

REGAN & BRICHENO  
WINTER 2023



# CONTENTS

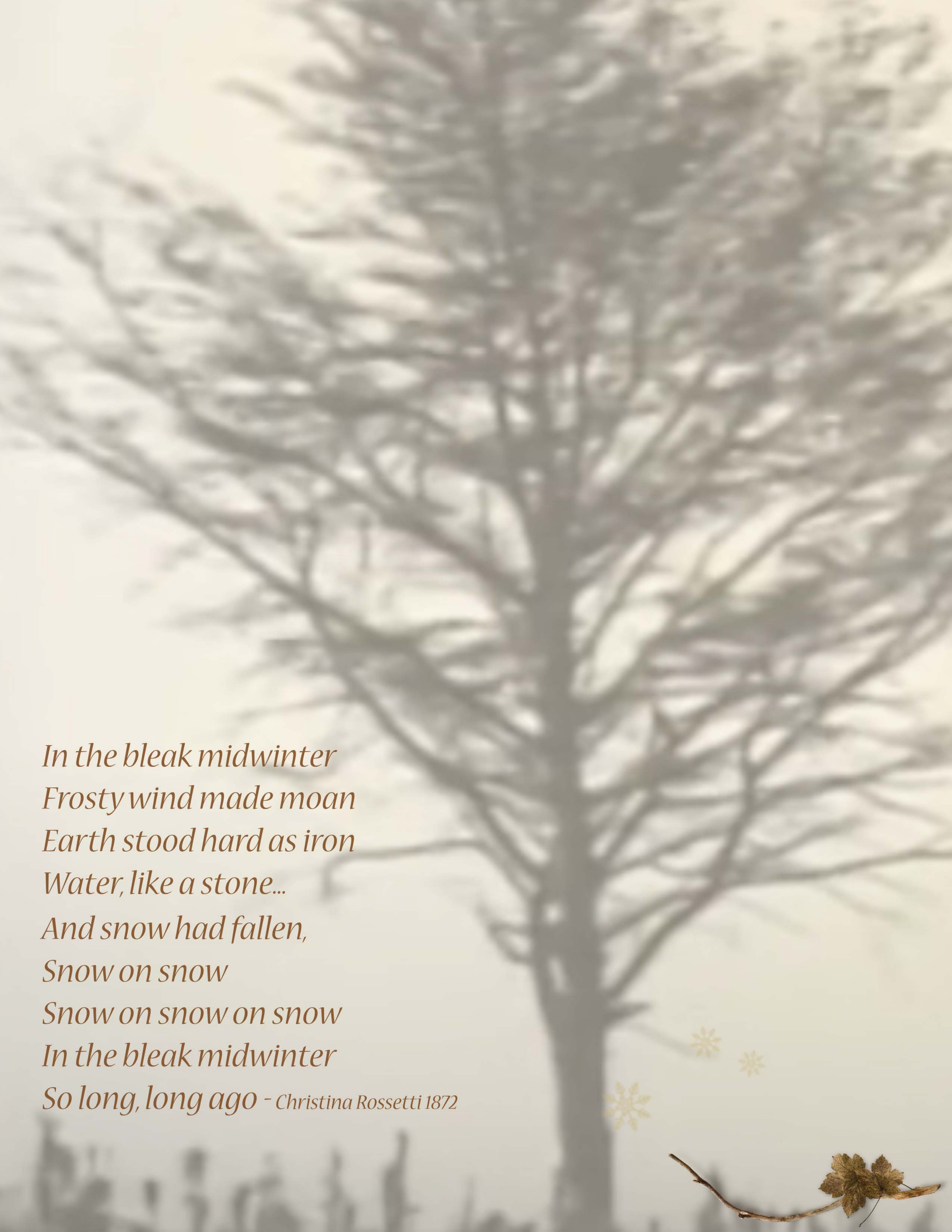
IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER  
LYRICS

EMAILS AND THOUGHTS



THE SNOWS THEY MELT THE SOONEST  
EMAILS AND THOUGHTS  
LYRICS





*In the bleak midwinter  
Frosty wind made moan  
Earth stood hard as iron  
Water, like a stone...  
And snow had fallen,  
Snow on snow  
Snow on snow on snow  
In the bleak midwinter  
So long, long ago - Christina Rossetti 1872*







*Step outside to see the stars in the blue sky wake up one by one,  
as they shimmer into view, and warm the bleak midwinter. Feel the  
love that's meant for you. - Julianne Regan 2023*





# 2019

• 16 Nov

**Tim:** This is a real wild card but what do you think about trying a very simple, ethereal cover of In The Bleak Midwinter, for Xmas ?

I could send you over me playing a guide and a beat so you could work out the best key, then pass it back and forward a bit to see if it's seaworthy?

Understand if it might be too much at the moment with work and Xmas looming - It will keep if so.

• 30 Nov 2019 (with attachment)

**Tim:** Here is the sort of thing I had in mind for the Bleak idea - better to show rather than explain it possibly.

**Julianne:** I'd love to have a go at this in time for Christmas. It's pretty damn magical. Very understated and shimmery.

I'm hearing this almost in a half time, very slow... It's hard to get a grip on the timing but it will come to me when I get in front of the iMac. Is there a bpm or is it freestyle?



I love this carol, but I know there are verses concerning oxen and asses (mercy!), which would be good to avoid.

The other option is to change the lyrics a little. They're probably out of copyright so it'd be okay to do that.

So we could have some new lyrics but keep the refrain of 'In the bleak midwinter'? What do you think?

