

The Oxen

(The passages in which the bars are of indeterminate length should be sung with considerable freedom, the rhythm being dictated by that of the words. In sections using time signatures more attention should be paid to rhythmic values.)

Words: Thomas Hardy

Music: Nicholas M Brown

Slowly, but not laboured

Tenor Solo

SOPRANO
ALTO

pp Christ-mas Eve, _____ and twelve of the clock. _____ Ox - en, _____

TENOR
BASS

8

p

8 Christ-mas Eve and twelve of the clock. _____ "Now they are all on their

Ox - en,

12

8 knees,"an el - der said as we sat in a flock by the em - bers in hearth - side ease. _____

kneel - ing, _____

Più mosso

15

mf We pic-tured the meek mild
pp Ox - en, twelve of the clock, *mf* We



21

crea-tures where they dwelt in their straw - y pen, Nor did it oc - cur to
 pic-tured the meek mild crea-tures where they dwelt in their straw - y pen, oc -



25

rall.

one of us there to doubt they were kneel-ing then.
 one of us then to doubt,
 -cur to one there, To doubt they were kneel - ing then.

30 (Solo)

So fair_ a fan-cy few would weave_ In these years! Yet, I feel, If some-one said on Christ - mas Eve,

31 *f*

"Come; see the ox - en kneel in the lone-ly bar-ton by yon-der coomb our child-hood used to

f Come; see the ox - en kneel In the lone - ly bar-ton by yon-der coomb Our child-hood used to

36 *p*

know," I should go_ with him in_ the gloom, Ho-ping it might_ be so._

know,"

38 *pp*

Ox - en, Kneel- ing, Ox - en.

Ho-ping it might be so.

