

A GLEE FOR WINTER

*for SATB choir
with piano accompaniment*

RUSSELL NADEL

(2012)

Duration: c. 2'00"



Text:

by Alfred Domett (1811-1887)

HENCE, rude Winter! crabbed old fellow,
Never merry, never mellow!
Well-a-day! in rain and snow
What will keep one's heart aglow?
Groups of kinsmen, old and young,
Oldest they old friends among;
Groups of friends, so old and true
That they seem our kinsmen too;
These all merry all together
Charm away chill Winter weather.

What will kill this dull old fellow?
Ale that's bright, and wine that's mellow!
Dear old songs for ever new;
Some true love, and laughter too;
Pleasant wit, and harmless fun,
And a dance when day is done.
Music, friends so true and tried,
Whisper'd love by warm fireside,
Mirth at all times all together,
Make sweet May of Winter weather.

Program Notes:

I composed *A Glee for Winter* in November 2012 for a competition seeking original choral music celebrating the joys of wintertime. I was delighted by the rather antique-sounding, "fluffy" text that nevertheless shows that holiday parties have changed little since the mid-19th century, and I strived in my music to pay homage to both the joy of a wintertime celebration and the slightly maudlin mood of the poem. I used shifting time signatures and an energetic piano accompaniment to add pep and forward momentum to the text, and incorporated several tempo changes calibrated to bring out the melodrama of the poem (and especially its surprisingly heartfelt ending). I also added some tongue-in-cheek stylistic references to highlight some of the more archaic passages.

— *Russell Nadel*
March 2013

A GLEE FOR WINTER

Alfred Domett (1811-1887)

RUSSELL NADEL

Allegro giocoso (♩ = 276-304, ♩ = 138-152) ♩ = ♩ *sempre*

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

Piano

f *p sub.* *cresc.*

4

ff

Hence, rude Win - ter! crabbed old fel - low,

ff

Hence, rude Win - ter! crabbed old fel - low,

ff

Hence, rude Win - ter! crabbed old fel - low,

ff

Hence, rude Win - ter! crabbed old fel - low,

7

ff *f* *pp*

Well - a - day! in rain and snow Ooh _____

mf sub. *ff* *f*

Ne - ver mer - ry, ne - ver mellow! Well - a - day! What_ will keep one's heart a - glow?

mp sub. *ff* *mf sub.*

Ne - ver mer - ry, ne - ver mellow! Well - a - day! in rain and snow

mf

What_ will keep one's heart a - glow?

mp sub. *f* *mf* *mp sub.* *ff*

13

A *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

Old - est they old friends a - mong;

mp *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

Groups of kins - men, old and young, Old - est they old friends a - mong;

pp

Ooh _____

mp *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

Groups of kins - men, old and young, Ooh _____

A *p sub.* *cresc. poco a poco*

19

f *f* *leggiero*
 Groups of friends, so old_ and true That they seem our kins-men too; These all mer - ry

mf *f* *mf* *leggiero*
 Groups of friends, so old_ and true That they seem our kins-men too; These all mer - ry

mp *cresc.* *mf* *f* *mf* *leggiero*
 Groups of friends, so old_ and true That they seem our kins-men too; These all mer - ry

Ooh _____ *f* kins-men too;

ff *mf* **B**

24

pp *sub.*
 all to-ge - ther Ooh _____

pp *sub.*
 all to-ge - ther Ooh _____

f
 all_ to-ge - ther Charm a-way chill Win - ter wea - ther.

mf
 Charm a-way chill Win - ter wea - ther.

mp *ff* *p* *sub.*
 &^{va}... &^{te}...