

It's Christmas Time

for SATB and piano

Vanessa McClintock

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It's Christmas Time

for SATB and Piano

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It's Christmas Time was composed in its original form in 1981.

As with other short choral works from this period, this piece was composed for my Church choir. And, as with many such ensembles, there were very good, and some very nice, singers. Well, all were nice, but some were less experienced and not trained (if at all) as much as some of the others.

For the most part, my intent at that time and place was to compose melodies that were hummable, and harmonies that were doable with amateur choirs, and then enhance the work with a robust piano accompaniment.

The piece was met with warm enthusiasm, but far less than a warm cup of cocoa on a wintry day. In 2022 I enhanced the piano part with more complicated and syncopated rhythms, and further developed and expanded the harmonies.

My attitude and response to the piece as it was in 1981 matched the choir's and the congregation. This newer version captures the electricity of the kind found at Christmas Time.

Performance time: approximately 3'50"

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It's Christmas Time

Text and Music by
Vanessa McClintock

♩. = 96

Piano *mp*

(S+A) *mf*

5 *cresc.* *mf* It's

9 Christ-mas time, a won-der-ful time of year. *8va* The chil-dren are play-ing and smil-ing from ear to

12 ear. *8va* The joy I see in you, the joy I feel in we, it's

The musical score is written for piano and voice. The piano part begins with a 12/8 time signature and a tempo of 96 beats per minute. It features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The vocal parts, Soprano (S) and Alto (A), enter in the second system. The lyrics are: 'It's Christ-mas time, a won-der-ful time of year. The chil-dren are play-ing and smil-ing from ear to ear. The joy I see in you, the joy I feel in we, it's'. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp*, *cresc.*, and *mf*, as well as an *8va* marking for a vocal flourish. The piece concludes with a final chord in the piano part.

S
A

Christ-mas time and you are the one with me.

15

mp *mf*
(T+B)

T
B

On Christ-mas Day the first day of our new life, was

18

S
A

a

T
B

Je - sus born the child that we know as Christ. His Life was meant to be a

21

S
A
T
B

gift for you and me. _____

gift for you and me, _____ that we might live to-ge-ther E - ter - nal - ly. _____

24

27

30

33

36

39

It's Christmas Time / Vanessa McCutcheon

$\text{♩} = 96$

rit.

a tempo
mp

S
A

Eyes of Love, shin - ing as a star, three

mp

41

43

S
A

wise men saw in their Sa - viour.

45

S
A

Though a babe, His thoughts they knew: "Be

S
A

still, Peace be in thee."

47

49

mp

T
B

Eyes of Love, watch - ing

52

T
B

o'er us now, the Sa - viour is our

54

T
B

Shep - herd. Ev - er guid - ing

56

T
B

those who'll hear and feast up - on His

58

T
B

Word.

60

62

$\text{♩} = 84$

rit. $\text{♩} = 96$ (S) *mf*

S
A

The

64

S
A

snow is fall-ing so gent-ly it tou-ches the earth. So hum-bly we ga-ther to ho-nour our Sa-viour's

T
B

mf

the Earth.

67

(S+A)

S
A

birth. It's Christ-mas day, you see, _____ a time for Him and we; _____ the

T
B

His birth.

70

S
A

first day of our Life for E - ter - ni - ty.

73

T
B

mf

On

76

S
A

new Life.

T
B

Christ-mas day, the first day or our new Life, was Je-sus born, the child that we know as

79

S
A

as Christ. (A) a time for Him and we; (S+A) the

T
B

Christ. (all) It's Christ-mas day, you see, a time for Him and we; the

82

S
A

first day of our Life for E - ter - ni - ty! _____

T
B

first day of our Life for E - ter - ni - ty! _____

85

88

91