

See, Amid the Winter's Snow

hymn tune by John Goss
lyrics by Edward Caswall
arranged by Douglas Mears

Instrumentation

Flute
Oboe
2 Clarinets in A
Bassoon
3 Horns in F
Timpani
Percussion I
small triangle, suspended cymbal, bass drum, vibraphone
Percussion II
mark tree, tambourine
Percussion III
chimes, crotales, tam-tam
Percussion IV
glockenspiel, tar (hand drum)
Celesta
Harp
SATB Choir
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Cello
Contrabass

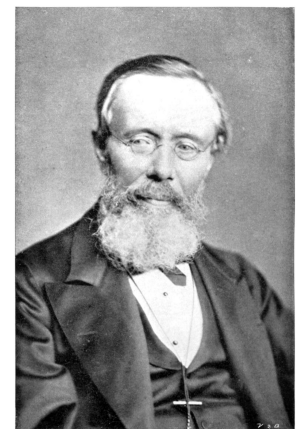
Notes



Former Anglican minister Edward Caswall wrote the carol “See, amid the Winter’s Snow” shortly after converting to Catholicism and being ordained a priest. The poem was first published in 1858 as part of Caswall’s *The Masque of Mary and Other Poems*.

Subtitled “Hymn for Christmas Day,” the carol was set to the tune “Humility,” composed specifically for this poem by Sir John Goss in 1871. It was then published nationwide in the hymn book *Christmas Carols Old and New*. Sir John Goss (1800-1890) was an English organist, composer, and teacher. He began as a choir boy at the Royal Chapel in London. For many years he served as organist at St. Luke’s Church in Chelsea and then eventually at St. Paul’s Cathedral in London. “See, Amid the Winter’s Snow” is one of Goss’s most popular hymn tunes.

This new, imaginative setting of “See, Amid the Winter’s Snow” for chorus and orchestra by Douglas Mears presents a dramatic musical portrayal of the angel’s annunciation to the shepherds, as recounted in Luke 2: 8-11.



Yours faithfully
John Goss