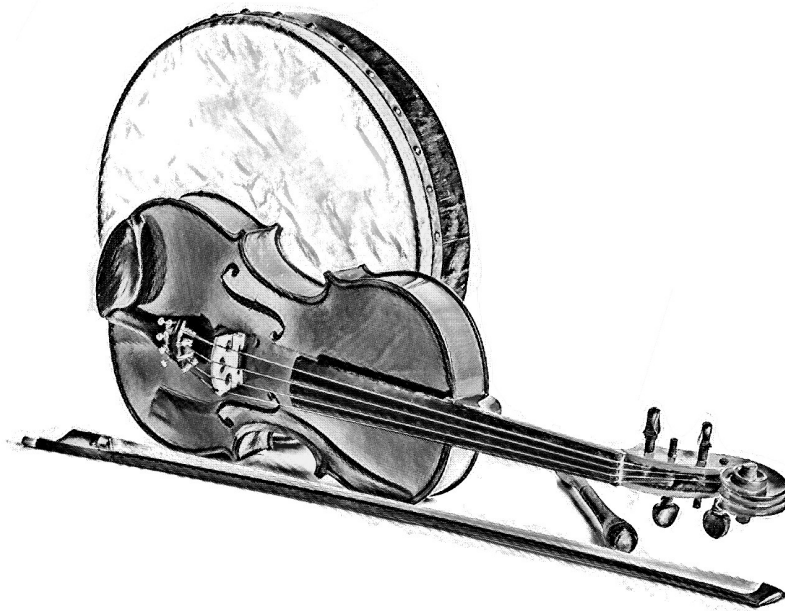


# Beware the Winter Settlin' In

SATB and orchestra, large ensemble or small ensemble



## Elizabeth Alexander

*Seafarer Press*

## Beware the Winter Settin' In

When all that's left of rose be thorn  
And frost bewrays<sup>1</sup> a winter's scorn,  
The promises of a balmy morn  
Seem hardly worth believin'.  
When days take on a dimmer cast,  
And meadowsweet<sup>2</sup> be ages past,  
It seems the punishin' icy blast  
Will never be spent and leavin'.

Beware the winter settlin' in,  
Settlin' into your heart,  
Settlin' in, settlin' into your heart,  
Beware the winter settlin' into your heart.

When every gale's a brutal shove,  
Protect the fragile flame of love,  
Ere bitterness stalk the borders of  
Your slumb'rin' and your wakin'.  
So heed that when ye bolt the door  
Against the blust'ry troubadour,  
Ye keep a lamp in the window for  
The traveler wreck'd<sup>3</sup> and shakin'.

Beware the winter settlin' in,  
Settlin' into your heart,  
Settlin' in, settlin' into your heart,  
Beware the winter settlin' into your heart.

For dread can worry a hope to naught,  
And fear can trump a kindly thought  
And that can render a friend forgot,  
As quickly as a blinkin'.  
Dig-guh-dee, jai-guh-dee, dig-guh-dee dum,  
Dig-guh, dum-puh, dig-guh dum-puh-dee,  
Dig-guh-dee, jai-guh-dee, dig-guh-dee dum,  
Jai-dle, dai-dle, dow, dum.

The winter never'll bring ye harm  
For love can keep a body warm  
And friends be ever a merry charm  
To keep the heart from sinkin'.  
Dig-guh-dee, jai-guh-dee, dig-guh-dee dum,  
Dig-guh, dum-puh, dig-guh dum-puh-dee,  
Dig-guh-dee-dum, dig-guh-dee dum,  
Jai-dle, dai-dle, dig-guh-dee dai-dle-o!

So when the tempest bites and blows,  
And rails your reason with its snows,  
Remember the robin and the rose  
Be patiently abidin'.  
Tho' it be long till winter's end,  
Come laugh and sing with me, my friend  
A song to hurry the ice to bend  
And shoots to quit their hidin'!

Dig-guh-dee, jai-guh-dee, dig-guh-dee dum, dig-guh, dum-puh, dig-guh dum-puh-dee,  
Dig-guh-dee, jai-guh-dee, dig-guh-dee dum, jai-dle, dai-dle, dai-o!

