there.

Walter de la Mare (1873–1956)

Available editions

Mistletoe

Choral Score	9156
Cello Part	9156A

The Harper's Song

Choral Score	9157
Cello Part	9157A

Two Winter Scenes

Piano/Vocal Solo Score	9169
------------------------	------

David Conte (b. 1955)

For biographical information visit:
www.davidconte.net

Catalog No. 9156
 For the Peninsula Women's Chorus
 Martin Benvenuto, conductor

Mistletoe

from *Two Winter Scenes*
 SSAA Chorus, Violoncello, and Piano

Walter de la Mare
 (1873–1956)

David Conte (b. 1955)

Moderately ♩ = 126
vaguely mysterious, always buoyant *poco rit.* *a tempo*
 (3+3+2) arco *p*

Moderately ♩ = 126
vaguely mysterious, always buoyant *poco rit.* *a tempo*
 (3+3+2) *mp* *p*

Violoncello

Piano

Vlc. *p*

S *mp*
 Sit - ting un - der the mis - tle - toe — (Pale - green, fair - y

A *mp*
 Sit - ting un - der the mis - tle - toe — (Pale green, — fair - y

Sya

9

rit. *a tempo*

mp *p*

unis.

mis - tle-toe), One last can - dle burn - ing low,

unis. *unis.*

mis - tle-toe), One last can - dle burn - ing low,

(8va) *rit.* *a tempo loco*

mp *p*

13

mf *p* *mf*

mf

All the sleep - y danc - ers gone,

mf

All the sleep - y danc - ers gone,

mf *mp*

17

mp *mp* *mf*

(2+3+3)

Just one can - dle burn - ing on, _____

Just one can - dle burn - ing on, _____

mf

(2+3+3)

20

pizz.

mp

mp

unis.

Shad - ows lurk - ing ev - 'ry - where: _____

p

8vb *8vb* *8vb*

poco rit. Just a bit slower ♩ = 116

23

Bass line for measures 23-25. Measure 23: quarter rest, eighth notes G2, F2, E2, D2. Measure 24: quarter rest, eighth notes G2, F2, E2, D2. Measure 25: quarter rest, quarter note G2, quarter note F2, quarter note E2, quarter note D2.

Vocal line for measure 25: quarter rest, quarter note G4, quarter note F4, quarter note E4, quarter note D4.

mp
Some one came, — and

Piano accompaniment for measure 25: quarter note G2, quarter note F2, quarter note E2, quarter note D2.

mp
Some one came, — and

poco rit. Just a bit slower ♩ = 116

Piano accompaniment for measures 26-28. Measure 26: quarter note G2, quarter note F2, quarter note E2, quarter note D2. Measure 27: quarter note G2, quarter note F2, quarter note E2, quarter note D2. Measure 28: quarter note G2, quarter note F2, quarter note E2, quarter note D2. Includes markings for *pp* and *8va*.

poco rit. Tempo I ♩ = 126

26

Bass line for measures 26-28. Measure 26: quarter rest. Measure 27: eighth notes G2, F2, E2, D2. Measure 28: quarter note G2, quarter note F2, quarter note E2, quarter note D2. Includes markings for *arco*, *p*, and *mp*.

Vocal line for measure 26: quarter note G4, quarter note F4, quarter note E4, quarter note D4.

kissed me there.

Piano accompaniment for measure 26: quarter note G2, quarter note F2, quarter note E2, quarter note D2.

kissed me there.

poco rit. Tempo I ♩ = 126

Piano accompaniment for measures 27-28. Measure 27: eighth notes G2, F2, E2, D2. Measure 28: quarter note G2, quarter note F2, quarter note E2, quarter note D2. Includes marking for *mp*.

30 *poco rit. a tempo* pizz.

mf *p* *mf* *mp*

Tired I was;
Tired I was;

poco rit. a tempo *mf* *mp*

34

my head would go Nod - ding un - der the
my head would go Nod - ding un - der the

37 (3+2+3) arco

mp *p sub.*

mis - tle - toe (Pale - green, fair - y

mis - tle - toe (Pale green, fair y

(3+2+3)

p sub.

40

mp
mf

mis - tle - toe), No foot - steps came, no voice,

mf

mis - tle - toe), No foot - steps came, no voice,

mp

unis.

44

p

but on - ly, Just as I sat there, sleep - y,
unis.
 but on - ly, Just as I sat there, sleep - y,

p

rit. **A tempo** ♩ = 126

48

mf

lone - ly, Stopped in the still and shad - ow - y

mf

lone - ly, Stopped in the still and shad -

rit. **A tempo** ♩ = 126

p

A bit faster, animated ♩ = 132

51

cresc. *f*

cresc. *f*

air, _____ and shad - ow - y air, _____ the

cresc. *f*

- ow - y air, _____ and shad - ow - y air, _____ the

A bit faster, animated ♩ = 132

cresc.

54

ff

unis. ff *f*

air _____ Lips un - seen _____ and

ff *unis. f*

air _____ Lips un - seen _____ and

Just slightly slower than Tempo I ♩ = 120

(3+3+2)

poco rit.

57 *rit.*

p (*p*) *mp* *p*

kissed — me there, —

mp *p*

kissed — me there, —

rit. **Just slightly slower than Tempo I** ♩ = 120 (3+3+2) *poco rit.*

p *mp*

61 **Still a bit slower** ♩ = 116 *molto rit.*

p *p* *pp*

and kissed — me there.

p *pp*

and kissed — me there.

Still a bit slower ♩ = 116 *molto rit.*

p *pp*

Still a bit slower ♩ = 116 *molto rit.*

p *pp*