

# **The Night Before Christmas**

according to the poem by Clement Clarke Moore  
Julien Roh

Code Schwierigkeitsgrad  
code degré de difficulté C = medium  
code degree of difficulty

Spieldauer  
durée not recorded yet  
playing time

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TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

(A Visit from Saint Nicholas)

by Clement Clarke Moore

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house

Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;  
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;  
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,  
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;  
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,  
Had just settled down for a long winter's nap.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.  
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow  
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,  
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,  
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,  
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.

More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,  
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;

"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen!  
On, Comet! on Cupid! on, Dunder and Blitzen!  
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!  
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"  
As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,  
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,  
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,  
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof  
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.  
As I drew in my hand, and was turning around,  
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.  
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,  
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;  
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,  
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.

His eyes -- how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!  
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!  
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,  
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;  
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,  
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;  
He had a broad face and a little round belly,  
That shook, when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,  
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;  
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,  
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;  
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,  
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,  
And laying his finger aside of his nose,  
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;  
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,  
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.

But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,  
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night."

ALS DER NIKOLAUS KAM

1947 übersetzt von Erich Kästner

In der Nacht vor dem Christfest, da regte im Haus  
sich niemand und nichts, nicht mal eine Maus.  
Die Strümpfe, die hingen paarweis am Kamin  
und warteten drauf, dass Sankt Niklas erschien.  
Die Kinder lagen gekuschelt im Bett  
und träumten vom Apfel- und Nüsseballett.

Die Mutter schlief tief, und auch ich schlief brav,  
wie die Murretiere im Winterschlaf,  
als draußen vorm Hause ein Lärm losbrach,  
dass ich aufsprang und dachte: Siehst rasch einmal nach!

Ich rannte zum Fenster, und fast noch im Lauf  
stieß ich die knarrenden Läden auf.

Es hatte geschneit, und der Mondschein lag  
so silbern auf allem, als sei's heller Tag.  
Acht winzige Rentierchen kamen gerannt,  
vor einen ganz, ganz kleinen Schlitten gespannt!  
Auf dem Bock saß ein Kutscher, so alt und so klein,  
dass ich wusste, das kann nur der Nikolaus sein!

Die Rentiere kamen daher wie der Wind,  
und der Alte, der pfiif, und er rief: "Geschwind!  
Renn, Renner! Tanz, Tänzer! Flieg, fliegende Hitz!  
Hui, Sternschnupp! Hui, Liebling! Hui, Donner und Blitz!  
Die Veranda hinauf, und die Hauswand hinan!  
Immer fort mit euch! Fort mit euch! Hui, mein Gespann!"

Wie das Laub, das der Herbststurm die Straßen lang fegt  
und, steht was im Weg, in den Himmel hoch trägt,  
so trug es den Schlitten auf unser Haus  
samt dem Spielzeug und samt dem Sankt Nikolaus!

Kaum war das geschehen, vernahm ich schon schwach  
das Stampfen der zierlichen Hufe vom Dach.  
Dann wollt' ich die Fensterläden zieh'n,  
da pumpste der Nikolaus in den Kamin!  
Sein Rock war aus Pelzwerk, vom Kopf bis zum Fuß.  
Jetzt klebte er freilich voll Asche und Ruß.  
Sein Bündel trug Nikolaus huckepack,  
so wie die Hausierer bei uns ihren Sack.

Zwei Grübchen, wie lustig! Wie blitzte sein Blick!  
Die Bäckchen zartrosa, die Nas' rot und dick!  
Der Bart war schneeweiß, und der drollige Mund  
sah aus wie gemalt, so klein und halbrund.  
Im Munde, da qualmte ein Pfeifenkopf,  
und der Rauch, der umwand wie ein Kranz seinen Schopf.  
Ich lachte hell, wie er so vor mir stand,  
ein rundlicher Zwerg aus dem Elfenland.

Er schaute mich an und schnitt ein Gesicht,  
als wollte er sagen: "Nun, fürchte dich nicht!"  
Das Spielzeug stopfte er, eifrig und stumm,  
in die Strümpfe, war fertig, drehte sich um,  
hob den Finger zur Nase, nickte mir zu,  
kroch in den Kamin und war fort im Nu!

In den Schlitten sprang er und pfiif dem Gespann,  
da flogen sie schon über Tal und Tann.  
Doch ich hör' ihn noch rufen, von fern klang es sacht:  
"Frohe Weihnachten allen, und allen gut' Nacht!"

C'ÉTAIT LA NUIT AVANT NOËL

C'était la nuit de Noël, un peu avant minuit,  
à l'heure où tout est calme, même les souris.  
On avait pendu nos bas devant la cheminée,  
pour que le Père Noël les trouve dès son arrivée.  
Blottis bien au chaud dans leurs petits lits,  
les enfants sages s'étaient déjà endormis.

