

# 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)

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# 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,

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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  
8  
ooh, \_\_\_\_\_

B  
ooh, \_\_\_\_\_

12

Fl. *leggiero*  
*mf* 

S  
*mp*  
still the glad-dest tune. \_\_\_\_\_

A  
*mp*  
still the glad-dest tune. \_\_\_\_\_

T  
8  
ooh \_\_\_\_\_ *mf con calore*  
With

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

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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   
He *mf*

A   
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. *leggiro* 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):

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*  $\overset{\frown}{\text{trill}}$

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.  $\overset{\frown}{\text{trill}}$  *mf* *f*

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

dim. al fine

dim. al fine

dim. al fine

dim. al fine

mong.

mong.

mong.

mong.

mong.

*f*

sample