

On A Winter's Eve



DUO AMIE



Holiday Melodies

Wexford Carol (Traditional):

This traditional Irish Christmas carol, likely dating from the 15th century (with the lyrics dating from the 12th century) and originating in County Wexford, sings of the nativity of Jesus Christ. It is one of the oldest surviving Christmas carols in the European tradition.

Ave, Maris Stella (Edvard Grieg):

Ave, Maris Stella (Hail, Star of the Sea) is a hymn to Mary from the middle ages. Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg composed his setting of this hymn in 1893 for voice and piano.

What Child is This (Greensleeves):

The Christmas carol "What Child is This" was written in 1865 by William Chatterton Dix, a businessman and son of an English surgeon. He wrote it after recovering from a nearly fatal illness, which prompted him to become deeply religious. He adapted the lyrics to the beloved English folk song 'Greensleeves'.

O Holy Night (Adolphe Adam):

This popular Christmas Carol was composed by Adam in 1847, setting the French poem 'Minuit, Chrétiens' by French poet Placide Cappeau to music. The poem was written in 1843 to celebrate the renovation of the organ at the church in the town of Roquemaure that year.

S'vivon Sov Sov Sov (Traditional):

This is a popular Hanukkah dreidel song (sevivon means dreidel in Hebrew). It is sung while spinning the dreidel (a Hanukkah spinning top), getting faster and faster as the dreidel spins.

Hacia Belén va una Burra (Antonio Soler, arranged by José Elizondo):

This charming song originated as a children's Christmas carol in 18th century Spain. Popular in Latin America among children at Christmas time, the amusingly nonsensical lyrics tell of a donkey going to Bethlehem, carrying a gift of chocolate, while an ox eats the hat of a Galician visitor and thieves steal the chocolate (and Jesus' swaddling clothes). This arrangement was written for and dedicated to Duo Amie, by Boston area-based composer José Elizondo. Listen for the touches of Flamenco in the middle and the sound of the donkey's hee-haws, particularly at the very end!

Winter Lullabies

Lull-a-Bear (from Ursa) (Robert Rodriguez)

Originally written by American composer Robert Rodriguez as the 3rd movement of Ursa: Four Seasons for Double Bass and Orchestra (about the four seasons of a baby bear's life), Lull-a-Bear (Winter) was also transcribed by Rodriguez for cello and piano. It is about a hibernating bear in winter. Per the composer, he also calls this movement "a BEAR-ceuse (after the French berceuse, or cradle song), in which the [cello] plays a gentle melody..., ending in a long, resonant snore".

Canción de Cuna (José Elizondo):

Canción de Cuna (which means Lullaby), is a tender cradle song. The lyrics (written by the composer and his mother) tell of a mother singing her child to sleep, as the moon rises and the cold wind sighs on a winter's evening.

Preludio Lejanía (Mauricio Charbonnier):

Composed in 2019, Argentinean composer Mauricio Charbonnier transcribed the piece for Duo Amie in 2022. Lejanía means 'remoteness' and was inspired by the poem 'Lejanía' by Argentinean poet Alejandra Pizarnik. The piece has a languorous still beauty, akin to that of newly fallen snow sparkling amidst pine trees on a winter morning.



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Songs of Winter

The Diamond on the March Snow, Opus 36, No. 6 (Jean Sibelius)

Sibelius wrote *Demanten på Marssnön* (The Diamond on the March Snow) in 1900, as the last of six songs for voice and piano. The lyrics, by Finnish poet Josef Julius Wecksell, are of the beauty and fragility of love, like a crystalline diamond of snow sparkling in the sun, whose warm rays kiss her for a brief happy moment, melting her into a teardrop.

Winterlied, Opus 19a, No. 3 (Felix Mendelssohn):

Composed in 1834, Mendelssohn's *Winterlied* (Swedish Winter Song) sets a Swedish folksong text to exquisite music in three voices: the mother, the son, and the storyteller. The mother pleads with her son not to venture into the woods to find his sister on a cold winter night, yet he insists, and neither son nor daughter return, leaving the mother alone, gazing out upon woods, as the seasons/years march on.

Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind (Thomas Arne)

This song, by 18th century composer Thomas Arne, sets verse from Shakespeare's 'As You Like It'. In the verse, the bite of a cold winter wind is considered not as painful as the sting of man's ingratitude or a false friend.

Gute Nacht (from Winterreise) (Franz Schubert)

Written in 1827, a year before his death Schubert's *Winterreise* song cycle sets to music poems of loneliness and the coldness of winter, by German poet Wilhelm Müller. *Gute Nacht* (Good Night), is the first of the cycle and begins with "A stranger I came, a stranger I depart", as the traveler begins his lonely wanderings, leaving the home of his adored love who has forsaken him to marry a richer man, into the coldness of the winter night.

On a Winter's Eve (Winterabend), Op. 126b (Alexander Gretchaninov)

Russian composer Gretchaninov wrote 'On a Winter's Eve' in 1920 for cello (or violin) and piano, as the 6th piece in a 10-part composition titled 'Early in the Morning'. In B minor, the melody is austere yet somehow dreamy, like the memory of a quiet evening spent by the fireside on a cold blustery night.



JULIE REIMANN, CELLO
ELLYSES KUAN, PIANO