

















Saint Nicolas Score Autographed Cover

Autographs of the principals: DAVID LLOYD, New York City Opera Tenor, RICHARD WESTBROCK, Director of the Inland Children's Chorus, and HUGH ROSS, Conductor of New York's Schola Cantorum and Guest Conductor, Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra. December 20 and 21, 1953

Courtesy of LaDonna (Beatty) White

## Saint Nicolas Bishop of Myra

Patron-saint of children, seamen, travellers

Nicolas was born at Patara in Asia Minor and died during the first half of the fourth century, having long served as Bishop of Myra, the capital of his native country Lycia. He is the hero of many popular legends, but few facts of his life are certain.

In 1087 his relics were captured from his tomb at Myra and carried away to the Italian city of Bari, where a new church was built to enshrine them. Here they continued, as at Myra, to work miracles: the shrine, which is said to exude a miraculous, sweetsmelling oil, became a place of pilgrimage from all parts of Europe.

In the Middle Ages four hundred churches were dedicated to his honour in England alone. He is the patron-saint of Russia and Greece, and is universally known to children in his disguise of 'Santa Claus.'

Nicolas was born of wealthy parents. From his babyhood he showed signs of exceptional grace and refused to feed on canonical fast-days. He was taught by the Church in boyhood and youth, and when his parents died of the plague he gave all his wealth to charity and went in pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Coming back to the city of Myra, he was chosen Bishop according to a revelation made before his arrival, and served this diocese faithfully until his death.

During the persecution of the martyrs (303-311) Nicolas was imprisoned under Diocletian. Later he was one of the three hundred and eighteen Bishops summoned to attend the first great Church Council at Nicaea, where he is said to have disgraced himself, but given great glory to God, by striking the founder of the Arian heresy.

Most legends of Nicolas are concerned with his care of the poor and oppressed, and with his power of appearing from great distances to rescue those who called on him. The three golden balls that he carries in statues and pictures symbolise the purses of gold he secretly gave to rescue three girls of noble family from prostitution.

\*

This cantata was written for performance at the Centenary Celebrations of Lancing College, Sussex, on July 24th, 1948

## Saint Nicolas Lyrics December 20/21, 1953

## SAINT NICOLAS

A CANTATA BY

ERIC CROZIER

MUSIC BY

BENJAMIN BRITTEN

This Cantata was written for performance at the Centenary Celebrations of Lancing College, Sussex, on July 24th, 1948

## SAINT NICOLAS

- 1. Introduction
- 2. The Birth of Nicolas
- 3. Nicolas Devotes himself to God
- 4. He Journeys to Palestine
- 5. He comes to Myra and is chosen Bishop
- 6. Nicolas from Prison
- 7. Nicolas and the Stolen Boys
- 8. His Piety and Marvellous Works
- 9. The Death of Nicolas

Copyright 1948 by Boosey & Co, Ltd.

All Rights including the right of public performance, translation, reproduction in any form reserved.

**BOOSEY & HAWKES** 

Courtesy of Tom Meyer

Darkness was soon on top of them, But still the South Wind blew. The Captain went below to sleep And left the helmsman there to keep His course with one of the crew.

Nicolas swore he'd punish them For mocking at the Lord. The wind arose, the thunder roared, Lightning split the waves that poured In wild cascades on board.

Waterspouts rose in majesty
Until the ship was tossed
Abaft, aback, astern, abeam,
Lit by lightning's livid gleam
And all aboard cried 'LOST'

THE STORM Lightning hisses through the night Blinding sight with living light!

> Winds and tempests howl their cry Of battle through the raging skyl Waves repeat their angry roar,

Fall and spring again once morel Thunder rends the sky asunder With its savage shouts of wonderl

Lightning, Thunder, Tempest, Ocean

(Shoating above The Storm)
Spare usl Save usl Saviourl
Man the pumpsl Lifeboatsl Lower awayl
Axesl Shorten saill Reef her! Heave to—l
Let her run before the windl
Pray to Godl Kneel and prayl Prayl

Thoracs Nicolas waited patiently
Till they were on their knees:
Then down he knelt in thankfulness
Begging God their ship to bless
And to make the storm to cease.

O God! we are all weak, sinful, foolish men. We pray from fear and from necessity—at death, in sickness or in private loss. Without the prick of fear our conscience sleeps, forgetful of Thy Grace. Help us, O God! to see more clearly. Tame our stubborn hearts. Teach us to ask for less and offer more in gratitude

Pity our simplicity, for we are truly pitiable in Thy sight.

ALL Amer

NICOLAS

The winds and waves lay down to rest, .
The sky was clear and calm.
The ship sailed onward without harm
And all creation sang a psalm
Of loving thankfulness.

Beneath the stars the sailors slept Exhausted by their fear, while I Knelt down for love of God on high And saw His angels in the sky Smile down at me—and wept.

NICOLAS COMES TO MYRA AND IS CHOSEN BISHOP

COME, stranger sent from Godl Come, man of Godl
Stand foremost in our Church, and serve this diocese
As Bishop Nicolas, our shield, our strength, our peacel

NICOLAS I, Nicolas, Bishop of Myra and its diocese, shall with the unfailing grace of God defend His faithful servants, comfort the widow and fatherless, and fulfil His will for this most blessed Church.

