

Score and Narrator

The Decorations

*A Christmas Entertainment
for
Narrator and Brass Quintet*

**Words - Alan Titchmarsh
Music - Edward Watson**

HB 9879

Hummingbird Music

The Decorations

A Christmas Entertainment

Brass 5te & Narrator

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Music - Edward Watson

Performance Notes

The Decorations may be performed with *one* narrator or *several*.

Percussion (1 player) is *optional* throughout.

Perc. list.

triangle, glock, ratchet, maracass, woodblocks, whip, marktree, snare drum, sus.cym.

Other works available for Brass Quintet by Edward Watson

Hellenic Suite (Greek Dances)

Suite D'España (Spanish Dances)

Sweet Swan of Avon (music from Shakespearean England)

An English Village Suite

Ronde (Susato arr. Watson)

The Decorations was written for and first performed by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

Also arranged for Brass Band (recorded on CD by *Chandos* with the Yorkshire Building Society Brass Band)

Further details from : Hummingbird Music (01789 721197)

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THE DECORATIONS
Narrator & Score

Words by Alan Titchmarsh
(after E.V. Lucas)
Music by Edward Watson

Narrator

Christmas has arrived once again at the Church of St. Michael and All Angels. The Reverend Lawrence Lidbetter in anticipation of the problems arising out of the church decorations has left for Australia to visit friends.

A letter of explanation has been left for his long suffering curate, the Reverend Arthur Starling. (*MUSIC No.1*)

1

Allegro moderato ♩ = 104

Trumpet 1
 Trumpet 2
 Horn in F
 Trombone
 Tuba
 Optional Percussion

f *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

(1. Rev. Lawrence Lidbetter to Curate Rev. Arthur Starling)

My Dear Starling,

I am sorry to be running away at this busy season but my departure for Australia is quite imperative. The Reverend Doctor Flint should be with you on Christmas Eve, but if you could take charge of the Christmas decorations which, by then, should be adorning "the altar, font and arch and pew" (ha-ha, Betjeman) I should be most grateful. The ladies of the congregation usually sort it out amongst themselves, but a little diplomacy is sometimes needed. I'm sure you will cope.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Lidbetter. (*MUSIC No.2*)

2

Allegro ♩ = 112

Meno (sub.) Ancora meno rit.

wah wah wah

The musical score consists of six staves. The first five staves are for piano, and the sixth is for glockenspiel. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The score is divided into three measures. The first measure is in 2/4 time, the second in 3/4, and the third in 3/4. Dynamics range from *f* (forte) to *pp* (pianissimo). The glockenspiel part enters in the third measure with a *p* dynamic.

(2. Mrs. Clibborn to the Rev. Lawrence Lidbetter)

My Dear Mr. Lidbetter,

I'm so sorry you couldn't be here to oversee the decorating of the church. I think we've got it sorted out now, but one or two of the ladies are so lacking in daring when it comes to colour schemes that I thought I'd take things in hand. You see, with the organist having flame-coloured hair it does rather limit the range of chrysanthemums one can use, but I have got over the problem, by going big on greenery. So much so that we've managed to obliterate him altogether in a cascade of dark green ivy. My Niagara Mrs Johnson calls it. I hope you'll like it.

As ever,

Sybil Clibborn (*MUSIC No.3*)

3

Vivace ♩ = 120

The musical score is for a piece in 2/4 time, marked 'Vivace' with a tempo of 120 beats per minute. It consists of six staves. The first four staves are for a string quartet (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello/Double Bass). The fifth staff is for a double bass, and the sixth staff is for a ratchet. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The score begins with a forte (f) dynamic. The first four staves feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, while the fifth and sixth staves have a more complex rhythmic pattern. The ratchet part is marked with a box labeled 'ratchet' and a forte (f) dynamic.

