

# In the Bleak Midwinter

For String Orchestra, Grade 1  
by Gustav Holst  
arranged by Katie O'Hara LaBrie (ASCAP)

## Instrumentation

1 - Full Score  
8 - Violin 1  
8 - Violin 2 (Viola T.C.)  
5 - Viola  
5 - Cello  
5 - Bass  
1 - Piano

### Note from the Editor:

This grade 1 arrangement is designed to be accessible for the youngest of players through simplified rhythms and limited range while the harmonies and expressive qualities make it equally engaging for advanced players.

The integral piano part is written to be accessible at a student level as well.

- Katie O'Hara LaBrie

**Full Set - \$55.00**

**Extra Conductor Score - \$10.00**

**Extra Part - \$4.00**



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# In the Bleak Midwinter

Arranged by Katie O'Hara LaBrie, Grade 1

## Program Notes:

Picture waking up on a quiet winter morning; snow on the ground and everything is still. This imagery comes to mind for *In the Bleak Midwinter*. Originally written by Gustav Holst in 1908, this arrangement by Katie O'Hara LaBrie takes on new life with rich harmonies and moving lines.

## Performance Notes:

One quiet snowy winter morning I sat down with the intent on writing a grade 1 piece. Within moments, *In the Bleak Midwinter* came to mind. The original, of course, is full of dotted quarter – eighth note combinations, which I wanted to avoid for this level... but honestly I felt that streamlining those rhythms brought out the simplistic beauty of the piece. You of course are welcome to put them back in if you feel strongly otherwise or if you want to use this as a teaching piece on dotted quarter note rhythms – but for me, I like leaning into the purity of the moving quarter notes. The piece can be played without the piano, but including this part definitely adds to the overall movement and flow of the piece. I kept the part simple enough for a potential student accompanist.

Encourage your students to explore phrasing when working on this piece, using long legato bows while varying the bow weight and speed. I wrote in some hairpins later on in the piece but they could be implemented throughout.

I hope you, your students, and audiences enjoy the arrangement and can picture perhaps a quiet snowy (not so bleak) midwinter morning when playing it.

– Katie O'Hara LaBrie



## About the Composer

Katie O'Hara LaBrie is a composer, conductor, clinician, and cellist from Northern Virginia and is the Orchestra Editor for Randall Standridge Music Publications. An educator at heart, Mrs. LaBrie spent the first 15 years of her career teaching orchestra in Fairfax County, Virginia. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from St. Olaf College, where she studied under Steven Amundson, and Masters of Music in Instrumental Conducting from George Mason University, where she studied with Anthony Maiello.

As a composer, Mrs. LaBrie's inspiration grows from many sources such as family and nature, but primarily draws from her experiences as a music educator. She enjoys creating new music with the goal of being educationally sound, pleasing to audiences, and above all, fun for the players. She is passionate about sharing music with others and teaching students how to practice with purpose.

Mrs. LaBrie is the founding conductor of the Fairfax Chamber Players and co-creator of "the Big IDEA" practice method. In 2022, she was honored as one of Yamaha's "40 Under 40," for her action, courage, creativity, and commitment to growth in the music education field. She lives in Fairfax, VA with her husband Joe, who is a middle school band director, and their budding musician, Liam. Learn more at [www.katieoharalabrie.com](http://www.katieoharalabrie.com).

# In the Bleak Midwinter

Score  
Grade 1  
Duration 2:10

Gustav Holst  
arr. Katie O'Hara LaBrie (ASCAP)

**Sweetly** ♩ = 92

Violin 1  
Violin 2 (Viola T.C.)  
Viola  
Cello  
Double Bass  
Piano

*mp* *sempre legato*

Ped ad lib. throughout

5

Vln. 1  
Vln. 2  
Vla.  
Vc.  
D.B.  
Pno.

5 6 7 8 9

13

Musical score for measures 10-14. The score includes staves for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). Measure 10 shows the beginning of the section. Measure 11 features a four-measure rest in the Violin 2 part. Measure 12 has a four-measure rest in the Viola part. Measure 13 has a four-measure rest in the Violin 2 part. Measure 14 has a four-measure rest in the Violin 2 part. The Piano part provides a rhythmic accompaniment throughout.

Musical score for measures 15-19. The score includes staves for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). Measure 15 features a four-measure rest in the Violin 1 part. Measure 16 features a four-measure rest in the Violin 2 part. Measure 17 features a four-measure rest in the Violin 1 part. Measure 18 features a four-measure rest in the Violin 2 part. Measure 19 features a four-measure rest in the Violin 1 part. The Piano part continues with its accompaniment.

In the Bleak Midwinter - Score

21 div. tip

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Pno.

20 21 22 23 24

29

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Pno.

25 26 27 28 29

In the Bleak Midwinter - Score

*poco rit.* *a tempo*

Musical score for measures 30-34. The score includes staves for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature is 4/4. The score begins with a dynamic marking of *f* (forte) and a tempo marking of *poco rit.* (poco ritardando). At measure 32, the tempo changes to *a tempo*. The dynamic marking changes to *mf* (mezzo-forte) at measure 32. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and articulation marks. A watermark "Randall Standage Music" is visible across the score.

37

Musical score for measures 35-39. The score includes staves for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature is 4/4. The score begins with a dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte) and a tempo marking of *rit.* (ritardando). At measure 37, the dynamic marking changes to *f* (forte). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and articulation marks. A watermark "Randall Standage Music" is visible across the score.

In the Bleak Midwinter - Score

41 *a tempo*

Vln. 1  
Vln. 2  
Vla.  
Vc.  
D.B.  
Pno.

40 41 42 43

*rit. div.* *a tempo* *molto rit.*

Vln. 1  
Vln. 2  
Vla.  
Vc.  
D.B.  
Pno.

44 45 46 47 48