

## In the Bleak Midwinter

The image shows a musical score for the Christmas carol "In the Bleak Midwinter". It consists of three staves of music in G major and 4/4 time. The first staff has a melody with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. Above the notes are chords: G, D7 G, D7, G, D7 G, D7, G. The second staff has a bass line with notes G3, A3, B3, C4, B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3. Above the notes are chords: C G AmD7, C G, D7 G, D7 G, D7 G. The third staff has a final melody with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. Above the notes are chords: D7, G. The piece ends with a double bar line.

1. In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.
2. Heaven cannot hold him, nor the earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall welcome him when he comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
To hold the Lord of heaven and earth, incarnate Jesus Christ.
3. Angels and archangels came to worship there,  
Cherubim and seraphim hovered in the air;  
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
Worshipped the beloved only with a kiss.
4. What then can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

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"In the Bleak Midwinter" is a Christmas carol based on a poem by the English poet Christina Rossetti written before 1872 in response to a request from the magazine **Scribner's Monthly** for a Christmas poem. It was published posthumously in Rossetti's **Poetic Works** in 1904.

The poem became a Christmas carol after it appeared in **The English Hymnal** in 1906 with a setting by Gustav Holst. Holst's setting, "Cranham", is titled after Cranham, Gloucestershire.