As ever, life's packed. A heavy week ahead. Last day of term is December 13th, but there's time. Get this out on Christmas Eve?

PS: Feelin' festive. Put the tree up today. Really went to town on it... not.

• 30 Nov,

**Tim:** Really pleased you're trying this out!

It is recorded to a click but the timing feels very floaty due to the copious amount of *gravy\**!

Once you hear the click track it's clear where the melody lands.

As spotted, it is a half time feel, just felt natural to bliss it out that far - Maybe too much but see how you go with it.

I'll send you over the whole Logic project for this as it's only about 6 tracks, then you can adjust to taste.

I can play it again if you find the key, tempo etc. is not working for you

Note: \* *gravy* is a term we use to describe effects such as reverb, echo etc. in that it's what makes the meal more delicious.



I know exactly what you mean about some of the existing verse lyrics... It's so slow we might only have room for two verses but see what feels right to you.

I thought about changing the words too but it's a tough one. Not sure. Changing the musical landscape and feel is perhaps enough as the words are so well known/loved. That said our whole school used to sing "from the air" rather than "thronged the air" which I thought was a great bit of sensible modern day editing, so perhaps altering anything that helps smooth out any lyrical clunkiness?

You're tree looks great! First one I've seen this year.

#### • 02 Dec

**Tim:** Below is the Logic project for 'Bleak' - Because it's so swimmy I have tried to include helpful stuff like dry guitars and a piano showing where the melody comes in just in case you need them.

Also I had to offset the click to get the effect on the guitar so please use the click I have included on track 1 as your guide - I purposely miss an 8th note beat when the cello and drums come in.

If the key is wrong I can recommend trying the demo version of waves "sound shifter" so you can at least work with what's there. It's the most natural sounding pitch shifter I have found and I use it so much.

Let me know how you get on.

bricheno@  
sent you some files

1 item, 296 MB in total · Will be deleted on 9 December, 2019

#### • 18 Dec

**Julianne:** Sorry for the radio silence. I've been wiped out by 'flu and now bronchitis. Thankfully, term ended on Friday so I only missed two days' work.

I am hoping that my voice will return in time to do Bleak Midwinter, but as it stands, I've no idea if it will. If it doesn't happen, I'm really sorry. But I still have a little bit of hope... I'll keep you posted.

**Tim:** Sorry to hear that and hope you feel better soon. It will keep if you're not match fit in time. Hope all else is okay.

#### • 24 Dec

**Julianne:** So sorry but the bronchitis aftershock did not clear in time to do any justice to Bleak Midwinter. There's always Christmas 2020, with luck.

Anyway, thanks again for a very special 2019 music-wise.

**Tim:** Never mind and thanks for letting me know. Hope you're over the worst of it.

Thanks to you too for a very special second half of 2019.

It has been so inspiring making and transmitting stuff from our own little planet.





# 2022

• 29 Nov

**Tim:** I was thinking about this the other day, given the time of year. Seem to remember last time we chatted about it the thing was understandably hard to follow timing wise as it's basically all guitar snow reverb.

I do have a click track for it & I have included a version here with a guide playing melody so you can get the vibe of the melody timing amid the wash. I thought that if the key is in the ballpark, it could be a nice easy one to drop on Christmas Day if we like how it turns out?

Let me know what you think & have time to fiddle with it.

• 30 Nov

**Julianne:** It's gorgeous! It's right at the top of my range so I'll have to see if I can reach those high notes, but I think I've got it in me. Lovely, simple, perfect.

My guess is this is out of copyright, so no issues there? I'll have a bash, for sure. I think people might love it. Are you thinking a Bandcamp release?

**Tim:** Delighted you're up for having a bash! I'm pretty sure brother Toby has some expensive pitch shifting software that I could run the tracks through to put it into a more suitable key - Just let me know.

I wasn't imagining Bandcamp but assumed it would be our usual YouTube release but without all the extra video work I know you slave over. I was thinking the old Whistle Test approach - a new music track over a bit of existing complementary film footage like these:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=HYFIZIXOnoE> & <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=IOaLldR8ZZM>

I think original carol is a poem by Christine Rossetti set to the music of Holst so it should all be well out of copyright.



• 2 Dec

**Julianne:** Both clips are gorgeous! Yes, something like that but without any copyright / licensing probs. Pathé are bad for that, sadly. But yes, something nice 'n' simple would work.

Happy for it to be YouTube. Just thought about Bandcamp because I think some people really do like to 'have' something. But I'm easy, very much like a Sunday mornin'.

**Tim:** I agree I think this should probably be the last of our YouTube releases - I'm guess I'm seeing this one as an unexpected Christmas pressie after another tricky year for everyone.

Do you initially want to try working with the mp3 I sent over to see if it's a runner? The bpm is 95 so if you wanted to import the mp3 into Logic it should sync up okay to that.



• 6 Dec

**Julianne:** Let's give 'the kids\*' something to celebrate us all getting through another crap year of hell and disease! I should then turn my thoughts back to Radium\*, I reckon... And I know you've sent more recent stuff.

I'm dying to try 'Bleak' but my throat is a bit hoarse at the moment. I'll treat my larynx with care then have a go as soon as I can.

• 7 Dec

**Julianne:** Just looking at the Bleak lyrics. I think it's allowed to change lyrics in a trad song. Is that right? I was thinking of finding some alternatives as I'm not sure I could deliver 'ass' with a straight face.

However, I've noticed on some versions, e.g. Ward Thomas, that the iffy verses about ass and breastmilk have been omitted.

