

Dedicated to Concert Bells of Fort Worth in honor of their 25th Anniversary.  
Commissioned by Stephanie Rhoades, Conductor and Artistic Director

# Winter Began Softy

## A Note from the Composer

*Winter Began Softly* is a musical impression of a winter walk. We're taken on a stroll along a forest trail when the silence is broken by a soft crunch beneath our snow boots, while the overhead sky is a serene canvas of pale gray just hinting at the impending snowfall. At first, only a few lazy flakes drifted down, hesitant to disturb the peaceful scene. But as we wander deeper into the woods, the snowfall gradually intensified, each flake adding to the thickening carpet of white. The trees, once stark against the sky, began to disappear behind a veil of swirling snowflakes, their branches bending under the weight of the accumulating powder. With each passing moment, the world around is transformed, the gentle snowfall evolving into a swirl of wind and ice, painting the forest in an unearthly beauty...and it was time to return home.

– Sandra Eithun

3, 4, 5, 6, or 7 octaves

Handbells used: 37, (49), (60), (65), (66)

*optional*

3, 4, 5, 6, or 7 octaves

Optional Handchimes used: 21, (22), (24), (27), (32)

*optional*

- 3 octave choirs omit notes in ( ).
- 4 octave choirs omit notes in [ ].
- 5 octave choirs omit notes in < >.
- 6 octave choirs omit notes in { }.

Mallets are required for handbells G2 and G4 through E♭7.

Singing bell dowels are required for handbells G2 through E♭5.

Copyright © 2024 Choristers Guild. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A.  
Reproduction of all or any portion in any form is prohibited without permission of the publisher.

# Winter Began Softy

Sandra Eithun

Incidental, freely conducted (♩ = 60)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

SB

LV + + + +

*mp*

*rit. poco a poco*

*molto rit.*

*P* release dowels and allow to fade

13 R  
*(p) a tempo*  
14 LV  
15 R

16 rit.  
17 *mp*  
**Più mosso** (♩ = ca. 68)  
6/4

18 *f*  
19 LV *mp*  
4/4

20 LV *mf*  
21 LV  
PI

22 **LV** **f** **PI** 23 **LV** 5

24 **LV** **LV** 25 **LV** **LV**

26 **LV** **R** **PI** 27 **LV** **LV**

6

28

LV

R

29

LV

R

30

LV

decresc. poco a poco

31

LV

PI

32

R

mp

33

LV

34

R

35

LV