

The Oxen

Words by Thomas Hardy

Poco andante e semplice

David Sadler

♩. = 52

Soprano

Christ - mas Eve _____ and twelve of the clock. _____

♩. = 52

pp (like chimes)

Piano

mp < < > con ped.

5

mf

mp

S. Solo

_____ 'Now _____ they are all on their knees,' _____ An el - der said as we

Pno.

mf *p* *mp*

9

S. Solo

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

Pno.

p *mp*

8^{va}-----|

13

S. Solo

We

Pno.

pp *molto* *mf*

17

S. Solo

pic - tured the meek mild crea - tures where They dwelt in their straw-y

Pno.

mf *legato* *f*

22 *meno f*

S. Solo

pen, _____ Nor did it oc-cur to one of us there _____ To

Pno.

meno f

mp

27

S. Solo

doubt they were kneel-ing then. _____ So fair a fan-cy

Pno.

mp

p

mp

32

S. Solo

few would weave In these years! _____ Yet I feel, If some - one said on

Pno.

pp

f

flexible short

36 *meno f*

S. Solo

Christ-mas Eve, 'Come; see the ox-en kneel In the lone-ly bar-ton by

Pno. *meno f*

40

S. Solo

yon-der coomb Our child-hood used to know, I

Pno. *p*

44 *mf* *poco rit.* *pp* *meno mosso* *mp*

S. Solo

should go with him in the gloom, Hop-ing,

Pno. *mf* *poco rit* *pp* *meno mosso* *mp*

47

S. Solo

mf *p* *pp*

poco rit *lunga*

hop - ing it might be so.

Pno.

mf *p* *pp*

poco rit *lunga*

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