Christopher Beardsley

The Bee Carol
for SATB chorus and piano

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The Bee Carol

Silently on Christmas Eve,
the turn of midnight's key;
all the garden locked in ice –
a silver frieze –
except the winter cluster of the bees.

Flightless now and shivering,
around their Queen they cling;
every bee a gift of heat;
she will not freeze
within the winter cluster of the bees.

Bring me for my Christmas gift
a single golden jar;
let me taste the sweetness there,
but honey leave
to feed the winter cluster of the bees.

Come with me on Christmas Eve
to see the silent hive –
trembling stars cloistered above –
and then believe,
bless the winter cluster of the bees.

Carol Ann Duffy (2011)

Duration: 3 minutes

The Bee Carol

Carol Ann Duffy

Christopher Beardsley

Slowly (♩=c.72)

SOPRANO

p

Si-lent-ly on Christ-mas Eve, the turn of mid-night's

ALTO

p

Si-lent-ly on Christ-mas Eve, the turn of mid-night's

TENOR

p

Si-lent-ly on Christ-mas Eve, the turn of mid-night's

BASS

p

Si-lent-ly on Christ-mas Eve,— the turn of mid-night's

Piano

Slowly (♩=c.72)

(sim.)

p

6

S.

key;_____ all the gar - den locked in ice - a sil - ver frieze -

A.

key; all the gar - den locked in ice - a sil - ver frieze -

T.

key; all the gar - den locked in ice - a sil - ver frieze -

B.

key; all the gar - den locked in ice - a sil - ver frieze -

Pno.

11

S. ex - cept the win - ter clus - ter of the bees.

A. ex - cept the win - ter clus - ter of the bees.

T. ex - cept the win - ter clus - ter of the bees.

B. ex - cept the win - ter clus - ter of the bees.

(non arp.)

Pno.

A

16

S. *mp* Flight - less now and shi - ver - ing, a - round their Queen they cling:

A. *mp* Flight - less now and shi - ver - ing, a - round their Queen they cling:

T. *mp (melody)* Flight - less now and shi - ver - ing, a - round their Queen they cling:

B. *mp* Flight - less now and shi - ver, shi - ver - ing, a - round their Queen they cling:

Pno.

Lyrics (measures 20–27):

Soprano:
Ah, _____ she will not freeze _____
with - in the win - ter clus - ter of the _____ bees. _____

Alto:
Ah, _____ she will not freeze
with - in the win - ter _____ clus - ter of the bees. _____

Tenor:
e - v'ry bee a gift of heat; she will not freeze
with - in the win - ter clus - ter of the bees.

Bass:
Ah, _____ she will not freeze
with - in the win - ter _____ clus - ter of the _____ bees.

B

S. Bring for me my Christ - mas gift a sin - gle gol - den jar;

A. Bring for me my Christ - mas gift a sin - gle gol - den jar;

T. Bring for me my Christ - mas gift a sin - gle gol - den jar;

B. Bring for me my Christ - mas gift a sin - gle gol - den jar;

(Tacet: small notes for rehearsal only)

Pno.

S. let me taste the sweet - ness there, but__ ho - ney leave to

A. let me taste the sweet-ness there, but ho - ney leave to

T. let me taste the sweet - ness, sweet - ness__ there, but ho - ney leave to

B. let me taste__ the sweet-ness there, but__ ho - ney leave to

Pno.

feed the win - ter clus - ter of the bees.

feed the win - ter clus - ter of the bees.

feed the win - ter clus - ter of the bees.

feed the win - ter clus - ter of the bees.

C

Come with me to see the hive -_____

Come with me on Christ-mas Eve to see the sil - ent hive -

Come with me on Christ-mas Eve to see the sil - ent hive -

Come with me on Christ-mas Eve to see the sil - ent hive -

Lyrics (measures 44–52):

S.: trem - bling stars a - bove- be - lieve,___ bless___ the win - ter, win - ter clus - ter of the bees.___

A.: trem - bling, trem - bling stars___ a- bove- and then be- lieve,___ bless___ the win - ter clus - ter of the bees.___

T.: trem - bling stars___ clois - tered a- bove- and then be- lieve, bless___ the win - ter, win - ter clus - ter of the bees.___

B.: trem - bling stars, trem-bling stars a- bove- and then ve- lieve, bless___ the win - ter clus - ter of the bees.___