

HOW LOVE BLEEDS

Four Carols for Dark Times

Words by
R S THOMAS
(1913–2000)

For Pauline Round with love

Music by
PAUL SPICER
(b 1952)

1 – Christmas

Gently moving

SOPRANO *p* Time brings it near - er, *mp* Brit - tle with

ALTO *p* There is a morn - ing; *mp* Brit - tle with

TENOR

BASS

PIANO (for rehearsal only) **Gently moving**

3

frost And star - light. *mf* Time brings it near - er, _____

frost And star - light. *mf* Time brings it near - er, _____

mp There is a morn - ing; _____ *mf* Time brings it

mp There is a morn - ing; _____ *mf* Time brings it

6

Brit - tle with frost, frost And star - light..

Brit - tle with frost, Brit - tle with frost And star - light..

near-er, Brit - tle with frost, frost And star - light..

near-er, Brit - tle with frost And star - light..

mf

9

move on a little

mf The owls sing In the pa-rish-es. The peo-ple rise And

mf The owls sing In the pa-rish-es. The peo-ple rise And

mf The owls sing In the pa-rish-es. The peo-ple rise And

mf The owls sing In the pa-rish-es. The peo-ple rise And

move on a little

mf

mf

mf

mf

2 – Nativity

Warmly and simply ♩ = 60

SOPRANO
mp
 The moon is born and a child is born,

ALTO
mp
 The moon is born and a child is born,

TENOR
mp *cresc*
 The moon is born and a child is born, ly - ing a -

BASS
mp
 The moon is born and a child is born,

PIANO
(for rehearsal only)
 Warmly and simply ♩ = 60

4 *cresc* *f*
 a - mong white clothes as the moon a - mong clouds. They both

cresc
 ly - ing a - mong white clothes as the moon a - mong clouds.

cresc
 - mong, ly - ing a - mong white clothes as the moon a - mong clouds.

cresc
 a - mong white clothes as the moon a - mong clouds.

9 *appassionato*

shine, shine, shine, but the light, the light from the

f They both shine, but the light, the light from the *mf*

f They both shine, but the light, the light from the *mf*

f They both shine, but the light, the light from the *mf*

13 *legato e molto cresc*

one is a - broad, is a - broad in the u - ni - verse as a-mong

legato e molto cresc one is a - broad, is a - broad in the u - ni - verse as a-mong

legato e molto cresc one is a - broad, is a - broad in the u - ni - verse as a-mong

legato e molto cresc one is a - broad, is a - broad in the u - ni - verse as a-mong

3 – Carol

Light and scherzo-like ♩ = 76

SOPRANO *mp*
 What_ is Christ - mas_ with-out snow? What is Christ - mas

ALTO *mp*
 What_ is Christ - mas_ with-out

TENOR

BASS

PIANO
 (for rehearsal only)

Light and scherzo-like ♩ = 76

4

— with-out snow, — with-out snow, with-out snow, *mf*

snow? — Christ-mas_ with-out snow, with-out snow, *mf*

mp *mf*
 What is Christ-mas_ with-out snow? What is Christ-mas_ with-out snow? —

mp *mf*
 What is Christ-mas_ with-out snow, with-out snow,

8 *mp* *insistent* *mf*

with - out snow? What is Christ - mas, — What is Christ - mas

mp *insistent* *mf*

with - out snow? What is Christ - mas, — What is Christ - mas

mp *insistent* *mf*

— What is Christ - mas, — What is Christ - mas

mp

with - out snow, — with - out snow, —

12

with - out snow? — We need it as

with - out snow? — We need it as

with - out snow? — We need it as

mf *with energy*

with - out snow? — We need it — as — bread of a cold, bread

4 – Festival

Serious and meditative ♩ = 66

mp

SOPRANO
This Christ - mas be - fore an al - tar of

mp

ALTO
This Christ - mas be - fore an al - tar of

mp

TENOR
This Christ - mas be - fore an al - tar of

mp

BASS
This Christ - mas be - fore an al - tar of

Serious and meditative ♩ = 66

PIANO
(for rehearsal only)

4

p gold the hol - ly will re - mind us how love bleeds, *mp* Ah

p gold the hol - ly will re - mind us how love bleeds, *mp* Ah

p gold the hol - ly will re - mind us how love bleeds,

p gold the hol - ly will re - mind us how love bleeds, *mf espress* the

8

how pale and pu - ny, how pale and
 how pale and pu - ny, how pale and
 mi - stle-toe re - mind how pale and pu - ny, how pale and

11 **slowing**

ff impassioned *mp*
 pu - ny the knu-ckles of the few fin - gers clenched up - on faith, how

ff impassioned *mp*
 pu - ny the knu-ckles of the few fin - gers clenched up - on faith, how

ff impassioned *mp*
 pu - ny the knu-ckles of the few fin - gers clenched up - on faith, how

ff impassioned *mp*
 pu - ny the knu-ckles of the few fin - gers clenched up - on faith, how

slowing