

"Foremost In Marching And Concert Percussion Literature"

P.O. Box 292671 ● Nashville, TN 37229 ● 1-800-624-8001 ● FAX 1-615-885-0370 ● www.rowloff.com

The Night Before Christmas

Poem by Clement C. Moore / Music by Dan Moore Medium - 6:17 - 7 Players (plus narrator)

Instrumentation

Bells, Xylophone, Vibes, (1) 4 1/3 oct. Marimba, Chimes, Wind Machine, Suspended Cymbal, Small Glass Wind Chimes, Small & Medium Triangles, Timpani, Slapstick, Concert Snare Drum, Crotales, Ratchet, Claves, Finger Cymbals, Tenor Drum, Concert Bass Drum, Wood Block, Dry Leaves, Toy Piano, Sleigh Bells, Bell Tree, Small Shaker, Narrator

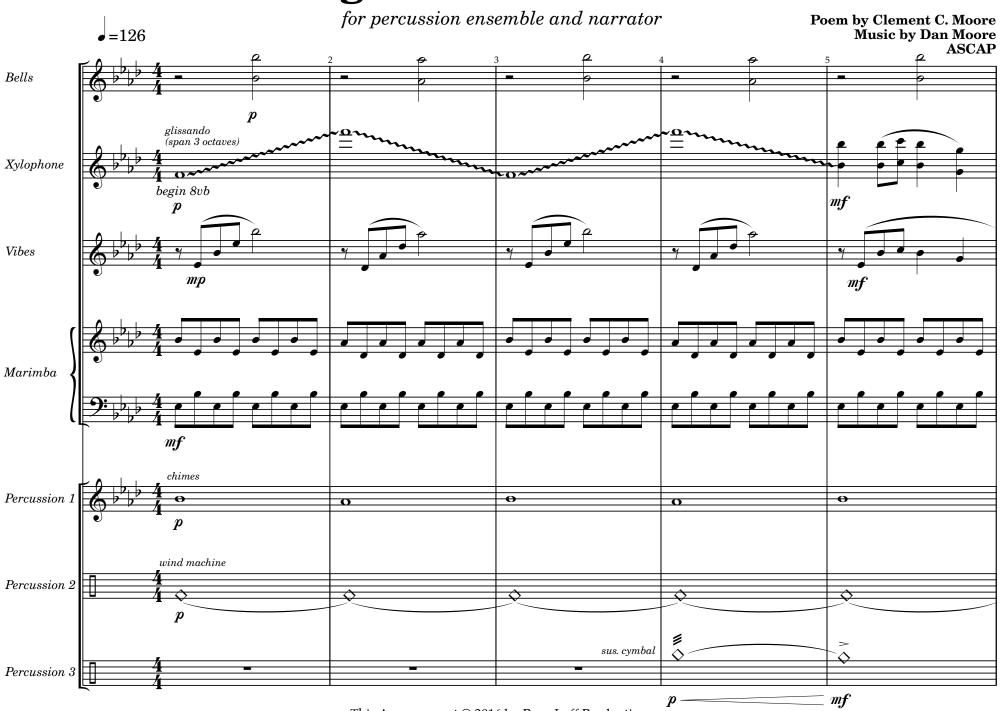
The **Notes** Before Christmas...

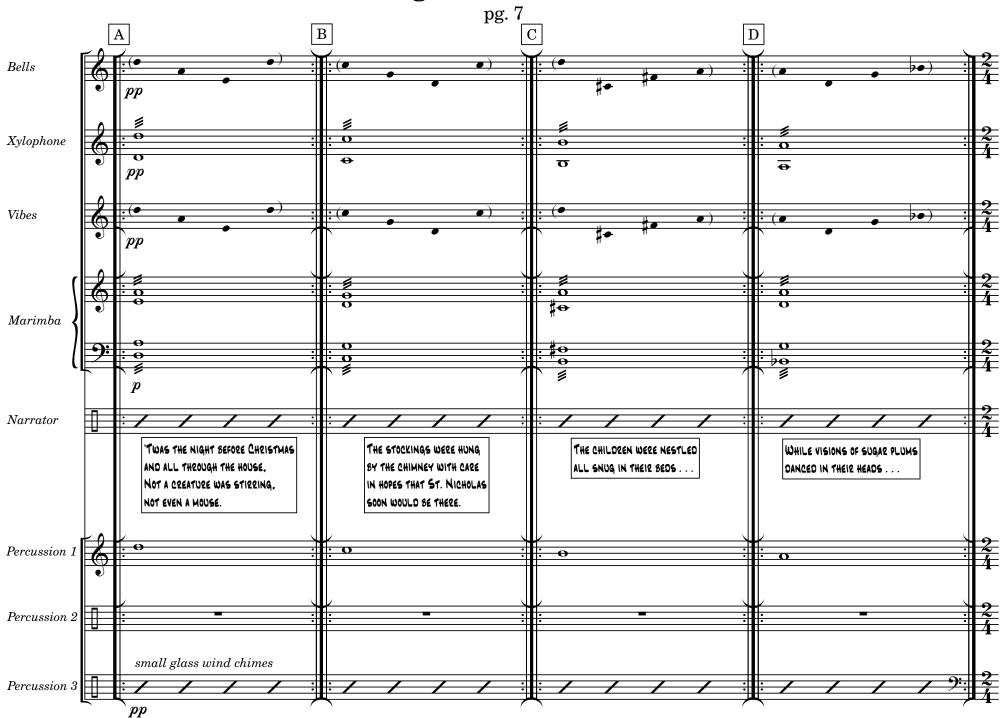
In 1822, Clement Clarke Moore wrote "A Visit from St. Nicholas" to recite to his children on the night before Christmas. The poem vividly describes the jolly old elf, and even names his eight tiny reindeer. From its first appearance in print in 1823, Moore's narrative went on to become one of the most beloved and recognized of American poems. It is a Christmas tradition around the world and has inspired many artists and composers (including at least one percussionist).

Dan Moore's "The Night Before Christmas" for percussion ensemble is a subtle setting of Clement Clarke Moore's classic poem. It is loosely based on the theme from "Up on the House Top," borrows a brief quote from "The Nutcracker," and includes special and musical effects throughout.

Performance Notes:

- Special effects should be slightly understated, and musical effects should be performed tastefully.
- The narrator should read in a natural pace, except at rehearsal mark "J" where the notated rhythms should be observed as closely as possible. At rehearsal mark "P" the narration should fit within each 8-measure phrase. Slow down the tempo at this section as needed.
- Several players should have a small box of dry tree leaves to rustle gently. Don't overdo it. It should be a subtle effect.
- At rehearsal mark "W," one player can make a boisterous horse whistle after the line, "to his team gave a whistle.
- If a toy piano is unavailable, a toy xylophone or the highest octave of a piano is a suitable substitute.
- If necessary, the marimba part may be split between two players.





pg. 21





