

Full Score

A Christmas Carol

for Trombone Quartet or Trombone Choir*

Charles Ives

32 *moving ahead slightly*

poco rit.

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.