

Good King Wenceslas

J.M. Neale.

From Piae Cantiones arranged by Sir. John Stainer.

All. 1. Good King Wenceslas looked out, On the fest of Stephen,
Tenor Solo. 2. "Hither page and stand by me, If thou know'st it tell - ing,
Tenor Solo. 3. Bring me flesh and bring me wine, Bring me pine logs hither:
Treble Solo. 4. "Sire the night is dark - er now, And the wind blows strong - er;
 All. 5. In his mast - er's steps he trod, Where the snow lay dint - ed;

1. When the snow lay round a - bout, Deep and crisp and e - ven:
 2. Yon - der pea - sant, who is he? Where and what his dwell - ing?"
 3. Thou and I will see him dine, When we bear them thi - ther."
 4. Fails my heart, I know not how, I can go no lon - ger."
 5. Heat was in the ve - ry sod Which the saint had print - ed.

1. Bright - ly shone the moon that night, Though the frost was cru - el,
Treble Solo 2. "Sire, he lives a good league hence, Un - der - neath the moun - tain;
 All 3. Page and mon - arch forth they went, Forth they went to - geth - er;
Tenor Solo 4. "Mark my foot - steps, good my page; Tread thou in them bold - ly:
 5. There - fore, Christ - ian men, be sure, Wealth or rank poss - ess - ing,

1. When a poor man came in sight, Ga - th'ring win - ter fu - el.
 2. Right a - gainst the for - est fence, By Saint Ag - nes foun - tain.
 3. Through the rude wind's wild la - ment And the bit - ter wea - ther.
 4. Thou shalt find the win - ter's rage Freeze thy blood less cold - ly."
 5. Ye who now will bless the poor, Shall your - selves find bless - ing.

Performance suggestion for verse 4. Treble solo, gets slower and quieter as though getting weary. The Tenor solo entry encouragingly regaining the tempo.

The origin of the tune is a Spring Carol, "Tempus adest floridum" for which J.M. Neale substituted the words "Good King Wenceslas." E. Duncun refers to the words as "one of his less happy pieces" with descriptive words as "doggerel;" And Bullen states that it is "poor and commonplace to the last degree." The Oxford book of carols in its 1961 impression reluctantly places it in its collection with the hope that with so many other Christmas