



# Choral Music for Women

for the Brentwood Cathedral Probationers and Music Group Children

## Past Three O'Clock

for SA Choir and Organ

Refrain: Traditional English, 17th century

Verses: George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1848–1934

Andrew Wright

\*INTRO *Allegretto* (♩ = ca. 96)

Keyboard

Organ: no Ped.  
Piano: Ped.

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\*If the left-hand stretch is too large, the lowest three notes are sufficient for the desired effect.

“Past Three O’Clock” is a new music setting of this carol text. Originally intended for children’s voices, the text and tune may be enjoyed by all at Christmas time. It could typically be sung by two equal voices (children, women or men), but will also adapt well to SA or TB choir, using the optional cue notes for the lower voice in the refrains.

The refrain text comes from the London waits, a band of men who, in the Middle Ages, patrolled the town each night, keeping watch and sounding the hour. In this version the depiction of a clock striking three at the start, the threefold melodic motive, and the effect of pealing bells in the accompaniment of the final refrain all add to the effect (not to mention the octave leap for “cold frosty morning”...). The accompaniment would be equally effective on keyboard or organ (with colorful and descriptive use of stops). An optional flute part is available online from OCP (edition #70892-Z3), and can add extra color and variety to the piece.

—Andrew Wright

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**REFRAIN**

Soprano

*f*

Past three o'-clock, past three o'-clock, past three o' clock, And a

Alto *f* [ossia lower alto part]

[Ped.]

cold frost - y morn - ing: Past three o'-clock, past three o'-clock,

past three o'-clock; Good mor - row, mas - ters all!

\*VERSES: 1-7: *mp*; 8: *mf*

1. Born is a ba - by, Gen - tle as may be, Son of th'e -  
 2. Ser - aph quire sing - eth, An - gel bell ring - eth: Hark how they  
 3. Mid earth re - joic - es Hear - ing such voic - es Ne'er - to - fore  
 4. Hinds o'er the pearl - y Dew - y lawn ear - ly Seek the high  
 5. Cheese from the dair - y Bring they for Ma - ry, and, not for  
 6. Light out of star - land Lead - eth from far land Prin - ces, to  
 7. Myrrh from full cof - fer, In - cense they of - fer: Nor is the  
 8. Thus they: I pray you, Up, sirs, nor stay you Till ye con -

1-7: *mp*; 8: *mf*

1. ter - nal Fa - ther su - per - nal.  
 2. rime it, Time — it, and chime it.  
 3. so well Car - ol - ling — No - well.  
 4. strang - er Laid — in the man - ger.  
 5. mon - ey, But - ter and hon - ey.  
 6. meet him, Wor - ship and greet him.  
 7. gold - en Nug - get with - hold - en.  
 8. fess him 8. Like - wise, and bless him.

1-7 *D.S.* Final

1-7 *D.S.* Final

\*For variety, alternate among solo, unison, and two-part choir for the verses.  
 For a shorter version of the carol, omit any or all of Verses 4-7.

## FINAL REFRAIN

*mp*

Past three o' clock, past three o' clock, past three o'-clock, And a

*mp*

Past three o' clock, past three o' - clock, past — three o' - clock, And a  
[ossia lower alto part]

*mp*

*f*

cold frost - y morn - ing: Past three o' - clock, past three o' - clock,

*f*

cold frost - y morn - ing: Past three o' - clock, past three o' -

*f*

past three o' - clock; Good mor - row, mas - ters all!

clock, past — three o' - clock; Good mor - row, mas - ters all!