Maman et moi, dans nos chemises de nuit,  
venions à peine de souffler la bougie,  
quand au dehors, un bruit de clochettes,  
me fit sortir d'un coup de sous ma couette.  
Filant comme une flèche vers la fenêtre,  
je scrutais tout là haut le ciel étoilé.

Au dessus de la neige, la lune étincelante,  
illuminait la nuit comme si c'était le jour.  
Je n'en crus pas mes yeux quand apparut au loin,  
un traîneau et huit rennes pas plus gros que le poing,  
dirigés par un petit personnage enjoué :  
c'était le Père Noël je le savais!

Ses coursiers volaient comme s'ils avaient des ailes,  
et lui chantait, afin de les encourager :  
"Allez Tornade ! Allez Danseur ! Allez , Furie et Fringuant!  
En avant Comète et Cupidon ! Allez Eclair et Tonnerrel  
Tout droit vers ce porche, tout droit vers ce mur!  
au galop au galop mes amis! au triple galop!"

Pareils aux feuilles mortes, emportées par le vent,  
qui montent vers le ciel pour franchir les obstacles,  
les coursiers s'envolèrent, jusqu'au dessus de ma tête,  
avec le traîneau, les jouets et même le Père Noël.  
Peu après j'entendis résonner sur le toit  
le piétinement fougueux de leurs petits sabots.

Une fois la fenêtre refermée, je me retournais,  
juste quand le Père Noël sortait de la cheminée.  
Son habit de fourrure, ses bottes et son bonnet,  
étaient un peu salis par la cendre et la suie.  
Jeté sur son épaule, un sac plein de jouets,  
lui donnait l'air d'un bien curieux marchand.

Il avait des joues roses, des fossettes charmantes,  
un nez comme une cerise et des yeux pétillants,  
une petite bouche qui souriait tout le temps,  
et une très grande barbe d'un blanc vraiment immaculé.  
De sa pipe allumée coincée entre ses dents,  
montaient en tourbillons des volutes de fumée.

Il avait le visage épanoui, et son ventre tout rond  
sautait quand il riait, comme un petit ballon.  
Il était si dodu, si joufflu, cet espiègle lutin,  
que je me mis malgré moi à rire derrière ma main.  
Mais d'un clin d'oeil et d'un signe de la tête,  
il me fit comprendre que je ne risquais rien.

Puis sans dire un mot, car il était pressé,  
se hâta de remplir les bas, jusqu'au dernier,  
et me salua d'un doigt posé sur l'aile du nez,  
Avant de disparaître dans la cheminée.  
je l'entendis ensuite siffler son bel équipage.  
Ensemble ils s'envolèrent comme une plume au vent.

Avant de disparaître le Père Noël cria :  
"Joyeux Noël à tous et à tous une bonne nuit!"

# The Night before Christmas

D'après le poème de Clement Clarke Moore

Lento (♩=60)

**A** Andante (♩=72)

Score for The Night before Christmas, featuring various instruments and percussion parts. The score is divided into two sections: Lento (♩=60) and Andante (♩=72).

**Instruments:** Soprano Eb Cornet, Solo Bb Cornet, Repiano Bb Cornet, 2nd Bb Cornet, 3rd Bb Cornet, Flugelhorn, Solo Eb Horn, 1st Eb Horn, 2nd Eb Horn, 1st Bb Baritone, 2nd Bb Baritone, 1st Bb Trombone, 2nd Bb Trombone, Bass Trombone, Bb Euphonium, Eb Bass, Bb Bass, Timpani, Percussion 1, Percussion 2.

**Key Performance Indicators:** *mp*, *f*, *p*, *pp*, *pp < p*, *mf*, *ff*, *cup mute*, *open*, *hard sticks*, *Glock. (medium mallets)*, *Susp. cym.*, *Wind chimes*.

**Tempo and Dynamics:** The score starts with a Lento tempo (♩=60) and transitions to an Andante tempo (♩=72) at the beginning of section A. Dynamics range from *pp* to *ff*.

**Notation:** The score uses standard musical notation with clefs, time signatures, and dynamic markings. The percussion parts include specific instructions for mallets and chimes.

Musical score for page 14, measures 1-14. The score is for a brass and percussion ensemble. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Soprano Eb Cornet:** Measures 1-14 are silent.
- Solo Bb Cornet:** Measures 1-14 are silent.
- Repiano Bb Cornet:** Measures 1-14 are silent.
- 2nd Bb Cornet:** Measures 1-14 are silent.
- 3rd Bb Cornet:** Measures 1-14 are silent.
- Flugelhorn:** Measures 1-14 are silent.
- Solo Eb Horn:** Measures 1-14 are silent.
- 1st Eb Horn:** Measures 1-14 are silent.
- 2nd Eb Horn:** Measures 1-14 are silent.
- 1st Bb Baritone:** Measures 1-14 are silent.
- 2nd Bb Baritone:** Measures 1-14 are silent.
- 1st Bb Trombone:** Measures 1-14 are silent.
- 2nd Bb Trombone:** Measures 1-14 are silent.
- Bass Trombone:** Measures 1-14 are silent.
- Bb Euphonium:** Measures 1-14 are silent.
- Eb Bass:** Measures 1-14 are silent.
- Bb Bass:** Measures 1-14 are silent.
- Timpani:** Measures 1-14 are silent.
- Percussion 1:** Measures 1-14 are silent.
- Percussion 2:** Measures 1-14 are silent.

