

The Christmas Bird

SATB, flute

Text by Katharine Tynan

Music by Sheena Phillips

duration 2:40

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The Christmas Bird

The fold at midnight
Was light as the moon,
And in a tree a birdie bright
Sang still the gladdest tune.

With wings of gold sheen,
And gold head and hood,
He was the fairest bird, I ween,
That ever sang in wood.

He sang sweet and low,
He sang loud and shrill;
Above the stable in the snow,
The Star stood still.

The shepherd swains said then –
Each fell on his knee –
That was the very sweetest strain
Was ever sung in tree.

Are many birds in bower
With many a dulcet song;
But none like him who sang that hour
The Christmas boughs among.

Katharine Tynan (1859 – 1931)

From *A Little Book of XXIV Carols* (1907)

(public domain)

The Christmas Bird

Katharine Tynan

Sheena Phillips

$\text{♩} = 50$

playfully

mp

Flute

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

mp sereno

The fold at

mp sereno

The fold at

p leggiero

ooh,

p leggiero

ooh,

5

Fl.

S

A

T

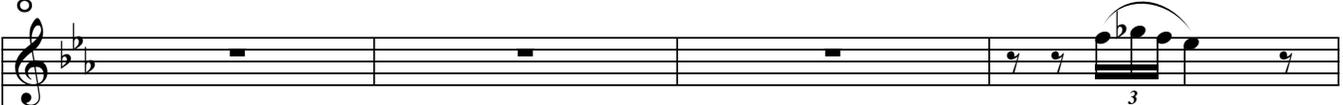
B

mid - night Was light as the moon,

mid - night Was light as the moon,

the christmas bird 2

8

Fl. 

S 
And in a tree a bird - ie bright Sang still the glad - dest tune, Sang

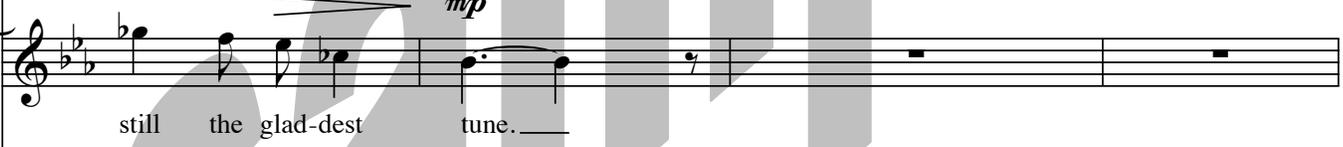
A 
And in a tree a bird - ie bright Sang still the glad - dest tune, Sang

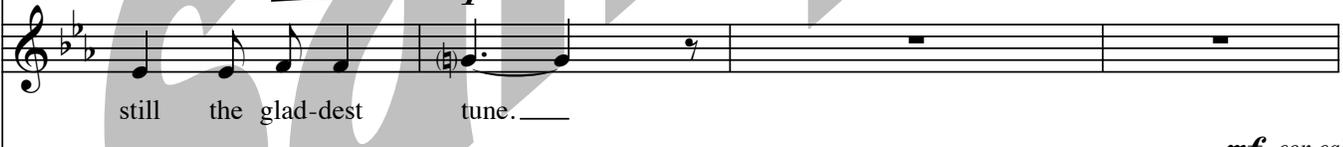
T 
ooh,

B 
ooh,

12

Fl. 
mf *leggiero*

S 
still the glad-dest tune. *mp*

A 
still the glad-dest tune. *mp*

T 
ooh *mf con calore*

B 
ooh *mf con calore*

With

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16

Fl. *mp* *mf*

S *p leggiero*
ooh,

A *p leggiero*
ooh,

T 8 wings of gold sheen, And gold head and hood,

B wings of gold sheen, And gold head and hood,

19

Fl. *mf*

S ooh,

A ooh,

T 8 He was the fair - est bird, I ween, That ev - er sang in

B He was the fair - est bird, That ev - er sang in

the christmas bird 4

23

Fl.

S ooh _____

A ooh _____

T wood, That ev - er sang in wood. _____

B wood, That ev - er sang in wood. _____

26

Fl. *mp* *mf*

S *mf* He

A *mf* He

T *p dolce* He sang sweet and low, _____

B *p dolce* He sang sweet and low, _____

30

Fl. *mf* 3 3

S *mp sereno* *mf*
sang loud and shrill; _____ A-bove the sta - ble in the snow, The

A *mp sereno* *mf*
sang loud and shrill; _____ A-bove the sta - ble in the snow, The

T *mp sereno* *mf*
A-bove the sta - ble in the snow, The

B *mf*
The

34

Fl. *leggiero* 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

S *p*
Star stood still, _____ The Star stood still. _____

A *p*
Star stood still, _____ The Star stood still. _____

T *p*
Star stood still, _____ The Star stood still. _____

B *p*
Star stood still, _____ The Star stood still. _____

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38 *freely (solo)*

Fl. *mf* 3 3 3 3 3 3 (end solo)

S

A

T *mf* *gloioso*

B *mf* *gloioso*

The

The

41

Fl. *mp* 3

S *mp*

A *mp*

T 8

B 8

(Each fell on his knee):

(Each fell on his knee):

shep - herd - swains said then

shep - herd - swains said then

45

Fl. *f*

S

A

T *mf*

B *mf*

That was the ve - ry sweet - est strain_ Was ev - er sung in

That was the ve - ry sweet - est strain_ Was ev - er sung in

48

Fl. *mf*

S *mf dolce*

A *mf dolce*

T

B

tree, Was ev - - er sung in tree.____

tree, Was ev - - er sung in tree.____

Are

Are

51

Fl.

S
ma - ny birds in bower, _____ With ma - ny_a dul - cet song;

A
ma - ny birds in bower, _____ With ma - ny_a dul - cet song;

T
mf dolce
Are ma - ny birds in bower, _____ With ma - ny_a dul - cet

B
mf dolce
Are ma - ny birds in bower, _____ With ma - ny_a dul - cet

55

Fl.
mp 3 3

S
But none like him who sang that hour _____ The *p*

A
But none like him who sang that hour _____ The *p*

T
8
song; But none who sang

B
8
song; But none who sang

58

Fl. *mf* $\overset{3}{\text{trill}}$

S *mp*
Christ - mas boughs a - mong, The Christ - mas boughs a -

A *mp*
Christ - mas boughs a - mong, The Christ - mas boughs a -

T *p* *mp*
The Christ - mas boughs a - mong, The

B *p* *mp*
The Christ - mas boughs a - mong, The

61

Fl. $\overset{3}{\text{trill}}$ $\overset{3}{\text{trill}}$

S *mf* *f*
mong, The Christ - mas boughs a -

A *mf* *f*
mong, The Christ - mas boughs a -

T *f*
Christ - mas boughs a - mong, The Christ - mas boughs a -

B *f*
Christ - mas boughs a - mong, The Christ - mas boughs a -

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64

Fl.

S

A

T

B

3 3 3 3 3 3

dim. al fine

mong.

mong.

mong.

mong.

mong.

f