

# ***The Oxen Carol***



**Joelle Wallach**

## The Oxen Carol

Christmas Eve, and twelve of the clock,  
"Now they are all on their knees,"  
An elder said as we sat in a flock  
By the embers in hearthside ease.

We pictured the meek mild creatures where  
They dwelt in their strawy pen,  
Nor did it occur to one of us there  
To doubt they were kneeling then.

So fair a fancy few would weave  
In these years! Yet, I feel,  
If someone said on Christmas Eve,  
"Come; see the oxen kneel,

"In the lonely barton by yonder coomb  
Our childhood used to know,"  
I should go with him in the gloom,  
Hoping it might be so.

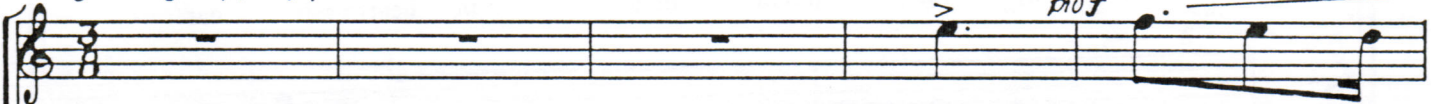
*Thomas Hardy*

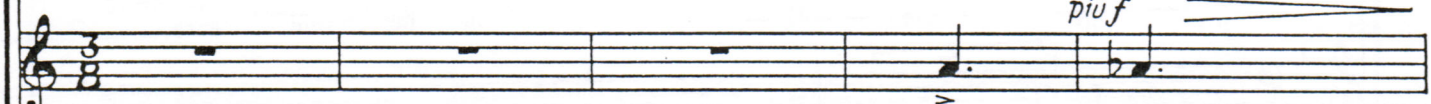
# THE OXEN CAROL


Thomas Hardy

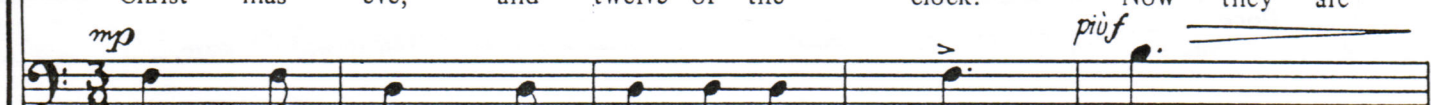
Joelle Wallach

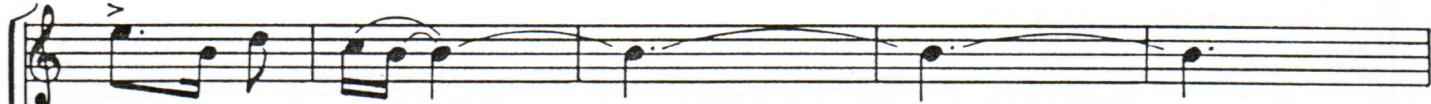
$\text{♩} = 92$  gently, very pastoral

S.   
clock. "Now they are

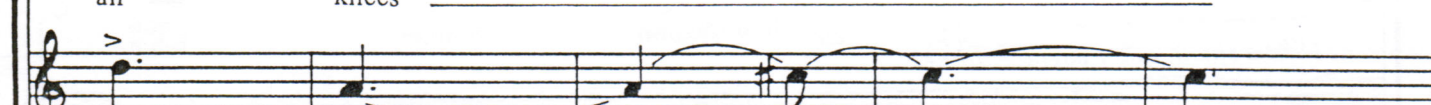
A.   
clock. "Now

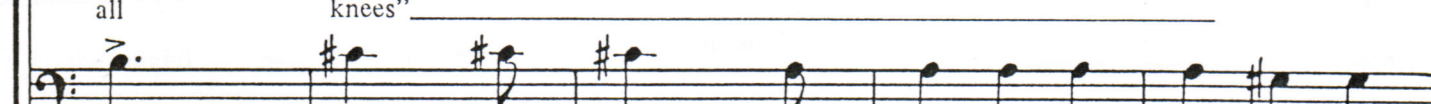
T.   
Christ - mas eve, and twelve of the clock. "Now they are

B.   
Christ - mas eve and twelve of the clock. "Now

6   
all on their knees,"

  
all knees"

  
all knees"

  
all knees" An el - der said as we sat in a

11

flock By the em - bers in hearth-side ease.

flock in hearth-side ease.

flock By the em - bers in hearth-side ease.

flock in hearth-side ease.

16

(like a shepherd's pipe)

We pic - tured the meek mild crea - tures where they

(like a small, quiet bagpipe drone)

hmm h-hmm h-hmm h-hmm

(like a small, quiet bagpipe drone)

hmm h-hmm h-hmm h-hmm



21

Nor did it oc - cur to \_\_\_\_\_

dwelt in their straw - y pen, Nor did it oc - cur to

\_\_\_\_\_ h-hmm \_\_\_\_\_ Nor did it oc - cur to

hmm hmm h-hmm \_\_\_\_\_ Nor did it oc - cur to \_\_\_\_\_

26

\_\_\_\_\_ doubt \_\_\_\_\_ they \_\_\_\_\_

one of us To doubt that they were kneel - ing then. \_\_\_\_\_

one of us doubt that they \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ they \_\_\_\_\_ then. \_\_\_\_\_

31 *dreamy*  
*pp*

So fair a fan - cy few would

So fair a fan - cy

So fair a fan - cy

So fair a fan - cy

35

weave

yet if some - one said

yet, I feel on



40

*f* *brightly* *molto*

"Come; see the ox-en kneel" *molto*

"Come; *molto*

Christ - mas Eve. "Come;" *molto*

"Come;"

44

*molto*

*p* *4:3* *2* *4:3* *molto*

In the lone - ly bar - ton, Our child - hood used to know," *molto*

*pp* *molto*

*pp* *molto*

48 *mp dolce*

I should go with him in the gloom,

*pp*

52

*mf warmly* *mp* *decresc.* *Molto rit.*

Hop - ing it might be : so

*mf* *mp* *decresc.* *2*

Hop - ing it might be : so

*mf* *mp* *decresc.* *2*

Hop - ing it might be : so

*mf* *mp* *decresc.* *2*

Hop - ing it might so