

Andreas Pflüger

Christmas Ballad

nach dem gleichnamigen Gedicht von
Joseph Brodsky

für
Mezzosopran, Bariton,
Cister, Schlagzeug und Streicher



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(2020)

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Besetzung

Mezzosopran

Bariton

Cister

Schlagzeug

Glockenspiel, Chimes, Triangel,
Becken hängend

Streicher

Text

There floats in an abiding gloom,
among immensities of brick,
a little boat of night: it seems
to sail through Alexander Park.
It's just a lonely streetlamp,
though,
a yellow rose against the night,
for lovers strolling down below
the busy street.

There floats in an abiding gloom
a drone of bees: men drunk,
asleep.
In the dark capital a lone
tourist takes another snap.
Now out onto Ordynka turns
a taxicab, with sickly faces;
dead men lean into the arms
of the low houses.

There floats in an abiding gloom
a poet in sorrow; over here
a round-faced man sells kerosene,
the sad custodian of his store.
Along a dull deserted street
an old Lothario hurries. Soon
the midnight-riding newlyweds
sail through the gloom.

There floats in outer Moscow one
who swims at random to his loss,
and Jewish accents wander down
a dismal yellow flight of stairs.
From love toward unhappiness,
to New Year's Eve, to Sunday, floats
a good-time girl: she can't express
what's lost inside.

Cold evening floats within your eyes
and snow is fluttering on the panes
of carriages; the wind is ice
and pale, it seals your reddened palms.
Evening lights like honey seep;
the scent of halvah's everywhere,
as Christmas Eve lifts up its sweet-
meats in the air.

Now drifting on a dark-blue wave
across the city's gloomy sea,
there floating by, your New Year's Eve—
as if life could restart, could be
a thing of light with each day lived
successfully, and food to eat,
—as if, life having rolled to left,
it could roll right.

Andreas Pflüger Christmas Ballad

für Mezzosopran, Bariton, Cister, Schlagzeug und Streicher
nach dem gleichnamigen Gedicht von
Joseph Brodsky

Tempo: ♩ = 76

Cister: *mp*

Glockenspiel

Chimes

Triangel

Becken hängend

Mezzosopran

Bariton

Violine 1

Violine 2: *con sord.*, *pp*

Viola: *con sord.*, *pp*

Violoncello: *con sord.*, *pp*

Kontrabass: *pp*

7

Cister: *pp*

Glsp.

Chim.: *pp*

Vl. 1: *pp*, *ppp*, *pp*

Vl. 2: *ppp*, *pp*, *ppp*

Vla.: *ppp*, *ppp*

Vc.: *ppp*

Kb.: *ppp*

12

Cister

Chim.

Vl. 1

Vl. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Kb.

ppp

15

Cister

Gsp.

M. S.

Bar.

Vl. 1

Vl. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Kb.

f

p

There floats

There floats, there

mf

pp

pizz.

19

M.-S. in an a - bi - - ding gloom,

Bar. floats an a - bi - ding a - bi - ding a - bi - ding gloom,

Vl. 1

Vl. 2

Vla.

Vc. arco

Kb.



22

Cister

Gsp.

Chim. *pp*

M.-S. fast geflüstert *gliss.* gloom fast geflüstert *gliss.* gloom

Bar. fast geflüstert *gliss.* gloom

Vl. 1 *ppp*

Vl. 2 *ppp*

Vla. *ppp*

Vc. *ppp*

Kb. *pp* *ppp*

25

M.-S. a - mong, a - mong im - men - si - ties

Bar. a - mong a - mong im - men - si - ties im -

Vi. 1 *p*

Vi. 2 *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. (1. arco) *p*
2. pizz. *p*

Kb. pizz. *p*

28

Cister *mf*

M.-S. im - mens... im - men - si - ties of brick, of brick of brick, a litt - le

Bar. men - si - ties im - men - si - ties of brick, of brick, of brick, a litt - le

Vi. 1 *p*

Vi. 2 *p* pizz. *pp* arco

Vla. *p* pizz. arco

Vc. *p* pizz. arco

Kb.

32

Cister *mf*

Chim. *pp*

Trg. *p*

M.-S. boat of night:

Bar. boat of night:

Vl. 1 *ppp* *pp*

Vl. 2 *ppp* *pp*

Vla. *ppp* *pp*

Vc. *ppp* *pp*

Kb. *pp* arco



36

Cister

Chim.

M.-S. it seems to sail through

Bar. it seems it seems to sail

Vl. 1

Vl. 2 *p*

Vla.

Vc. *p*

Kb. pizz.

