

WALKIN' IN MISTERIOSOLAND

words by Richard B. Smith
music by Felix Bernard and Thelonious Monk

arranged by David Feurzeig
for Dawn Willis and Bella Voce

When Dawn Willis asked me for a jazzy piano and treble choir arrangement of “a universally recognized but non-religious holiday song...you know, like ‘Walking in a Winter Wonderland,’” no matter how hard I tried to think of other songs that fit the bill, I couldn’t get “Winter Wonderland” out of my head. It didn’t help that it’s in heavy rotation, in dozens of versions, in elevators, lobbies, and places of commerce, from Halloween to New Year’s. But it’s also a fantastically catchy tune, particularly the bridge. I couldn’t help admiring the talent and craft that goes into such catchiness—even though I personally can’t stand the song, which epitomizes for me the dippiness of commercial holiday music. I was rescued from my quandary by the realization that the bridge, with its walking sixths, closely resembles the theme of “Misterioso” by Thelonious Monk—the anti-dippy composer, the apogee of inscrutable cool, his music every bit as catchy but anything but popular, at least when he wrote it. And Dawn had requested a piano jazz element! That sealed the deal: I could not deny the juxtaposition of these two songs, a match made in American popular music heaven. The result is the present arrangement, a quirky quodlibet of “Winter Wonderland” and “Misterioso,” with some sleighbell and classic cell phone rings thrown in for good measure.

Walkin' in MisteriosoLand

(with our vintage cell phones)

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♩ = 60

Soprano
Alto
Sleigh Bells
Piano

Slower, freely ♩ = 50 ♩ = 66 ♩ = 50 **riten.**

stretto . . . A Tempo

5 *mp* Ring* *mf* *p* *mf* Ring **riten.**

Ring* rrr** - ing rrring Ring rrr - (rolled)

Ring* rrr** - ing rrring Ring rrr - (rolled)

(as if interrupted)

mp *mf*

* On all "rings" the sustain sound is "ng" and the preceding "i" vowel is relatively brief.
** When notated as a separate syllable, the rolled r's "rrr" are voiced and last the full eighth note.

A tempo, accel.

A tempo ♩ = 50

rit.

10

ing ring (flipped) ring

mf Ring rrr - ing rrring rrring

mf Ring rrr - ing rrring rrring

(interrupted) long

mf

long

f

14 A tempo ♩ = 66 // ♩ = 63

poco f

Sleigh-bells

pp cresc.

mp 3 3

mf pesante

19

ring, are you list' ning? In the lane snow is glist' ning, A beau-ti-ful sight, we're hap-py to-night,

mf ring ring list' - ning snow snow glist' - ning beau-ti-ful sight, hap-py to-night,

f

f 3 3

22 *mf* 3 3 3 3 *poco f* 3 3 3 3

walk-in' in a win-ter won-der-land. Gone a-way is the blue-bird, here to

walk-in' in a win-ter won-der-land. gone gone blue - bird

p *f* *mf*

25 3 3 3 3 *f* 3 3 3 3

stay is a new bird, He sings a love song as we go a - long, -

stay stay new bird sings a love song as we go a - long, -

f 3 3 3 3

27 *mf* 3 3 3 3 *f* 3 3 3 3

walk-in' in a win-ter won-der-land. In the mead-ow we can build a snow-man,

walk-in' in a win-ter won-der-land. In the mead-ow we can build a snow-man,

p *f*

and pre-tend that he is Par son Brown, he'll say, "Are you mar-ried?" we'll say, "No man, but
and pre-tend that he is Par son Brown, he'll say, "Are you mar-ried?" "but

you can do the job when you're in town." Lat-er on, we'll con-spire, as we dream by the fire, to
you can do the job when you're in town." We'll con - spire by the fire

face un - a - fraid the plans that we've made, walk - in' in a win - ter won - der - land.
face un - a - fraid plans that we've made, walk - in' in a win - ter won - der - land.

36 *f* 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

In the mead-ow we can build a snow-man, and pre-tend that he is Par-son Brown,

In the mead-ow we can build a snow-man, and pre-tend that he is Par-son Brown,

f

ff

38 *più f* 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 *mf* 3

he'll say, "Are you mar-ried?" we'll say, "No man, but you can do the job when you're in town." Lat-er

più f 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

he'll say, "Are you mar-ried?" "but you can do the job when you're in town."

sfz

40 *mf* 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

on, we'll con-spire, as we dream by the fire, to face un-a-fraid the plans that we've made,

mf

We'll con - spire by the fire face un-a-fraid plans that we've made,

mf

mf

rit. . . .

43

walk-in' in a win ter won-der-land. walk-in' in a win ter won-der-land.

walk-in' in a win ter won-der-land. walk-in' in a win ter won-der-land.

45

Molto rubato **Slower** rit.

wal-kin' in a win-ter won-der land. land.

wal-kin' in a win-ter won-der land. land.

p *mp* *p* *mf* *sfz*