ALL Amen!

Place the mitre on your head to show your mastery of menl Take the golden robe that covers you with Christ's authority! Wear the fine dalmatic woven with the cross of faith! Bear the crozier as a staff and comfort to your floek! Set the ring upon your hand in sacramental sign of wedlock with thy God!

(Fugue.)
Serve the Faith and spurn His enemies!

A bymn for choirs and congregation

All people that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice! Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell, Come ye before Him and rejoice.

O enter then His gates with praise, Approach with joy His courts unto; Praise, laud and bless His name always, For it is seemly so to do.

For why? the Lord our God is good: His mercy is for ever sure; His truth at all times firmly stood, And shall from age to age endure.

NICOLAS FROM PRISON

Persecution sprang upon our Church And stilled its voice. Eight barren years It stifled under Roman rule: And I lay bound, condemned to celebrate My lonely sacrament with prison bread, While wolves ran loose among my flock.

> O man! the world is set for you as for a king! Paradise is yours in loveliness. The stars shine down for you, for you the angels sing, Yet you prefer your wilderness.

You hug the rack of self, embrace the lash of sin, Pour your treasures out to pay distress. You build your temples fair without and foul within: You cultivate your wilderness.

Yet Christ is yours. Yours! For you he lived and died. God in mercy gave his Son to bless You all, to bring you life—and Him you crucified To descrate your wilderness.

Turn, turn, turn away from sin! Ah! bow Down your hard and stubborn hearts! Confess Yourselves to Him in penitence, and humbly vow Your lives to Him, to Holiness.

NICOLAS AND THE STOLEN BOYS

TRAVELLERS FAMINE tracks us down the lanes, Hunger holds our horses' reins, Winter heaps the roads with snow O we have far to go! Darkness was soon on top of them, But still the South Wind blew. The Captain went below to sleep And left the helmsman there to keep His course with one of the crew.

Nicolas swore he'd punish them For mocking at the Lord. The wind arose, the thunder roared, Lightning split the waves that poured In wild cascades on board.

Waterspouts rose in majesty
Until the ship was tossed
Abaft, aback, astern, abeam,
Lit by lightning's livid gleam
And all aboard cried 'LOST'

THE STORM Lightning hisses through the night Blinding sight with living light!

> Winds and tempests howl their cry Of battle through the raging sky! Waves repeat their angry roar,

Fall and spring again once morel Thunder rends the sky asunder With its savage shouts of wonderl

Lightning, Thunder, Tempest, Ocean Praise their God with voice and motion

IN (Shonting above The Storm)
Spare us! Save us! Saviour!
Man the pumps! Lifeboats! Lower away!
Axes! Shorten sail! Reef her! Heave to—!
Let her run before the wind!
Pray to God! Kneel and pray! Pray!

CHORUS

Nicolas waited patiently

Till they were on their knees:

Then down he knelt in thankfulness
Begging God their ship to bless

And to make the storm to cease.

O God! we are all weak, sinful, foolish men. We pray from fear and from necessity—at death, in sickness or in private loss. Without the prick of fear our conscience sleeps, forgetful of Thy Grace.

Help us, O God! to see more clearly. Tame our stubborn hearts. Teach us to ask for less and offer more in gratitude to Thee.

Pity our simplicity, for we are truly pitiable in Thy sight.

ATT. Amen.

NICOLAS The winds and waves lay down to rest, .
The sky was clear and calm.
The ship sailed onward without harm
And all creation sang a psalm
Of loving thankfulness.

Beneath the stars the sailors slept
Exhausted by their fear, while I
Knelt down for love of God on high
And saw His angels in the sky
Smile down at me—and wept.

NICOLAS COMES TO MYRA AND IS CHOSEN BISHOP

COME, stranger sent from God! Come, man of God! Stand foremost in our Church, and serve this diocese As Bishop Nicolas, our shield, our strength, our peace! NICOLAS

I, Nicolas, Bishop of Myra and its diocese, shall with the unfailing grace of God defend His faithful servants, comfort the widow and fatherless, and fulfil His will for this most blessed Church.

ALL Amen!

Place the mitre on your head to show your mastery of men! Take the golden robe that covers you with Christ's suthority! Wear the fine dalmatic woven with the cross of faith! Bear the crozier as a staff and comfort to your flock! Set the ring upon your hand in sacramental sign of wedlock with thy God!

(Fugue.)
Serve the Faith and spurn His enemies!

A hymn for choirs and congregation

All people that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with cheerful voicel Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell, Come ye before Him and rejoice.

O enter then His gates with praise, Approach with joy His courts unto; Praise, laud and bless His name always, For it is seemly so to do.

For why? the Lord our God is good: His mercy is for ever sure; His truth at all times firmly stood, And shall from age to age endure.

NICOLAS FROM PRISON

And stilled its voice, Eight barren years It stifled under Roman rule: And I lay bound, condemned to celebrate My lonely sacrament with prison bread, While wolves ran loose among my flock.