40

Cister *p*

M.-S. A - lex - an - der Park it's just, it's

Bar. through A - lex - an - der Park it's just, it's

Vl. 1

Vl. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Kb. *p* arco

43

Cister *mf*

Gls. *mf*

Trg. *mp*

Bck.h. *ppp* *sfz*

M.-S. just, a lon-ely street - lamp, though,

Bar. just, it's just, it's just a lon-ely street - lamp, though, though,

Vl. 1 *sfz*

Vl. 2 *ppp* *sfz*

Vla. *ppp* *sfz* pizz. *mp*

Vc. *ppp* *sfz - pp*

Kb. *ppp* *sfz* *p* pizz.

47

Cister *mf*

Gsp.

Trg. *mp*

M.-S. through, a yel - low rose a - gainst the night

Bar. through, a yel - low rose a - gainst the night

Vl. 1 *pp*

Vl. 2 *pp*

Vla. arco *pp*

Vc. *mp*

Kb.

51

Cister

Trg. *mp*

M.-S. for lov - ers strol - ling be - low the bu - sy

Bar. for lov - ers strol - ling be - low the bu - sy

Vl. 1

Vl. 2

Vla. *tr*

Vc. *arco*

Kb.

54

Cister *f* *p*

Trg. *mp* *f*

Bck.h. *f*

M.-S. street.

Bar. street.

Vl. 1 *f* *p*

Vl. 2 *f* *p*

Vla. *f* *p*

Vc. *f* *p* *sfz-p*

Kb. *f* *p* *sfz-p*

57

Cister *p* *3*

Gls. *mp* *3*

Chim. *pp*

M.-S. *leise aber nicht zusammen gesprochen:*
There floats in an abiding gloom.....

Bar. *a*

Vl. 1 *ppp*

Vl. 2 *mp* *ppp*

Vla. *mp* *pp* *ppp*

Vc. *pp* *ppp*

Kb. *pp* *ppp*

62

Trg. *ff* *f*

Bck.h. *p* *f*

M.-S. drone of bees: men drunk a -

Bar. drone of bees: men drunk

gliss. gliss.

Vi. 1 *p* *f* *ppp*
sul pont.

Vi. 2 *p* *f* *ppp*
pos. ord.

Vla. *mp* *mf* *f* *p* *ppp*
tr. sul pont. pos. ord.

Vc. *p* *mf* *f* *p* *ppp*
gliss. gliss. pizz.

Kb. *p* *mf* *f* *ppp*
arco pos. ord.

fff

64

Cister *mp*

Gls. *mp*

M.-S. sleep. In the dark ca - pi - tal a lone tou - rist

Bar. a - sleep. In the dark ca - pi - tal dark ca - pi - tal

gliss. gliss.

Vi. 1 *pp*

Vi. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Kb. *ppp*

68

Cister *p*

Gdsp.

Chim. *pp*

M.-S.
takes an - oth - er snap.

Bar.
takes an - oth - er an - oth - er snap.

VI. 1

VI. 2

Vla. *sul pont.*

Vc.

Kb.



71

Cister *mf*

Gdsp.

Trg. *mf*

M.-S.
Now out of the Or - din - ka turns a tax - i - cab with

Bar.
Now out on - to Or - - din - ka turns a tax - i - cab

VI. 1

VI. 2 *sul pont.*

Vla. *ppp*

Vc. *pizz.*

Vc. *p*

Kb.

74

Cister *mf*

Gdsp.

Bck.h. *pp* *mp* *pp*

M.-S. sick - - - ly fa - - - ces; dead men lean in - to the

Bar. with sick - ly with sick - ly fac - es; dead men lean in - to the

Vi. 1 *mp* *pp*

Vi. 2 *mp* *pp*

Vla. *mp* *pp* 1. arco

Vc. *mp* *pp*

Kb. *mp* *pp*

76

Cister

Gdsp.

M.-S. arms of the low hous - es.

Bar. arms the arms of the low hous - es.

Vi. 1

Vi. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Kb.

79

Cister

Trg.

M.-S.
The floats in an a - bi - ding

Bar.
There floats in an a bi - ding

Vi. 1

Vi. 2
mf *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp*

Vla.
mf *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

Vc.
mf *p*

Kb.
mf pizz.

83

Cister

Chim.

M.-S.
gloom a po - et in sor - row; o - ver

Bar.
gloom a po - et in sor - row; O - - - ver

Vi. 1
p *ppp* *p* *ppp* *p*

Vi. 2
mf *pp*

Vla.
pp

Vc.
pp

Kb.

95

Cister

Bck.h.