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<sup>1</sup> *bewray: to reveal or expose*

<sup>2</sup> *meadowsweet: Irish wildflower*

<sup>3</sup> *wrecked: exhausted*

# Beware the Winter Settlin' In

Small ensemble: SATB, opt. children's choir, flute, violin, bodhrán, piano

OR

Large ensemble: SATB, opt. children's choir, flute, bodhrán, harp, string orchestra / string quartet with opt. double bass

Elizabeth Alexander

$\text{♩} = 116-120$  A Very Merry (Cautionary) Jig

*REPEAT AD LIB IF PROCESSING OR DANCING*

1

S  
A  
T  
B

Piano  
*This part is used for all rehearsals and for performances with Small Ensemble*

**A**

5

vln.  
*mp*

11

*mp*  
Red. \* Red.

Orchestral and chamber ensemble arrangements © 2026 by Elizabeth Alexander. Original Version © 2016

16

\* Ped. \* Ped. Ped. Ped.

21

Ped. \* Ped. \*

25

Ped. \* Ped. *with foreboding*  
*mf*  
Ped.

29

S  
A

T  
B

*p*

When

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

**B**

33

S  
A

T  
B

all that's left of rose be thorn, and frost be - wrays a win - ter's scorn, the

*p* gently

*Red.*

37

S  
A

T  
B

pro - mis - es of a balm - y morn seem hard - ly worth be -

*Red.* *Red.*

40

S  
A

T  
B

- liev - in' (n), \_\_\_\_\_

When

*p*

*Red.*

44

S  
A

days take on a dim - mer cast and mea - dow-sweet be a - ges past, it

T  
B

*Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.*

48

S  
A

seems the pun - ish - in' i - cy blast will nev - er be spent and

T  
B

*Ped.*

51

S  
A

leav - in' (n)

Be -  
*hushed p*

T  
B

Be -

*Ped.*

C

55

S  
A

- ware the win - ter set - tl - in' in, set - tl - in' in - to your heart, set - tl - in'

T  
B

- ware the win - ter set - tl - in' in, set - tl - in' in - to your heart, set - tl - in'

59

S  
A

in, set - tl - in' in - to your heart, be - ware the win - ter set - tl - in' in - to your

T  
B

in, set - tl - in' in - to your heart, be - ware the win - ter set - tl - in' in - to your

63

S heart.

A heart.

T heart.

B heart.

*mp* When

When

**D**

67 *pp*

S Hm

A *pp* Hm

T ev' - ry gale's a bru - tal shove, pro - tect the fra - gile flame of love lest

B ev' - ry gale's a bru - tal shove, pro - tect the fra - gile flame of love lest

*p*

*Red.*

71

S Hm

A Hm

T bit - ter - ness haunt the bor - ders of your slum - b'rin' and your

B bit - ter - ness haunt the bor - ders of your slum - b'rin' and your

Ped. Ped.

74

S Oh *pp*

A Oh *pp*

T wak - in' (n). So

B wak - in' (n). So

Ped.

Beware the Winter Settlin' In (SATB) - Choral Part

8

78

S  
Hm

A  
Hm

T  
8  
heed that when ye bolt the door, a - gainst the blus' - try trou - ba - dour, Ye

B  
heed that when ye bolt the door, a - gainst the blus' - try trou - ba - dour, Ye

