

Full Score

A Christmas Carol

for Trombone Quartet or Trombone Choir*

Charles Ives

arr. by Russell McKinney

Larghetto ♩ = 96

Score for Trombone Quartet or Trombone Choir, measures 1-5.

Parts: Trombone 1, Trombone 2, Trombone 3, Bass Trombone.

Key signature: B-flat major (two flats). Time signature: 6/8.

Measures 1-5 show the initial entry of the Trombone Quartet. The music is marked *p* (piano). The first four measures are marked with a *p* dynamic. The fifth measure is marked with a crescendo hairpin.

Score for Trombone Quartet or Trombone Choir, measures 6-9.

Parts: Trombone 1, Trombone 2, Trombone 3, Bass Trombone.

Measures 6-9 show the continuation of the music. The first four measures are marked with a *p* dynamic. The fifth measure is marked with a crescendo hairpin. The sixth measure is marked with a *G.P.* (Grave) tempo change. The seventh measure is marked with a *p* dynamic. The eighth and ninth measures are marked with a *p* dynamic.

32 *moving ahead slightly* *poco rit.*

The musical score consists of four staves. The first staff is in Treble clef, and the other three are in Bass clef. The key signature is three flats (Bb, Eb, Ab). The score begins at measure 32 with a dynamic marking of *mp*. A crescendo leads to a dynamic marking of *f* at measure 33. The tempo marking *poco rit.* appears above the staff at measure 35. The score ends at measure 37 with a final cadence.

A Christmas Carol by Charles Ives first appears in his “114 Songs” written in 1897 and is numbered 100 in that collection. Arrangements for SATB Choir began appear sometime later. Though much more conventional in structure and tonality than much of Ives’ works, the rhythmic movement contains his original approach to musical composition. Even without the text that Ives also wrote for it, the music somehow conveys the spirit of a Christmas carol, and the sonority of a trombone ensemble is well suited to this piece.

Performance tempos vary widely as Ives’ indications are a bit contradictory. The tempo marking here reflects my preference over years of directing the work with various choirs (both vocal and trombone) based on performances I admire.

I have moved the key down to Db Major from the original key of F Major. The divisi notes can be added when performing the piece with trombone choirs when there are multiple players on each main part.