M. S.
street an old Lo tha - rio hur - ries.

Bar.
de - ser - ted street de - ser - ted street an old Lo - tha - ian hur - ries.

VL. 1
pizz. arco
mf p

VL. 2
pizz. arco
mf p

Vla.
pizz. arco
mf p

Vc.
1. arco
(2. pizz.)
mf

Kb.
pizz.
mf



99

Cister

Glspl.

Trg.

M. S.
Soon the mid - night - ri - ding new - ly - weds

Bar.
Soon the mid - night ri - ding new - ly - weds

VL. 1

VL. 2

Vla.
arco

Vc.
arco
p sfz-pp p sfz-p

Kb.
arco
p sfz-pp p sfz-p

103

Cister *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *ppp*

Gsp. *mf* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Bck.h. *p*

M.-S. sail through the gloom.

Bar. sail through the gloom.

Vl. 1 *mf*

Vl. 2

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *p*

Kb. *pp*

107

Bck.h. *sfz*

M.-S. There floats in outer Moscow

Bar. There floats in outer Moscow

Vl. 1 *sfz*

Vl. 2 *sfz*

Vla. *sfz sfz sfz mf*

Vc. *sfz-mf* *p*

Kb. *sfz-mf* *p*

110

M.-S. one who swims at ran - - - dom to his loss, and

Bar. one who swims, who swims, who swims at ran - dom his loss, and

Vl. 1 *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *p*

Vl. 2 *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *mp*

Vla. *mf* *mf* *mf*

Vc. *mf* *mf* *mf*

Kb. *mf* *mf* *mf*



113

Cister

M.-S. Je - wish ac - cents wan - der a

Bar. Je - wish sc - cents wan - der down as dis - mal,

Vl. 1 *mf* *p* *ppp* *mf*

Vl. 2 *mf* *p* *ppp* *mf*

Vla. *mf* *p* *ppp*

Vc. *mf* *pizz.* *arco* *p*

Kb. *mf* *pizz.* *arco* *p*

117

Cister *mf*

M. S.
dis - mal yel - low flight of stairs.

Bar.
a dis - mal yel - low a dis - mal yel - - low a dis - mal yel - low flight of stairs.

Vl. 1

Vl. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Kb.



120

Gls. *mf*

Trg. *mf*

M. S.
From love to - ward un - hap - py - ness,

Bar.
From love un - hap - py - ness

Vl. 1 *pp*

Vl. 2 *pp*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *f sfz mf*

Kb. *f sfz mf*

124

Glsp. *mf*

M.-S. to sun - day floats a good - time girl

Bar. to New Year's Eve, floats a good - time girl

Vl. 1

Vl. 2

Vla. *pp* *mf* *pp*

Vc. *pp* pizz. *pp* arco

Kb. *pp*



128

M.-S. she can't ex - press what's lost in - - - side.

Bar. she can't ex - press what's lost in - side, what's lost in... - - - side.

Vl. 1 *mf*

Vl. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf* *pp*

Vc. *pp*

Kb. pizz. *mf* arco *pp*

131

Glsp. *mf*

Trg. *mf*

M. S. lost

Bar. in... in - - side in - side.

Vl. 1 *pp*

Vl. 2 *pp*, *p*, *ppp*, *pp*

Vla. *mf*, *ppp mp*, *mp*

Vc. *ppp*

Kb. *ppp*



134

Cister *mf*

Vl. 1 *ppp*

Vl. 2 *ppp*, *pp*

Vla. *ppp*, *pp*

Vc. *pp*

Kb. *pp*

140

Cister *pp* *mf*

Gdsp.

Chim. *pp* *p* *ppp*

M.-S. Cold e - - ven -

Bar.

Vi. 1 *pp* *ppp* *p*

Vi. 2 *ppp*

Vla. *ppp*

Vc. *ppp*

Kb. *ppp*

145

Cister

Gdsp.

Bck.h. *pp* *p* *pp* *pp* *p* *pp*

M.-S. ing floats with - in your eyes...
...and snow is flut - ter - ing

Bar.

Vi. 1 *pp* *p* *pp*

Vi. 2 *p* *pp* *mp* *pp*

Vla.

Vc.

Kb.

150

Cister *f* *mp*

Gdsp. *mp*

Bck.h. *pp* *p* *pp*

M.-S. the wind is ice and pale

Bar. on the panes of car - ri - ag - es; the wind is ice and pale

Vl. 1 *p* *pp*

Vl. 2 *p* *pp*

Vla. *gliss.* 1. sul pont. 2. pos. ord.

Vc. *ppp*

Kb. arco *ppp* pizz.

154

Cister

Gdsp.