*p*

*Ped.*

82 *mp*

S  
Oh

A  
*mp*  
Oh

T  
*mf*  
8  
keep a lamp in the win - dow for the tra - vel - er wreck'd and

B  
*mf*  
keep a lamp in the win - dow for the tra - vel - er wreck'd and

*mf*

*Ped.*



Opal Palmer Adisa, poet • Paul Adams, technological hero • Stephen Alexander, lyric consultant • Ginny Allen, Agile coach and friend • The great people at American Composers Forum • Yehuda Amichai, poet • A. R. Ammons, poet • Jennifer Anderson, conductor and composer advocate • Scott Bates, poet • Abbie Betinis, initiator of collaborative endeavors • Beth Norton, conductor and composer advocate • Dennis Blubaugh, more than just a music dealer • Michael deVernon Boblett, poet • Edna Busby, my first piano teacher • Ray Bradbury, writer • Augustin Cadena, translator • Norbert Capek, minister and advocate for religious freedom • Jessica Corbett, editor • David Cummings, poet • Philip Dacey, poet • Catherine Dalton, composer and scrum partner • Emily Dickinson, poet • Evelyn Dudley, poet and caregiver • Rob Eller-Isaacs, minister and composer advocate • Ralph Waldo Emerson, philosopher and poet • Louise Erdrich, writer • David Allan Evans, poet • Sophia Lyon Fahs, writer • Richard M. Fewkes, minister and writer • Pasha Gertler, poet • Jack Gallagher, composer and teacher • Paul Gerike, proofreader • Jocelyn Hagen and Michael Hakan, founders of Graphite Marketplace • Steve Harper, just about everything • Steve Harkins, web designer • Edie Hill, composer and friend • Langston Hughes, poet • Margaret and George Heald, piano technician • Karel Husa, composer and teacher • David Ignatow, poet • Kabir, mystic • Linda Kachelmeier, composer and scrum partner • Ruth Palmer, conductor and composer advocate • Joan Wolf Prefontaine, poet • Paul Rardin, conductor and composer advocate • Kalidasa, poet • Steve Kaul, recording engineer • Søren Kierkegaard, philosopher and poet • Dorothy Knost, piano teacher • Ben Krywosz, artistic director of Nautilus Music-Theater • Denise Levertov, poet • George Ella Lyon, poet • Jonathan Machen, vocalist • Dawna Markova, writer • Anne Matlack, conductor and composer advocate • Nancy Menk, composer advocate • Edna St. Vincent Millay, poet • Jane Ramseyer Miller, conductor, composer, social activist • Joe Mish, conductor and composer advocate • J. David Moore, composer • Gerald Rich, poet • Carl Sandburg, poet • friend • King Sigismund III, religious reformer • Ann Silsbee, composer, poet and friend • Simon Alexander-Adams, sounding board, fellow creative, and awesome son • Steven Stucky, composer and teacher • Rabindranath Tagore, poet • Sister Peronne Marie Thibert, teacher and writer • Oliver Alexander-Adams, unconventional thinker and light of my life • Howard Thurman, civil rights leader and writer • Everyone whose work supports the Association for Unitarian Universalist Music Ministries • Charles Varney, high school choral director • Anna Vonhuben, illustrator and graphic designer • Nancy White, poet • John Greenleaf Whittier, poet • Theodore Chickering Williams, poet • Daniel Winter, pianist and teacher • Nancy Wood, poet • Yehudi Wyner, composer and teacher

**A lot of hard work  
and creativity went  
into bringing this  
music to you...**



**...and some of it  
was even mine.**

**This page has been intentionally omitted.  
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*Elizabeth Alexander*

*Seafarer Press*

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101

*mf*

Ped. \*

Ped. \*

Ped. \*

Ped. \*

105

S

A

T

B

*mf*

For

*mf*

For

*sfz*

*sfz*

**F**

109

S  
dread can wor - ry a hope to naught, and

A  
dread can wor - ry a hope to naught, and

T  
*mf*  
and fear can trump a kind - ly thought,

B  
*mf*  
and fear can trump a kind - ly thought,

\* Ped. \*

113

S  
that can ren - der a friend for - got as quick - ly as a blink - in'.

A  
that can ren - der a friend for - got as quick - ly as a blink - in'.

T

B

\* Ped. Ped.

