

THE VERY BEST TIME OF YEAR**

for Mixed Voices, S.A.T.B., with Piano*

Words and music by
JOHN RUTTER

Moderato, relaxed (♩ = 84)

Piano

Fl. *mp dolce*

Str.

The piano introduction features a flute part with a melodic line and a string part with a rhythmic accompaniment. The tempo is Moderato, relaxed, with a quarter note equal to 84 beats per minute. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

5

TENORS and BASSES

mp legato

Christ-mas trees and boughs of hol-ly, Yule-tide logs and mis - tle - toe;

The vocal line for Tenors and Basses begins at measure 5. The lyrics are "Christ-mas trees and boughs of hol-ly, Yule-tide logs and mis - tle - toe;". The music is marked *mp legato*.

Piano

Fl.

The piano accompaniment continues, featuring a flute part and a string part. The flute part has a melodic line that complements the vocal line. The string part provides a steady accompaniment.

9

SOPRANOS and ALTOS

mp

Can-dles burn-ing bright, and mea-dows frost - y white, And fa - ces in the fire - light's

The vocal line for Sopranos and Altos begins at measure 9. The lyrics are "Can-dles burn-ing bright, and mea-dows frost - y white, And fa - ces in the fire - light's". The music is marked *mp*.

12

S. A.

T. B.

glow; Sounds of hap - py chil - dren's voi - ces Sing - ing

The vocal line for Sopranos and Altos continues from measure 12. The lyrics are "glow; Sounds of hap - py chil - dren's voi - ces Sing - ing". The music is marked *mp* and *mf*.

Ob.

mp

cresc. *mf*

The piano accompaniment continues, featuring an oboe part and a string part. The oboe part has a melodic line that complements the vocal line. The string part provides a steady accompaniment.

*Scored for flue, oboe, harp, and strings. Scores and parts are available from the publisher.
 **From We Wish You A Merry Christmas. HMB-154.

15

car - ols that you love to hear; *p* *Hum*

Then the si - lence of the night And the

18

win - ter air so still and clear. *Ob.* *cresc.*

B SOPRANOS and ALTOS

21

mp

Feels like you could reach and touch the sky, Or catch a star and fly a -

p

TENORS and BASSES

p dolce

24

- way; Fl.  *3*

Feels like you could wish for peace on earth, And

27

unis. [C] *mp*

Fam - i - lies and friends to -

all at once — it would come, some day. *mp*

mp

♭ *

30

- geth - er *mf*

- geth - er *mf*

- geth - er Feel a spe - cial kind of love and cheer,

div. *mf*

mf

33 Shar-ing all the joys of Christ - mas time - The ve - ry best time

mp *Hum* *p*

mp *p*

mp *p*

37 year.

D

D Ob.

mp *dolce* *espress.* *p*

41

Fl.

45

rit.

a tempo

Str.

p

cresc.

E

48

mf warmly

to - geth - er

Fam - i - lies and friends to - geth - er er Feel a

div.

div.

E

mf warmly

mf

50

spe - cial kind of love — and cheer, — Shar - ing all the joys of —

mp

53

Christ - mas time - The ve - ry best time, _____

That

Ob.

mp *p* *f* * *f* * *sim.*

56

Slower till the end

That shin - ing, ma - gic

strange, en - chant - ed time, _____

Str.

Slower till the end

p

59

time of year. _____

dim.

pp

Fl.

dim.

pp

dim.

pp

f

*