Part of me wants to rewrite it as an ode to this freezing winter of strikes and misery... But perhaps that's something for a later date...

**Tim:** I think you should bend it as far as you feel you want to lyrically.

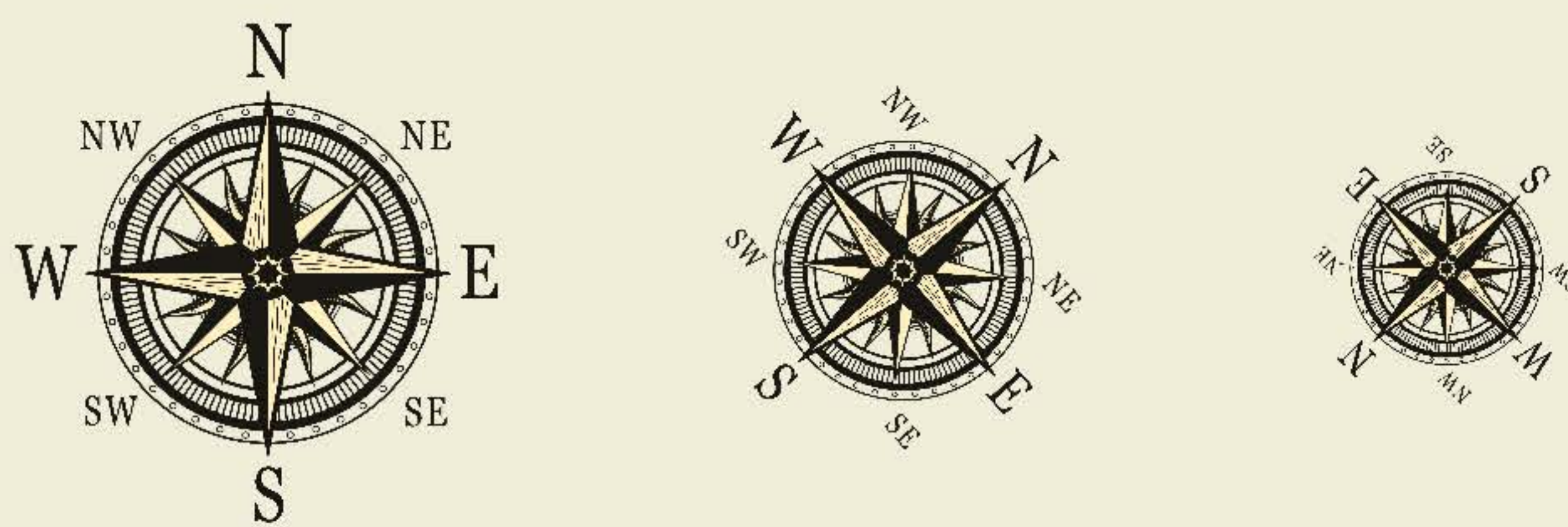
I didn't realise there were so many verses! Out of those I like the first verse and then the one about cherubim and seraphim. They are the ones that stick in my mind from singing it as a kid but you may like others better. The last line about heart is nice too - I would feel free to cut 'n' paste & alter to taste. I really love your idea of the rewrite about our current bleak times too.

**Julianne:** (with attachment and or link) Ah! Well I just cracked on and went full on trad. and have done the first verse.

It's either brilliant or dodgy cruise ship (my performance not yours) and I'm not sure which. I'll send you a rough over and you can see what you think. My worry is that I've got my best 'singer' voice on, but maybe that's good?

**Julianne:** Argh, I mean I'm not sure whether it's good or cruise ship, not whether you **or** me are cruise ship.

**Tim:** Tears in my eyes; it's just amazing - the sound of Christmas Eve. If that's cruise ship then sign me up for the QE2! Just keep going - I love it.



**Julianne:** Thinking about an instrumental thingy and then an outro half verse. Best if I just crack on and then send, eh? Let's see. I'm flexible like Olga Korbut!

**Julianne:** I've been messing with visuals... No problem if it doesn't float your cruise ship. Will try to get the vocal finished by the end of the week, for sure.

PS: It's probably still uploading so no rush. It's old film footage I've chopped up. It features poor people in Kentucky. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2018601211/> - I think it's copyright free. I might actually prefer your British film, but I think Pathé can be 'difficult'.

**Tim:** Looks great. Just right! You're so good at this stuff.

Note:

\* 'the kids' - an antirely affectionate term we've used since 1985 when referring to our audience.

\* Radium is the title of a song written for the forthcoming album.



- 8 Dec

**Julianne:** Hope I'm not being a pest. I've got a version here that I think works in a less-is-more kind of way.

I've done a very quick balance and thrown it into the video software and here's where it's at.  
Let me know what you think. No rush though.

Though I say so myself, there'll be tears on YouTube this Christmas.

Just some BVs to do, then I'll throw the new MP3 into the video, for our viewing pleasure.

Do you want to send me the Logic file so I can fly these vocals in, save you the job?

Happy for you or me to mix it. Don't mind.

**Tim:** Love it! The new lyric at the end gives a wonderful positive lift - Such a good idea.

I would like to have a go at mixing it - I can hear some delicious processing going on in your vocal chain. Is that processing using native Logic effects or are you using 3rd party plug ins?

If the former then I should be able to open up your Logic project with the processing chain intact but tweakable, which would be great.

Great work! It's been the best Christmas present ever! (Insert wide armed SpongeBob emoji here).



- 9 Dec

**Julianne:** That's great! The long icy stringy notes - should you wish to use them - are straight outta Alchemy. Have you got that, or should I just do a bounce to audio of that MIDI?