*The children's choir introduces the diddling!**Adults sing italicized diddles here only if there's no children's choir.*

117 *p*

S  
A

Hm

*mp* *If performing with children, they sing these italicized diddles on their own. If not, these diddles are all yours!*

T  
B

*Dig-guh-dee, jai-guh-dee, dig-guh-dee dum, dig - guh, dum - pah, dig - guh, dum-puh-dee,*

*mp*

121

S  
A

Hm

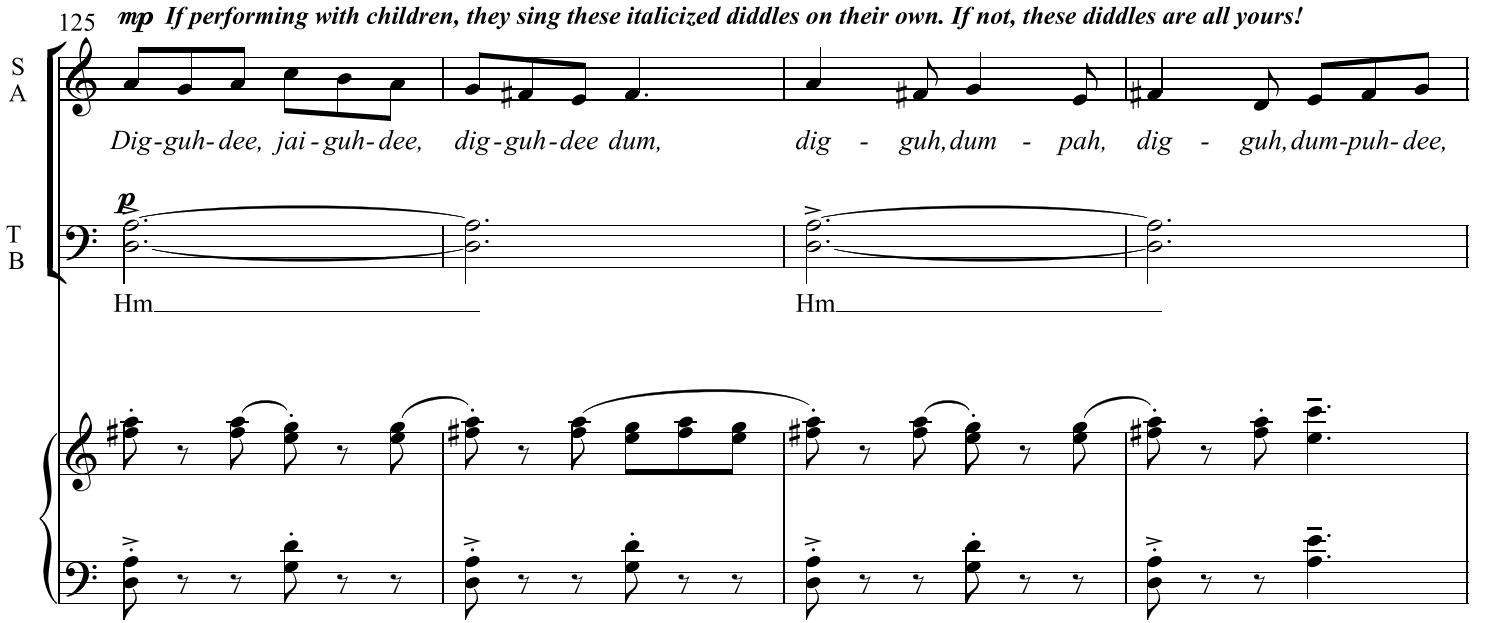
T  
B

*dig - guh - dee, jai - guh - dee, dig - guh - dee dum, jai - dle, dai - dle, dow dum.*

125 *mp* *If performing with children, they sing these italicized diddles on their own. If not, these diddles are all yours!*

S A  
Dig-guh-dee, jai-guh-dee, dig-guh-dee dum, dig - guh, dum - pah, dig - guh, dum-puh-dee,

