

Christmas Message 2008

Eddie Lewis

It hasn't been every year, but for most of the past ten years I have published a "Christmas Message" for all of my internet friends. One year I wrote a poem. Last year I wrote an original Christmas carol and my yearly message was about that. This year, the message comes in the form of a solo instrument "Miniature" loosely based on the following poem.

**In time
There was quiet,
When the hurried
Commotion subsided
I looked into
The manger
But He
Was awake.
The Baby
Jesus,
He looked
Straight at me,
And I knew.**

Lately I've been enjoying writing miniatures for solo instruments and giving them away as gifts. When it came time to start thinking about this year's Christmas message, I decided on doing one of these miniatures as part of that message.

In preparing the background work for this piece, I thought about keys and kept gravitating towards three keys – very specifically: C, E and A Flat. I thought about those keys for a while and realized that, in some deep and mysterious way each of those keys "feels" like a different color to me. C feels like white, E feels like green and A flat feels like red. Christmas colors!

What's interesting is that these keys are a major third from each other, so I decided to use the Augmented Scale both to modulate between the keys and to ornament them. So the composition itself has some interesting sounds to it.

The form of the piece is A¹ B A² C A³ D A where A¹ is in C, B is Augmented, A² is in A Flat, C is Augmented, A³ is in E, D is a cascading cadenza that symbolizes snowfall and the final A is in E. *I know these images don't coincide with the true birth story of Jesus, but they have become part of the Christmas tradition.*

I hope you enjoy the message. We wish all of you a very happy and blessed Christmas season and that these blessings spill over into the rest of your year.

When you get a chance, lean over the side of the manger and look at God's gift to you.

With God first in all things,

Eddie, Pearl and Alex Lewis

Treble Clef

IN TIME THERE WAS QUIET

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$\text{♩} = 100$

The musical score is written in treble clef and consists of eight staves of music. It begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 100. The first staff starts with a *mp* dynamic and a repeat sign. The second staff contains a section labeled 'A'. The third staff features a *f* dynamic. The fourth staff contains a section labeled 'B' and a *mf* dynamic. The fifth staff includes a triplet of eighth notes. The sixth staff continues the melodic line. The seventh staff also includes a triplet. The eighth staff begins with a *rit.* marking, followed by an *a tempo* marking and a *f* dynamic. The score concludes with a final melodic flourish.

In Time There Was Quiet - pg. 2

46 *a tempo* **C**
rit. *f*

52

57 *cadenza*
rit.

64 *tr.* 3 3 *tr.*

69 *tr.*

75 **D**
mp *mf*

82

90 *rit.*

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Bass Clef

IN TIME THERE WAS QUIET

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$\text{♩} = 100$

mp

7 **A**

14 *f*

20 **B**

25 *mf*

31

36

42 *rit.* *a tempo* *f*

In Time There Was Quiet - pg. 2

46 *a tempo* **C**

rit. **f**

52

57 *rit.* *tr*

64 *tr*

69 *tr*

75 **D** *mp* *mf*

82

90 *rit.*

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 there was quiet.
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