(3. *Miss Lockie to Rev. Lawrence Lidbetter*)

Dear Rector,

It's a great shame you're not here to witness the scenes of desecration that are going on in the kirk. I really can see no reason why we need to go to all this trouble of parading pagan fertility rites in front of the congregation. In my father's day, it was all you could do to get him to light another candle. And now we have sconces in every nook and cranny, decorated with holly, ivy and sequined ribbon. I was also under the impression that I was to take charge of the Macallister Memorial window. Yet when I arrived this morning with my Christingle orange it was already covered in a welter of cotton wool.

If anyone asks, I am in bed with 'flu.

Yours faithfully,

Moira Lockie (Miss) (*MUSIC No 4*)

4

Allegro ♩ = 132

(cha - cha)
str. mute

mf

f

fp

fp

maracass

mf
(cha - cha ad lib.)

rit.

mf smear

cup mute

mf

(8. Mrs. Hobbs, the char, to Rev. Lawrence Liddbetter)

Respected Sir,

I'm writing to you because Mr 'Obbs and me despar of gettin' any justice from the so-called ladies who 'ave been turning the church of St. Michael and All

Angels into Kew Gardens. Sweepin' up 'olly I don't mind. I always 'old that

charity and kindness are more than rubies, but when it comes to self-raisin' flour

I draw the line. It's alright for that Mrs. Millstone sprinklin' her flour around to

make it look like hoar frost, but when Mrs. Clibborn started waterin', it turned

the place into a bakery. I draw the line at sweeping up dough, and 'Obbs said I

ought to make my position clear. I mean, just where do I stand?

Your 'umble servant,

Martha 'Obbs (*MUSIC No. 9*)

9

Andante ♩ = 100

rit. *harm. tb. in* Poco meno

Musical score for the first system, measures 1-5. It features five staves: two for horns (top), two for strings (middle), and one for bass (bottom). The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 3/4. The first three measures are in 3/4, and the last two are in 2/4. Dynamics include piano (*p*) and piano fortissimo (*pp*). Performance instructions include "harm. tb. in" and "rit."

Adagio

Musical score for the second system, measures 6-9. It features six staves: five for strings (top) and one for snare drum (bottom). The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. Dynamics range from piano fortissimo (*ppp*) to fortissimo (*ff*). Performance instructions include "mute out", "open", and "snare dr."

(9. Mr. Lulham, organist, to Rev. Lawrence Lidbetter)

Dear Rector,

I'm sorry. I just can't play me organ under these conditions. First, me swell to great is enveloped in ivy, and then poinsettias spring out of my pipes. I can't see me bellows for crimson tulle, and with my colouring it's just not on. I've got chrysanthemums tumbling over me trombone stops and you know I'm a martyr to hay fever. Quite frankly I wouldn't be surprised to see a tribe of pygmies emerging from the organ loft, there's so much vegetation about. Anyway, if someone doesn't tackle it with a machete before Christmas Eve I take no responsibility for the choir and organ being out of time.

If you want me I'll be at the chemist. I've got one of my heads coming on.

Yours sincerely,

Lionel Lulham (*MUSIC No.10*)

(10. Rev. Lawrence Lidbetter to Mrs. Lidbetter)

My Dear Wife,

It seems we have a little trouble with the church decorations. Please pass on the following instructions: A hole is to be hacked in the greenery at the back of the organ, and Miss Lockie's Christingle is to be given to Mr. Lulham whom, I gather, is rather partial to a satsuma. Pull the plug on the bells that play 'Silent Night', and suggest to Miss Graves that her midnight silk would look suitably funereal if she moved it to the tomb of the unknown warrior. Send a bottle of Scotch to the head of the Wrens, and inform Mrs. Hobbs that she is to have a Christmas bonus. As far as the scene from 'Eldorado' is concerned, I distinctly remember asking Mrs. Millstone for a scene from 'Neighbours', much more fitting, bearing in mind my location.

Seasons greetings to you all from sunny climes.

Lawrence Lidbetter (*MUSIC NO.11*)

11

Allegro scherzando ♩ = 126

accel.

mf (very playful) p p p p p p

snare dr. p

Poco più mosso

f f ff f ff ff f ff fff sfz

woodblock