As for vocal effects, well, some are already on it as I go through a Focusrite vocal processor, but that's just an EQ choice. The rest is just the onboard logic delays / reverbs.

I don't use the bus thing; just a quirk of mine.

I also hate 'riding' vocals so I put different volume bits on different tracks. I can do a good old comp of that to make life easier, then any extra rides can happen at your end. The separate bits would be parts that are extra echoed, for example.

It's likely that I won't be able to get round to this before Monday, so I hope that still works for you.

About the lyrics. The video I did inspired the stuff about the stars and I do love the hopefulness of that.

I'm a bit concerned that the bit about 'the love that's meant for you' is a little corny, but then the world is in big trouble if love becomes too corny, eh? But let me know if you still think it's okay.

Well, TGIF and have a fab weekend.



**Tim:** Yes, I'm digging those stringy ones. I wasn't sure if they were vocal or synth. I have Alchemy so that should translate okay at my end.

A vocal comp could be helpful as an option, but it would also be good to have the whole project as you currently have it, with access to your effects levels. In a nutshell, if you can send me over what you have and I can open it all up intact at my end in Logic, great.

I'm going to try and get a little bit more out of the instrumental section with the guitars, just so it holds attention in that section. It won't be much and I'll send it over for you to check out first to see if you like before I mix.

Seriously, if you can't send a message of hope & love at Christmas, then when?

Yes, next week will be fine for me to have a go at the mix. Hope you have a good weekend too.

**Tim:** (with attachment and or link)

This is a little fiddle with the instrumental section just to give it a bit more focus - I have tried not to overdo it, so see what you think?

**Julianne:** Well, I was loving that, then those harmonics came in and I near fainted with delight.

Ee, lad - this is going to 'sleigh' the kids. Beautiful.



## • 12 Dec

**Julianne:** Coming at you is the following:

A Logic project with the original chopped up 'bits' of vocal but also a comp I've done. It's dry but I've put FX on it.

There are some iffy vocals in the BV area but it's the best I can do and they'll be buried and so okay.

I could do them again, but it would be good to avoid that as the originals have got something about them.

The word 'stars' has a special double vocal with FX so that's there but not comped.



Hope it's all clear. Let me know if not.

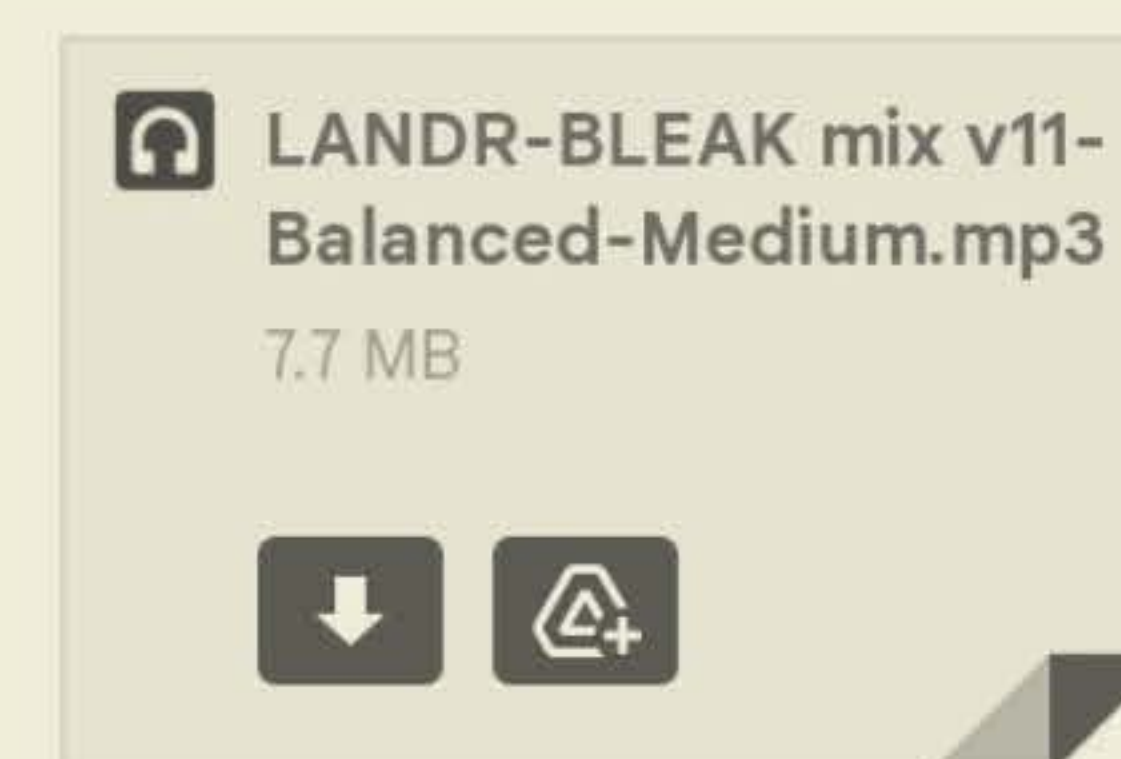
I can see that WeTransfer is nearing the end of its upload... About a minute to go. I reckon the video is ready so once we've got a mix, that can just slot in nicely.



• 13 Dec

**Tim:** Have a listen to this & let me know what you think?

**Julianne:** Oh God... I always worry when I get sent a mix, imagining that I'm going to have to write back 'Well can you change this bit? I'm not hearing the outro that way, sorry...' so it is so good to hear a mix and be able to say DO NOT TOUCH THAT DIAL!

