

THE VERY BEST TIME OF YEAR**

for Mixed Voices, S.A.T.B., with Piano*

Words and music by
JOHN RUTTER

Moderato, relaxed (♩ = 84)

Piano

Fl. *mp dolce* Str. *sim.*

5 TENORS and BASSES *mp legato*

8 Christ-mas trees and boughs of hol-ly, Yule-tide logs and mis-tle-toe;

Fl.

9 SOPRANOS and ALTOS *mp*

Can-dles burn-ing bright, and mea-dows frost-y white, And fa-ces in the fire-light's

12 S. A. T. B. *mp* **A** *mf*

glow; Sounds of hap-py chil-dren's voi-ces Sing-ing

Ob. *mp* **A** *cresc.* *mf*

*Scored for flue, oboe, harp, and strings. Scores and parts are available from the publisher.
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15

car - ols that you love to hear; *p* Hum

Then the si - lence of the night And the

p

18

win - ter air so still and clear.

Ob. *cresc.*

B SOPRANOS and ALTOS

21

mp

Feels like you could reach and touch the sky, Or catch a star and fly a -

p

TENORS and BASSES
p dolce

24

- way; Fl. *3*

Feels like you could wish for peace on earth, And

27

mp **C**

Fam - i - lies and friends to -

mp

all at once — it would come, some day.

mp **C**

mp

30

- geth - er *mf*

- geth - er Feel a spe - cial kind of love and cheer,

mf *div.*

mf

33 Shar-ing all the joys of Christ - mas time — The ve - ry best time of

Musical score for measures 33-36. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a bass line, and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a mezzo-forte (*mp*) dynamic and a half note rest, then continues with a melodic line. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands. The word "Hum" is written below the vocal line in two places. Dynamics include *mp* and *p*.

37 year. _____

Musical score for measures 37-40. The score continues from the previous system. It includes a vocal line with a long note and a rest, a bass line, and a piano accompaniment. A dynamic marking **D** is present above the vocal line. The piano accompaniment features a woodwind part (labeled "Ob.") and a piano part. The woodwind part has a melodic line starting in measure 39. The piano part has a moving bass line. Dynamics include *mp* and *p*. Performance markings include *dolce* and *espress.*

41

Musical score for measures 41-44. The score continues from the previous system. It features a vocal line with a melodic line, a bass line, and a piano accompaniment. A woodwind part (labeled "Fl.") is also present. The piano accompaniment has a moving bass line. Dynamics include *mp* and *p*.

45

rit.

p

a tempo

cresc.

Str.

E 48

mf warmly to - geth - er

Fam - i - lies and friends to - geth - er er Feel a

div.

div.

E *mf warmly*

mf

50

spe - cial kind of love and cheer, Shar - ing all the joys of

mp

53

Christ - mas - time - The ve - ry best time, _____

That

mp

p

This system contains the vocal line and piano accompaniment for measures 53-55. The vocal line starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and ends with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and a more active treble line.

Ob.

sim.

This system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 53-55. It includes an oboe part (*Ob.*) and piano dynamics ranging from *sim.* (sustained) to *p*.

56

Slower till the end

That shin - ing, ma - gic

strange, en - chant - ed time, _____

p

This system contains the vocal line and piano accompaniment for measures 56-58. The tempo marking "Slower till the end" is present. The vocal line begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The piano accompaniment continues with a similar texture to the previous system.

Str.

p

Slower till the end

This system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 56-58, including a string part (*Str.*) and piano dynamics of *p* and *pp*.

59

time of year. _____

dim. *pp*

This system contains the vocal line and piano accompaniment for measures 59-61. The vocal line ends with a *pp* dynamic. The piano accompaniment features a long, sustained note in the bass.

Fl.

dim. *pp*

This system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 59-61, including a flute part (*Fl.*) and piano dynamics of *dim.* and *pp*.