Trg. *p*

M.-S. it seals your red - dened palms

Bar. it seals your red - dened your red - dened palms

Vl. 1 *pp*

Vl. 2 *pp*

Vla. (1. sul pont.) 2. sul pont.

Vc. *ppp*

Kb. *ppp*

163

Cister *mf*

Gdsp. *mf*

Chim. *ppp*

Bck.h. *ppp*

M.-S. sweet - meats in the air.

Bar. sweet meats in the air.

Vl. 1 *ppp* sul pont.

Vl. 2 *ppp* sul pont.

Vla. *ppp* sul pont.

Vc. arco *ppp* 1. sul pont. 2. pos. ord. arco *ppp*

Kb. *ppp*

167

Cister *f* *mp*

Gdsp. *f*

Bck.h. *mf* *ppp*

M.-S. Now... drif-ting

Vl. 1 *mf* *ppp* pos. ord. *p*

Vl. 2 *mf* *ppp* *mp* *ppp* pos. ord. *p*

Vla. *mf* *ppp* 1. sul pont. *mp* *ppp* pos. ord. *ppp*

Vc. *mf* *ppp* 2. pos. ord. *mp* *ppp* pos. ord. pizz. *mp*

Kb. *mf* *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

170

Cister

Gisp.

M.-S.
on a dark blue wave dark - blue dark blue wave a-cross, a - cross

Bar.
Now drif - ting on a dark - blue wave a-cross, a cross

Vl. 1
pp sul pont. ppp

Vl. 2
pp 3 3 3 3 3 3 ppp

Vla.
pos.ord. p 1. sul pont. 2. pos.ord. ppp 1. & 2. pos.ord.

Vc.
1. & 2. arco 1. sul pont. 2. pos.ord. ppp 1. & 2. pos.ord.

Kb.
pizz. p arco ppp

174

Cister

Gisp.

Chim.

M.-S.
the ci - ty's gloo - my sea, there floa - ting by,

Bar.
the ci - ty's gloo - - - my sea, there floa - ting by, by,

Vl. 1
pp pos.ord. ppp

Vl. 2
pp ppp

Vla.
sul pont. pp ppp (sul pont.)

Vc.
1. sul pont. 2. pos.ord. pp ppp (1. sul pont.) pp (2. pos.ord.)

Kb.
pp ppp

178

Cister

Gls. *mf*

Trg. *pp* *mf*

Bck.h. *ppp* *p*

M.-S. your New Year's Eve as is life could re-

Bar. your New Year's Eve as is life could re-

Vl. 1 *ppp* *pp* *mf*

Vl. 2 *ppp* *pp* *mf*

Vla. *ppp* *p* *mf* pos.ord.₆

Vc. *ppp* *p* *mf* tutti pos.ord. *tr*

Kb. *ppp*

181

Cister *mf* *f* *p* *p*

Gls. *mp*

Trg. *p* *f*

M.-S. start, could be a thing_of light with each day lived suc - cess - ful - ly

Bar. start, could be a thing_of light with each day lived suc - cess - ful - ly

Vl. 1 *p* *f* *ppp* *mp*

Vl. 2 *p* *f* *ppp* *mp*

Vla. *ppp* *p*

Vc. *ppp*

Kb. *ppp* *p*

185

Glsp.

Bck.h.

M.-S.
and food to eat, as if,

Bar.
and food and food to eat as if, as if,

Vl. 1

Vl. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Kb.



188

Cister

Glsp.

Trg.

M.-S.
life ha - ving rolled to left, it could roll. to

Bar.
life ha - ving rolled to left, it could roll. to

Vl. 1

Vl. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Kb.

191

Cister *mp*

Gsp. *mp*

Trg. *p*

M.-S. to left

Bar. right. to right

Vi. 1 *pp* *ppp*

Vi. 2 *pp* *ppp*

Vla. *ppp*

Vc. *ppp*

Kb. *ppp*

194

Cister *pp*

Gsp. *mf*

M.-S. left left life hav - ing

Bar. to right to right life hav - ing

Vi. 1 *ppp*

Vi. 2 *ppp*

Vla. *ppp*

Vc. *ppp*

Kb. *ppp*

197

Cister *ff* *pp* *pp*

Gsp. *ff* *pp*

Chim. *ppp*

M.-S. *p*
rolled to

Bar. *p*
rolled to

flüsternd während
5 Sekunden
unregelmässig wiederholen:
...left...
..right...

Vl. 1 *ff* *ppp* al niente

Vl. 2 *ff* *ppp* al niente

Vla. *ff* *ppp* al niente

Vc. *ff* *ppp* al niente

Kb. *ff* *ppp* al niente