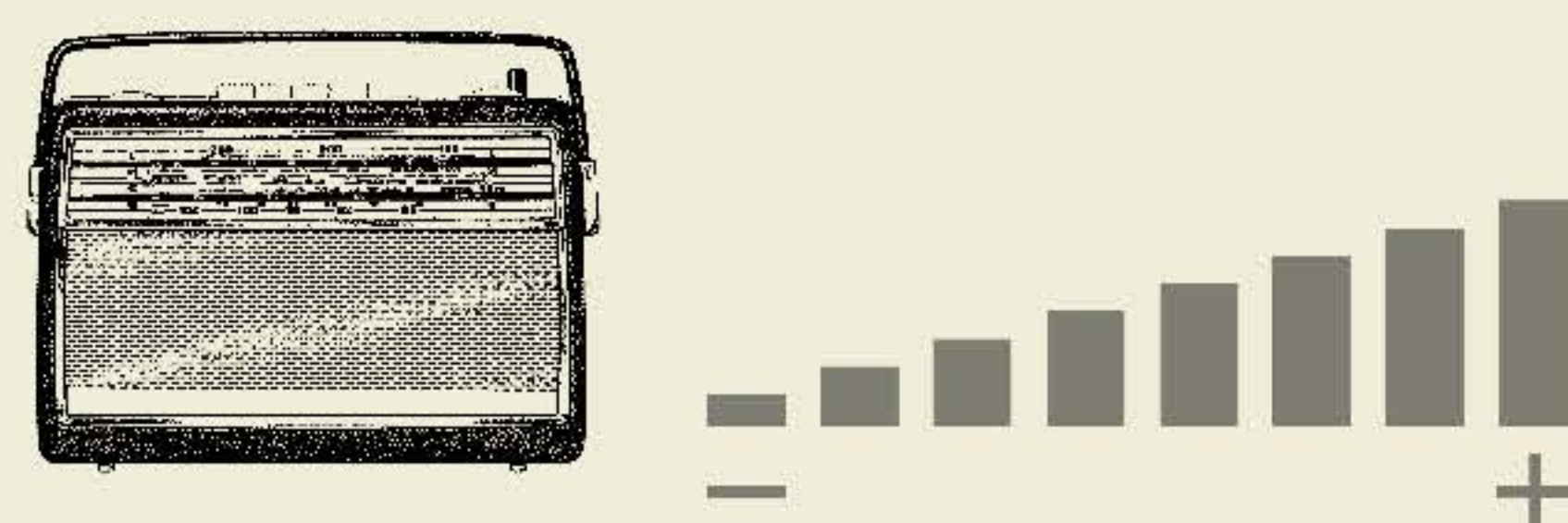


Perfect.

**Tim:** Oh, thanks. I'm delighted you are happy! - Always a bit of a moment sending a mix over. I have already put all the mastering gunk on the version I sent you so please use that one as it's good to go! Was thinking perhaps drop it Christmas Eve morning - What do you think?

• 15 Dec

**Tim:** Hope the podcast\* thing goes well today. You still okay with everything?  
By the way I know we have been saying 'don't touch that dial!' to each other since the 80s. I don't know which of us started it but I looked it up to find its origin - a radio announcement, before the adverts, from a bygone era!



• 17 Dec

**Tim:** Just before you lay the mix I sent over the visuals, I'd like to send you a slightly tweaked version tomorrow. I might be being a bit fussy but a couple of things were bugging me about it that I have fixed.

• 18 Dec

**Tim:** I'm so sorry but I just had to touch that dial!

Here is the tweaked mix of Bleak. After living with the other one for a while, I noticed it sounded like my stuff was slightly rushing.

Sure enough when I checked the import, my stuff needed booting backwards a few clicks to marry up with the start time in your project. It sounds right to me now; more relaxed.

I have also backed off the overall mix compression and used a de-esser on the vocal as a lot of sibilance was coming through on the 'snow on snow on snow' sections in the first mix



I know you will have got used to the other one but I hope you like this tweaked version as much.

Note: \* The podcast referred to here is *Curious Creatures*, hosted by Lol Tolhurst of *The Cure* and Budgie of *Siouxsie and the Banshees*



• 20 Dec

**Julianne:** Sorry for the delay in coming back with a BIG thumbs up, Tim. Yes, it's time to drop anchor and tot up what we've had from the mini bar. This ship is well 'n' truly docked!

**Tim:** Ahoy! Thanks. That's German Bight-tastic news, mate!



• 21 Dec

**Julianne:** Grand news! So, will you send me the wav of this for the video, or as it's only YouTube, shall I work with the MP3? One more thing - Should we just release it without ceremony, or should there be some kind of message?

**Tim:** Aye, given it's YouTube just go with the MP3  
I know it's close but I think a bit of a build-up message or taster snippet would help alert the kidz. What do you feel comfy with?

**Julianne:** I'll send 'teaser' for approval ASAP.



**Tim:** That's just perfect. Really lovely.

**Julianne:** Because I'm an admin, I can see you've joined the 'hardcore' AAE group. Must be like seeing a part of your life flash before you. I know it feels like that for me sometimes.

Are you going to lurk, or when we put the teaser up, should I mention you are 'here'? You'd get a lot of love from the kids. Have a mull anyway.

The video is all ready to go other than the 'legal' stuff I have to do regarding attribution of clipszzzzz.

**Tim:** Thanks just had a dig around the Facebook site - amazing! I'm happy to be there as a participant rather than a lurker so it's fine to mention I'm onboard.