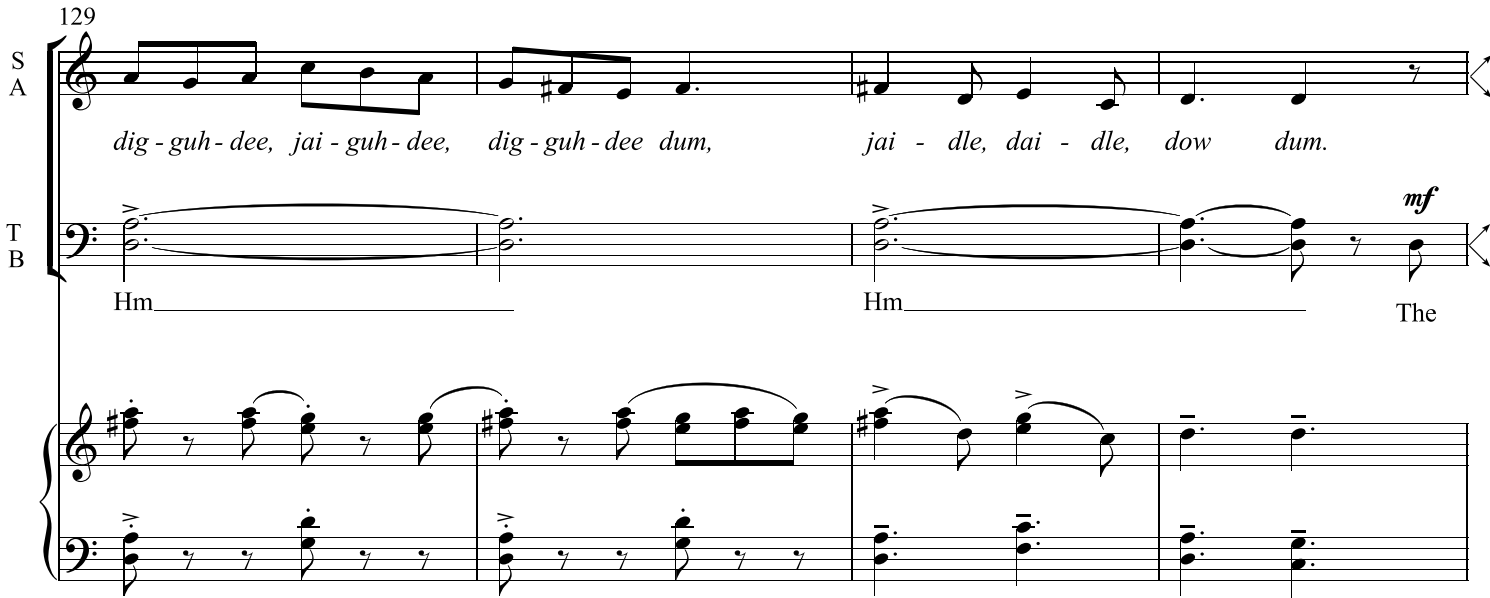
T B  
*p*  
Hm Hm



129

S A  
dig - guh - dee, jai - guh - dee, dig - guh - dee dum, jai - dle, dai - dle, dow dum.

T B  
Hm Hm *mf*  
The



**G**

133

*mf*

S For love will keep a bo - dy warm\*,

*mf*

A For love will keep a bo - dy warm\*,

T win - ter ne - ver' - ll bring ye harm, and

B win - ter ne - ver' - ll bring ye harm, and

\* Ped. \* Ped.

\* It's ever so much fun to sing "warm" so that it rhymes with "harm" and "charm" — try

137

S

A

T friends be ev - er a mer - ry charm to keep your heart from sink - in'.

B friends be ev - er a mer - ry charm to keep your heart from sink - in'.

\* Ped. Ped.

141 *Now you get to diddle with the children's choir!*

S  
Dig-guh-dee, jai-guh-dee, dig-guh-dee dum, dig-guh, dum-puh, dig-guh, dum-puh-dee,

A  
Dig-guh-dee, jai-guh-dee, dig-guh-dee dum, dig-guh, dum-puh, dig-guh, dum-puh-dee,

T  
*p*  
Hm Hm

B  
*p*  
Hm Hm

*mf*

\*

145

S  
Dig-guh-dee dum, dig-guh-dee dum, jai-dle, dai-dle, dig-guh-dee dai-dle-

A  
Dig-guh-dee dum, dig-guh-dee dum, jai-dle, dai-dle, dig-guh-dee dai-dle-

T  
Hm Hm jai-dle, dai-dle, dig-guh-dee dai-dle-

B  
Hm Hm jai-dle, dai-dle, dig-guh-dee dai-dle-

*Red.*

149

S *f*  
- o!