> O man! the world is set for you as for a king! Paradise is yours in loveliness. The stars shine down for you, for you the angels sing, Yet you prefer your wilderness.

You hug the rack of self, embrace the lash of sin, Pour your treasures out to pay distress. You build your temples fair without and foul within: You cultivate your wilderness.

Yet Christ is yours. Yours! For you he lived and died. God in mercy gave his Son to bless You all, to bring you life—and Him you crucified To descrate your wilderness.

Turn, turn, turn away from sin! Ahl bow Down your hard and stubborn hearts! Confess Yourselves to Him in penitence, and humbly vow Your lives to Him, to Holiness.

NICOLAS AND THE STOLEN BOYS

TRAVELLERS FAMINE tracks us down the lanes,
Hunger holds our horses' reins,
Winter heaps the roads with snow
O we have far to gol

Starving beggars howl their cry, Snarl to see us spurring by. Times are bad and travel slow O we have far to go:

MOTHERS We mourn our boys, our missing sons!
We sorrow for three little ones!
Timothy, Mark and John
Are gone! Are gone! Are gone!

TRAVELLERS Landlord, take this piece of gold!
Bring us food before the cold
Makes our pangs of hunger grow!
O we have far to go!

MOTHERS Day by day we seek to find
Some trace of them—but ohl unkind!—
Timothy, Mark and John
Are gonel Are gonel fre gonel

TRAVELLERS Let us share this dish of meat.

Come, my friends, sit down and eatl
Join us, Bishop, for we know
That you have far to go!

Mary meek and Mother mild
Who lost thy Jesus as a child,
Our Timothy, Mark and John
Are gone! Are gone! Are gone!

TRAVELLERS Come, your Grace, don't eat so slow!
Take some meat . . .

NICOLAS O do not tastel
O do not feed
On sin! But haste
To save three souls in need!
The mother's cry

Is sad and weak.
Within these walls they lie
Whom mothers sadly seek.

Timothy, Mark and John, Put your fleshly garments on! Come from dark oblivion! . . .

TRAVELLERS Seel three boys spring back to life,
Who, slaughtered by the butcher's knife,
Lay salted down!—and entering,
Hand-in-hand they stand and sing
ALLELUIAL to their King!

SMALL BOYS (Entering). Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia!

HIS PIETY AND MARVELLOUS WORKS

FOR forty years our Nicolas,
Our Prince of men, our shepherd and
Our gentle guide, walked by our side.

We turned to him at birth or death, In time of famine and distress, In all our grief, to bring relief. He led us from the valleys to The pleasant hills of grace. He fought To fold us in from mortal sin.

O! he was prodigal of love! A spendthrift in devotion to Us all—and blessed as he caressed.

We keep his memory alive
In legends that our children and
Their children's children treasure still.

CHOIRS

A captive at the heathen court
Wept sorely all alone.
'O Nicolas is here, my son!
And he will bring you home!'

Three daughters of a nobleman Were doomed to shameful sin, Till our good Bishop ransomed them By throwing purses in.

'Fill, fill my sack with cornl' he said:
'We die from lack of food!'
And from that single sack he fed
A hungry multitude.

The gates were barred, the black flag flew, Three men knelt by the block. But Nicolas burst in like flame And stayed the axe's shock.

'Help us, help, good Nicolas!
Our ship is full of foam!'
He walked across the waves to them
And led them safely home.

He sat among the Bishops who Were summoned to Nicaea: Then rising with the wrath of God Boxed Arius's earl

He threatened Constantine the Great With bell and book and ban: Till Constantine confessed his sins Like any common man.

Let the legends that we tell Praise him, with our prayers as well.

CHORUS

CHORUS

THE DEATH OF NICOLAS

DEATH, I hear thy summons and I come
In haste, for my short life is done;
And ohl my soul is faint with love
For Him who waits for me above.

LORD, I come to life, to final birth.

I leave the misery of earth
For Light, by Thy eternal grace,
Where I shall greet Thee face to face.

CHRIST, receive my soul with tenderness,
For in my last of life I bless
Thy name, who lived and died for me,
And dying, yield my soul to Thee.

LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation

Which thou hast prepared before the face of all

people
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghostl

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end.

Amen!

A hymn for choirs and congregation

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines Of never-failing skill He treasures up His bright designs And works His sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take, The clouds ye so much dread Are big with mercy, and shall break In blessings on your head.

December 28, 1953

TO: MEMBERS INLAND SENIOR CHORUS

Mr. Westbrock has already extended an invitation to you, as a member of the Inland Children's Chorus Senior Chorus, to be our guest at the Inland Activities Center on Tuesday night, December 29th. You may bring along your wife, or husband, girl or boy friend, whichever fits your marital status.

Festivities will start at 6:30 o'clock with a buffet supper, and there will be dancing and bingo. . . . If you can't come out until later, that will be okay too.

Attached is a map giving directions to the Center.

See you tomorrow.

Supervisors Personnel Activities

LMD/nab

Ence

Courtesy of Phyllis (Denlinger) Phillips