I must admit I am very excited about the release - I was all butterflies eating me tea. It's turned out really great.





• 22 Dec

**Julianne:** Yes, it's a good feeling and a small something to counteract all the negativity. Covid, sewage in the seas, and heating bills!

How about I pop the teaser out today with a message along the lines of:

*"Here's a taste of something that will be uploaded to YouTube (with a link here) on Christmas Eve at X o'clock. It's a musical offering from myself and Tim, who has just recently joined us on this AAE group, as a little something to warm the year after what will have been a hard time for many."*

What should the 'X' of o'clock be, and do you think the tone of the above is right? Please feel very free to add / edit.

**Tim:** The message is just right to me. Nice one.

I guess X time on Christmas Eve should be early morning so it's there when folks wake up, like an early Christmas pressie? If we leave it too late on Christmas Eve everybody will be out doing other stuff or getting ready for the big day?

Happy to go with what you think is best.

**Julianne:** Love that idea of it being like a pre-Christmas morning thing.

I can make it automatic, so it hits them at, say, 8am? Is that early enough?




**Tim:** Would it be possible to forward me a pre-release link or download of the whole thing? I'm seeing all of my family tomorrow & would love to pop the vid on at the right moment!

**Julianne:** I can certainly send you a fam-friendly one though, without all the credit gubbins at the end. Can get that to you later today. No hassle at all.

Right, let's sit back and see the DELIGHT of the kids. It's up on the page right now!

**Tim:** Just seen it - Such a buzz!

36 Comments  Sort by

**Julianne:** The good vibes are rolling in!



Add a comment...

**Tim:** So good to see the encouraging comments coming in about the teaser.

**Julianne:** There was a nice comment about your guitar tone but it disappeared, which is odd. Anyway, all set.

Once you've checked the credits and given me a final thumbs up, I'll get it uploaded into YouTube for the preview at 8am on 24th.

**Tim:** I just downloaded and watched the credits version. Wonderful work.

**Julianne:** Righty ho. That's me done bothering you. Deck the halls etc. and enjoy the rest of the day. In fact, I'll bother you once more once I've set the YouTube thingy up but won't need a reply. I'm proud of us.

**Tim:** Aye, I'm proud of us too - To think we were only chatting about this a few weeks ago and here we are! Wonderful. One thing - If it's possible, can you lengthen the audio fade on the end as it just feels a bit abrupt? It's okay if not.

**Julianne:** Ah, I'm really sorry about that, Tim. I did fade it a little to match the video. Can you live with it? I promise to 100% check in future.

**Tim:** Sure, no probs. I'm just being fussy .





# 2023

• 11 Aug

**Julianne:** I know it sounds vain, but I think our version of Bleak Midwinter is brilliant, and I think it touched people. We could give another Christmas song/hymn/carol the RnB\* treatment for a b-side and stick this out on Friday 1st December, which is Bandcamp Friday. It'd mean Bleak not being on the album, which would shave the number of songs on the album down to perhaps 10.

**Tim:** Christmas single - sounds good - 10 songs seems fine - 5 each side in old money!

**Julianne:** That's great then. We're singing from the very same hymn sheet. I'm going to leave you be for the weekend, now. Just waiting patiently on wine o'clock here. Been a busy week! Cheers!



• 25 Aug

**Julianne:** Just some thoughts on our Christmas single Bleak Midwinter, plus another Christmas song/hymn/carol given our treatment for a b-side and release on Friday 1st December, which is Bandcamp Friday. Possible significant dates. December 4th (Monday) it will be 34 years since we released December. But I reckon that Bandcamp Friday is the better release day but it's nice that it's kind of an anniversary, loosely.

• 28 Aug

**Tim:** Xmas single - Additional carol to Bleak Midwinter - do you know/like "The Coventry Carol"? A beautiful melody and feels like it was made for us.

**Julianne:** I know it, yes, and always loved it. Lots of versions of it out there but you can never have too many. Sounds perfect.

• 30 Aug

**Julianne:** I've been trawling for a potential companion to 'Bleak'

TOYLAND by Victor Herbert (99% sure this is in the public domain).

It's all about the loss of innocence, ageing etc.

And here's a lovely version by **Doris Day**.  
<https://youtu.be/PHZas2CVoXQ>



TALJ TALJ

Arabic Christmas song. Might be a bit hard to sing in Arabic but there is a translation into English. The melody and the chords are just gorgeous though. <https://youtu.be/tqNj9laAVxc>

THE SNOWS THEY MELT THE SOONEST

Lots of trad. versions out there. I imagine it as a kind of spaced out Wicker Man vibe.

My cousin, **Seamie O'Dowd!** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-o-sUZpmOg>

**Cara Dillon** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JFwENOhMUYo>

**Annia MacGillivray** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cb\\_h5RwWvp4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cb_h5RwWvp4)

\*RnB - short for Regan and Bricheno as opposed to Rhythm and Blues



Also there's -

WE THREE KINGS by **Dolly Parton** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrsWF3JlScw>

COVENTRY CAROL

It might be a bit overdone, but always fancied doing it as I was born there.

Dreadful instrumentation à la 80s here but **Alison Moyet**'s done it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDCnHJ5QqK4>

And **Annie Lennox**, in my opinion, just MURDERED it. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRZTP9MlPOs>

**Tori Amos** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kLrwOOQ\\_y8o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kLrwOOQ_y8o)

**Sting!** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hahwYqQd\\_gA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hahwYqQd_gA)

**Loreena McKennitt** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUfnAjxnoJc>



### • 13 Sept

**Julianne:** Our 'b-side' for Bleak Midwinter. Any thoughts on that list? I know you're busy and it's ages away though. December 1st is the final Bandcamp Friday of the year, but there's also a Bandcamp Friday on November 3rd if we wanted to beat the Christmas rush?