A *f*  
- o!

T *f*  
- o!

B *f*  
- o!

*f*

Ped.

153

S *p*  
So

A *p*  
So

T

B

**H**

157

S when the tem - pest bites and blows and rails your rea - son with its snows, re -

A when the tem - pest bites and blows and rails your rea - son with its snows, re -

T

B

*p gently*

*Ped.*

161

S - mem - ber the rob - in and the rose be pa - tient - ly a -

A - mem - ber the rob - in and the rose be pa - tient - ly a -

T

B

*Ped.*

*Ped.*

164

S *mp*  
- bid - in'.(n)\_\_\_\_\_ Tho'

A *mp*  
- bid - in'.(n)\_\_\_\_\_ Tho'

T *pp*  
Oh

B *pp*  
Oh

*Ped.*

168

S *p*  
it be long 'til win - ter's end, come laugh and sing with me, my friend, a

A *p*  
it be long 'til win - ter's end, come laugh and sing with me, my friend, a

T *p*  
Oh, \_\_\_\_\_ A

B *p*  
Oh, \_\_\_\_\_ A

*mp*

*Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.*

172

S  
song to hur - ry the ice to bend and shoots to quit their

A  
song to hur - ry the ice to bend and shoots to quit their

T  
song to hur - ry the ice to bend and shoots to quit their

B  
song to hur - ry the ice to bend and shoots to quit their

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

175 *mf*

S  
hid - in' (n)

A  
*mf*  
hid - in' (n)

T  
*mf*  
hid - in' (n)

B  
*mf*  
hid - in' (n)

*mf*  
Ped.

**I**

*If performing with children's choir, the kids will diddle along through the end of the song!*

179

S Dig-guh-dee, jai-guh-dee, dig-guh-dee dum, dig-guh, dum-puh, dig-guh, dum-puh-dee,

A Dig-guh-dee, jai-guh-dee, dig-guh-dee dum, dig-guh, dum-puh, dig-guh, dum-puh-dee,

T *mp*  
Hm \_\_\_\_\_ Hm, \_\_\_\_\_

B *mp*  
Hm \_\_\_\_\_ Hm \_\_\_\_\_

*mf*

183

S dig-ge-dee, jai-ge-dee, dig-ge-dee dum, jai-dle, dai-dle, dow dum.

A dig-ge-dee, jai-ge-dee, dig-ge-dee dum, jai-dle, dai-dle, dow dum.

T *mp*  
Hm \_\_\_\_\_ Hm \_\_\_\_\_

B *mp*  
Hm \_\_\_\_\_ Hm \_\_\_\_\_

*mf*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

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**...and some of it  
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195

S  
ware the win - ter set - tl - in' in, set - tl - in' in - to your heart, set - tl - in'

A  
Dig-guh-dee, jai - guh-dee, dig-guh-dee dum, dig - guh, dum - puh, dig - guh, dum-puh-dee,

T  
ware the win - ter set - tl - in' in, set - tl - in' in - to your heart, set - tl - in'

B  
Dig-guh-dee, jai - guh-dee, dig-guh-dee dum, dig - guh, dum - puh, dig - guh, dum-puh-dee,

199

S  
in, set - tl - in' in - to your heart, jai - dle, dai - dle, dow dum. Be - *f*

A  
dig - ge - dee, jai - ge - dee, dig - ge - dee dum, jai - dle, dai - dle, dow dum.

T  
in, set - tl - in' in - to your heart, jai - dle, dai - dle, dow dum. Be - *f*

B  
dig - guh - dee, jai - guh - dee, dig - guh - dee dum, jai - dle, dai - dle, dow dum.

