

The Carol of the Wandering Boy

Words: Cath Carmichael

for the Henbury Singers

Music: Oliver Barton

Slow and smooth ♩ = 90

very slow

12

Knock - ing on my door in cold De - cem - ber Comes a lit - tle

Knock - ing on my door in cold De - cem - ber Comes a lit - tle

Knock - ing on my door in cold De - cem - ber Comes a lit - tle

This was originally written to be sung unaccompanied, and that is one way to perform it—omit any bars in which the organ plays alone. But this was found to be very tiring for the singers if they were to give it the necessary control and intensity, so an organ part was added to give them a little respite. The result is a rather different piece, with the organ adding a new dimension.

Breaths should only be audible where there are punctuation marks in the text. The rest of the time singers will have to cheat.

* Hold notes on and then release them from the top down as the line slopes, at the same time intervals as when they were sounded, so that only the last note sounds when the line ends.

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If you perform it, please let me know!

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18

boy, Knock - ing on my door in coldDecember Comes a lit - tle

boy, Knock - ing on my door in coldDecember Comes a lit - tle

8 boy, Knock - ing on my door in coldDecember Comes a lit - tle

pp

A boy, a boy, a boy, a boy, a boy, a boy,

25

boy. *sempre pp* Ah

boy. He is ve - ry small and looks so hun - gry,

8 boy. He is ve - ry small and looks so hun - gry.

a boy, He is ve - ry small and looks so hun - gry,

floating pp

30

How can I en - joy All the things that

8 How can I en - joy All the things that

How can I en - joy All the things that

mp

35 *mp* bes - towed up - on me. *mf* All the things that

life's bes - towed on me. *mf* How can I en - joy the things that

8 life's bes - towed up - on me While that child's a - lone?

life's bes - towed up - on me While that child's a - lone?

35 *mf*

41 *f* life's bes - towed up - on me While that child's a - lone? *ff* I must

life's bes - towed up - on me While that child's a - lone, that child's a - lone? *ff* I must

8 bes - towed up - on me While that child's a - lone? *f* I must *ff*

on me, While that child's a - lone? *f* I must *ff*

41 *f* *ff*

†use the words above the stave

47 *sempre ff*

take him to my heart and give that Lit - tle boy a home.

take him to my heart and give that Lit - tle boy a home,

take him to my heart and give that Lit - tle boy a home,

take him to my heart and give that Lit - tle boy a home,

47 *sempre ff*

53

Ah

sub. mp

I must take him to my heart and give that Lit - tle

sub. mp

I must take him to my heart and give that Lit - tle

sub. mp

I must take him to my heart and give that Lit - tle

53 *sub. mp*

58

boy a home.

boy a home.

boy a home.

p

very slow

pp

64

a tempo

f

mp start slow and accel.

67

f fast

pp a tempo

70

pp

Knock - ing on my door in cold December Comes a lit - tle boy.

pp

Knock - ing on my door in cold December Comes a lit - tle boy.

pp

Knock - ing on my door in cold December Comes a lit - tle boy.

pp

A boy, a boy, a boy, a boy, a boy, a boy, a boy.

pp

77 *mf* *pp* *very slow* *start slow and accel.*

81 *p* *p* *mp a tempo* *p*

looks so hun -
 He is ve - ry small and hun -
 He is ve - ry small and looks so hun - gry,
 He is ve - ry small, so ve - ry small, and looks so hun - gry,

86 *mp* *mp* *mp* *pp*

gry, He is ve - ry small and
 gry, His is ve - ry small, so ve - ry small and looks so
 How can I en - joy
 How can I en - joy, can I en - joy

81

looks so hun-gry, How can I en - joy All the things that
 hun - gry, How can I en - joy All the things that

8 looks so hun-gry, How can I en - joy All the things that
 hun - gry How can I en - joy All the things that

81

87

life's bes - towed up - on me While that child's a - lone?
 life's bes - towed up - on me While that child's a - lone?
 8 life's bes - towed up - on me While that child's a - lone?
 life's bes - towed up - on me While that child's a - lone, a -

87

ff *molto dim.*

ff *molto dim.*

ff *molto dim.*

ff *molto dim.*

ff *molto dim.*

102 *mf* *dim. sempre al fine* *mp* *p*

I must take him to my heart and give that Lit - tle

mf *dim. sempre al fine* *mp* *p*

I must take him to my heart and give that Lit - tle

mf *dim. sempre al fine* *mp* *p*

8 I must take him to my heart and give that Lit - tle

mf *dim. sempre al fine* *mp* *p*

lone, a - lone, a - lone, a - lone, a - lone, a - lone, a -

102 *mf* *dim. sempre al fine* *mp* *p*

Sopranos: Drop out if this is too low for you

108 *pp* *ppp*

boy, that lit - tle boy a home.

pp *ppp*

boy, that lit - tle boy a home.

pp *ppp*

8 boy, that lit - tle boy a home.

pp *ppp*

lone, a - lone, a - lone, a - lone, a home.

108 *pp* *ppp*