**Tim:** I've listened to the Christmas songs list and must say what a fab list it is! The one I gravitate to for us most is the 'Snows They Melt The Soonest' - I can hear a minimal version of that. Think that's a better bet than Cov Carol. As fab as it is, it has been done a lot.

The Arabic one is a lovely tune but some of the translation made me chuckle - I guess you could tweak that to make it less "my hovercraft is full of eels".

Toyland lyric could work if we darkened up the music as the lyric is super sugary, but with right backing that could become satisfyingly Lynchy.

The obvious one for me is deffo "Snows" and I think I remember meeting Seamus in Ireland back on that day at your Auntie's house.

Do you have any faves from the list?

**Julianne:** I reckon it's either Snows That Melt or Toyland then, but as you say, the latter would have to be seriously Lynched up.

### • 03 Oct

**Tim:** Let me know when you have settled on a key for the Snows cover & we can get cracking with that...

**Julianne:** I'm never sure what 'key' a song is in, which is a worry for someone who taught songwriting for 7 years. But I worked out the chords that fit with my vocal range so I'll fire up the iMac later and investigate.

**Tim:** Yes, figuring out song keys can be fiddly. I have own way of doing it which leans heavily on being a guitarist. As a rule of thumb I find if the first chord and final resting chord of the song are the same then that's usually the key chord too. Sounds like you have done a bit on Snows - Were you just feeling it out for chords or have you got an approach vibe for it too?



• 03 Oct

**Julianne:** About Snows, I just threw my \*cousin's version into a Logic Project ( Projic? Logect?) and used that to sing a guide vocal along to and get chords sorted.

Of course, it was in far too low a register (as in I had to sing it really high). So I just transposed the MIDI and there you have it.

I'd like you to do your thing without any hindrance or hinting from me, but it felt good for it to be kind of loose, so it'd meander and wouldn't stick to a click.

That's all I'd say and am open to all ideas. You should see it as a blank canvas.

Just getting the courage up to go into the cold music room. Still need to get the boiler fixed.



**Tim:** I love the idea of snows being free, timing wise. Ideally we would be together - live - and judging the delivery together, but let's try it. I could do a basic clickless guide vibe of the progressions and see?

I was thinking about trying it with a volume pedal and tonnes of gravy so that you don't hear any attack on the chords I play. I haven't tried it yet but think it could work.

**Julianne:** I still haven't quite made it into the cold music room (stuff got in the way) but it's my next stop, so I'll see what's happening with The Snows. Oddly, it's almost telepathic what you've said you might do and what I've kind of done. Spooky!



*Photo: Magnetism and hypnotism; a presentation of this area, with special consideration of the relationships between mineral magnetism, the so-called animal magnetism and hypnotism - by Gustav Wilhelm Gessman.*

\*Julianne's cousin Seamie O'Dowd guested on Patrick Mangan's version of this song .



• 03 Oct

**Julianne:** A few things attached re 'Snows'

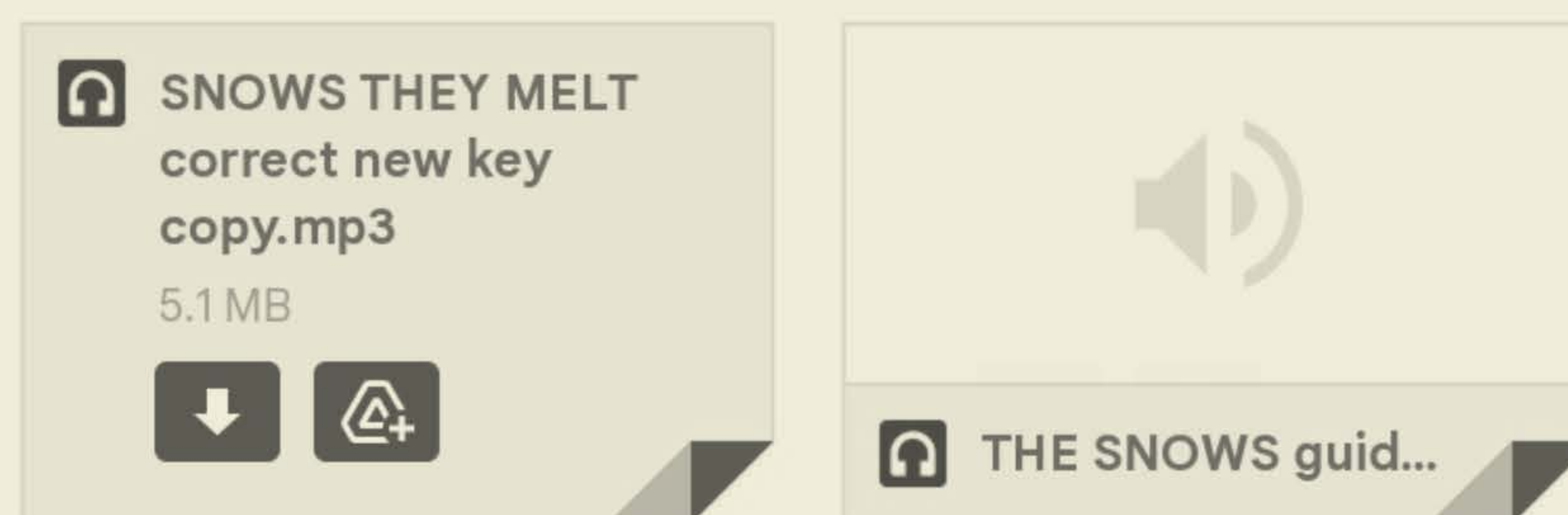
A guide in original key with rubbish guide vocal.