**J****Repeat is optional***Singers may clap on 1st and 4th ♩ of each measure, continuing through the end of the song.*

203

S  
- ware the win - ter set - tl - in' in, set - tl - in' in - to your heart, set - tl - in'

A  
*f*  
Dig-guh-dee, jai - guh-dee, dig-guh-dee dum, dig - guh, dum - puh, dig - guh, dum-puh-dee,

T  
- ware the win - ter set - tl - in' in, set - tl - in' in - to your heart, set - tl - in'

B  
*f*  
Dig-guh-dee, jai - guh-dee, dig-guh-dee dum, dig - guh, dum - puh, dig - guh, dum-puh-dee,

207

S  
in, set - tl - in' in - to your heart, jai - dle, dai - dle, dow dum. Be -

A  
dig - guh - dee, jai - guh - dee, dig - guh - dee dum, jai - dle, dai - dle, dow dum.

T  
in, set - tl - in' in - to your heart, jai - dle, dai - dle, dow dum. Be -

B  
dig - guh - dee, jai - guh - dee, dig - guh - dee dum, jai - dle, dai - dle, dow dum.

211

S  
- ware the win - ter set - tl - in' in, set - tl - in' in - to your heart, set - tl - in'

A  
Dig-guh-dee, jai - guh-dee, dig-guh-dee dum, dig - guh, dum - puh, dig - guh, dum-puh-dee,

T  
- ware the win - ter set - tl - in' in, set - tl - in' in - to your heart, set - tl - in'

B  
Dig-guh-dee, jai - guh-dee, dig-guh-dee dum, dig - guh, dum - puh, dig - guh, dum-puh-dee,

215

S  
in, set - tl - in' in - to your heart, jai - dle, dai - dle, dai - o! \*

A  
dig - guh - dee, jai - guh - dee, dig-guh-dee dum, jai - dle, dai - dle, dai - o! \*

T  
in, set - tl - in' in - to your heart, jai - dle, dai - dle, dai - o! \*

B  
dig - guh - dee, jai - guh - dee, dig-guh-dee dum, jai - dle, dai - dle, dai - o! \*

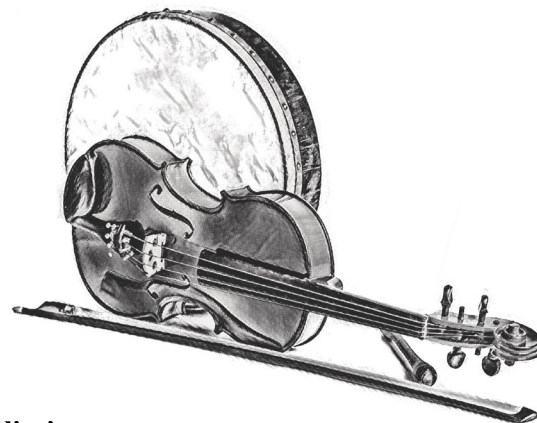
\* The note at the top of your glissando is not an exact pitch. Just give it a *yo!*

**Composer’s Note:** It sounded like great fun to compose a rowdy winter song for a Celtic band (Do you have any idea how many winter poems are rants against the bitter wind, yearnings for a distant lover, or requests for another pint?)

It was when I remembered that my own family tree contains a 200-year-old branch from Cork that I decided to craft my own lyric welcoming the weary stranger and cherishing the merry friend. In the process I lots of fun exploring the grammar and vocabulary of Ireland’s English dialects. I also reveled in Gaelic mouth music, commonly known as “diddling” or “lilting.”

### How the diddle are those singing syllables pronounced?

Phonetic Symbol (IPA)	English Examples	Diddling Syllables as written in IPA	Diddling Syllables as written in score
aɪ or “long i”	sigh, bite, fine	jaɪ, daɪ	jai, dai
ə or “schwa”	candle, musical	(jaɪ)-dəl, (daɪ)-dəl	(jai)-dle, (dai)-dle
i: or “long e”	be, mean	di	dee
ɪ or “short i”	bit, dig, in	dɪg	dig
aʊ (diphthong)	loud, wow	daʊ	dow
ʌ or “short u”	bum, huh	gʌ, dʌm, pʌ	guh, dum, puh



Download parts for flute, violin, bodhrán, and children’s choir at [www.seafarerpress.com/works/beware-the-winter-settlin-in](http://www.seafarerpress.com/works/beware-the-winter-settlin-in)