Measures 1-14 contain the following dynamics and articulation markings:

- Measures 1-14: *mf* (Measures 10-14)
- Measures 1-14: *mp* (Measures 1-4, 8-14)
- Measures 1-14: *sost.* (Measures 5-7, 13-14)
- Measures 1-14: *mf* (Measures 6-8, 11-12)
- Measures 1-14: *pp<* (Measure 14)

Dynamic markings for Percussion 1:

- Measures 1-14: *mf* (Measures 5, 13)
- Measures 1-14: Triangle (Measures 5, 13)

26 **B**

Soprano Eb Cornet

Solo Bb Cornet

Repiano Bb Cornet

2nd Bb Cornet

3rd Bb Cornet

Flugelhorn

Solo Eb Horn

1st Eb Horn

2nd Eb Horn

1st Bb Baritone

2nd Bb Baritone

1st Bb Trombone

2nd Bb Trombone

Bass Trombone

Bb Euphonium

Eb Bass

Bb Bass

Timpani

Percussion 1

Percussion 2

Wind chimes

*f* *mf* *p* *pp* *one*

**C** Allegro leggiero (♩=152)

41

Soprano E♭ Cornet

Solo B♭ Cornet

Repiano B♭ Cornet

2nd B♭ Cornet

3rd B♭ Cornet

Flugelhorn

Solo E♭ Horn

1st E♭ Horn

2nd E♭ Horn

1st B♭ Baritone

2nd B♭ Baritone

1st B♭ Trombone

2nd B♭ Trombone

Bass Trombone

E♭ Euphonium

E♭ Bass

B♭ Bass

Timpani

Percussion 1

Percussion 2

str. mute

Glock.

Sleigh bells

*mf*

Soprano Eb Cornet

Solo Bb Cornet

Repiano Bb Cornet

2nd Bb Cornet

3rd Bb Cornet

Flugelhorn

Solo Eb Horn

1st Eb Horn

2nd Eb Horn

1st Bb Baritone

2nd Bb Baritone

1st Bb Trombone

2nd Bb Trombone

Bass Trombone

Bb Euphonium

Eb Bass

Bb Bass

Timpani

Percussion 1

Percussion 2

both

Susp. cym.

E

Musical score for a brass and woodwind ensemble, page 8. The score includes parts for Soprano Eb Cornet, Solo Bb Cornet, Repiano Bb Cornet, 2nd Bb Cornet, 3rd Bb Cornet, Flugelhorn, Solo Eb Horn, 1st Eb Horn, 2nd Eb Horn, 1st Bb Baritone, 2nd Bb Baritone, 1st Bb Trombone, 2nd Bb Trombone, Bass Trombone, Bb Euphonium, Eb Bass, Bb Bass, Timpani, Percussion 1, and Percussion 2. The music is in 2/4 time with a key signature of two flats. Dynamics range from *mf* to *f*. Percussion parts include cymbals and suspended cymbals.



Musical score for a brass band, page 75. The score includes parts for Soprano Eb Cornet, Solo Eb Cornet, Repiano Eb Cornet, 2nd Eb Cornet, 3rd Eb Cornet, Flugelhorn, Solo Eb Horn, 1st Eb Horn, 2nd Eb Horn, 1st Eb Baritone, 2nd Eb Baritone, 1st Eb Trombone, 2nd Eb Trombone, Bass Trombone, Bb Euphonium, Eb Bass, Bb Bass, Timpani, Percussion 1, and Percussion 2. The score features various dynamics (pp, f, ff, mp) and performance markings such as 'rall.' and 'B.D.'. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats.

Soprano E♭ Cornet

Solo B♭ Cornet  
cup mute  
solo  
mp  
a 2

Repiano B♭ Cornet  
cup mute  
p

2nd B♭ Cornet  
cup mute  
p

3rd B♭ Cornet  
p

Flugelhorn  
mf

Solo E♭ Horn

1st E♭ Horn

2nd E♭ Horn

1st B♭ Baritone

2nd B♭ Baritone

1st B♭ Trombone  
str. mute

2nd B♭ Trombone  
p str. mute

Bass Trombone  
p str. mute

E♭ Euphonium  
p  
one

E♭ Bass

E♭ Bass

Timpani

Percussion I

diese Partitur ist unvollständig  
 this score is not complete  
 ce score n'est pas complet