I sound like someone's drugged me with bad smack and when I came round from it I was Susan Boyle, (with no offence meant to Ms Boyle) and so pay no heed to the lacklustre far-too-folky guide vocal.

Also, this is in the original cousin key, and so it's one of the reasons that the vocal is so rubbish.

The accompaniment I did was only to get the chords, and once I got them they could be transposed down in MIDI.

**2 Attachments** • Scanned by Gmail ⓘ



Then there 's a guide in the correct new key. No vocal, but can do one if it helps?

As above but no vocal, instead you've got hamfisted-y piano chords. They're stodge, but they should give indication of the key.

Can send this as MIDI if you like, even just in case it helps you work out the key / chords for yourself. The glock thing in the middle instrumental is all over the place. Just a 'holder' really.

Please, please, don't see any of the (weak and out of tune) vocal as an approach or style or anything. It really was just a device to work out the right register.

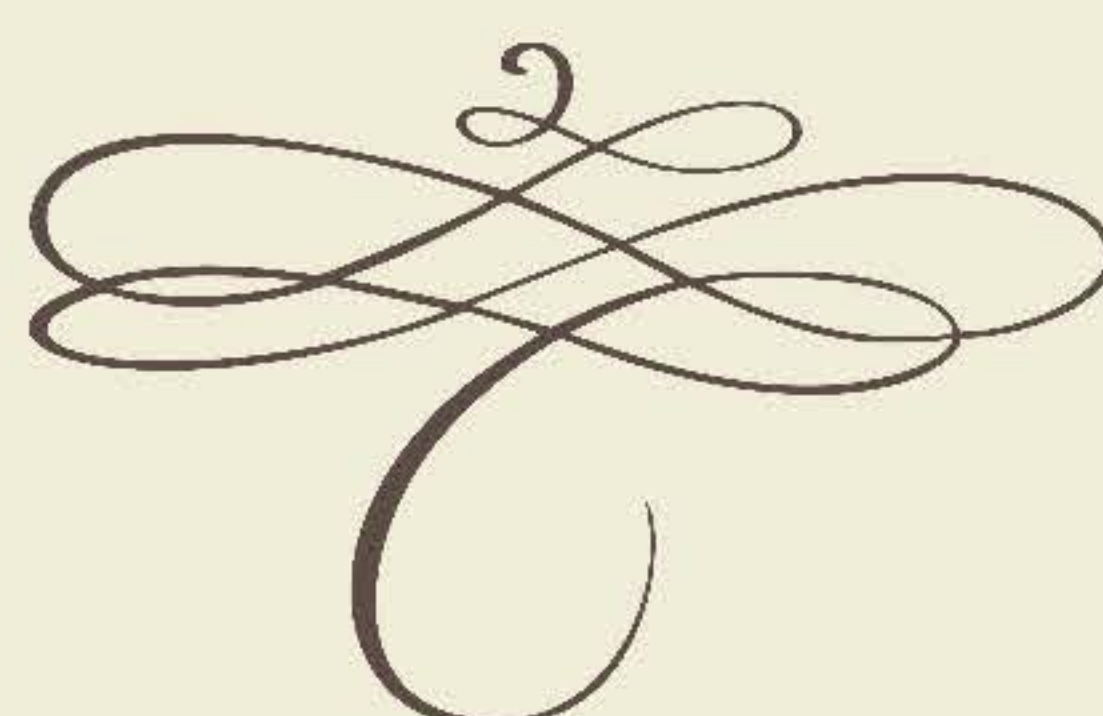
I'm imagining this as sitting in the same corner as Song To The Siren and Ghosts by Japan... (tall order!) - Who knows. I'm open-minded.

I think our version should have a little more warmth than those two examples. But just be you.

**Tim:** Most amusing description of original key guide - the smacked out Subo comparison is hilarious but not at all accurate.

The piano only one definitely has got something going on but I can't quite follow it without the vocal.

Please can you do a rough vocal on it and send me over the midi & vocal ? That will really help.





• 04 Oct

**Julianne:** About The Snows, I'm trying a different approach.

I've just put a kind of drone down (just as a placeholder) and am singing over the top. So imagine 'She Moves Through The Fair' but much, much more of a Brian Eno meets Debussy approach than the folk behemoth we created back in the day.

Not yet sure if it'll work. But what it would mean is that a vocal would have to be done first and then instrumentation would go around it. I just hear you all over that like a lovely rash, but a rash that's got calamine lotion on it so it's smooth rather than abrasive.



What it would demand is a pristine, flawless vocal. Eek. Either that or a real layered thing almost like a lady version of a Gregorian Monks. Are there Gregorian Nuns?

Still at the thinking stage and deffo not running off with the ball.

I've done a not-very-in-tune vocal, just for the first verse or so, and am slotting stuff around it as an example, so I'll send that snippet in a bit. I think this might work, as long as we slightly flick the Vs up to the original chord progression!

PS: I remember Mick Mercer writing somewhere about 'Fair' and calling it "She drones on and on and on through the bleedin' fair" or similar. We'd avoid that, of course, and to that end it might be worth cherry picking the best bits of the lyric and condensing the song?

**Tim:** I do like the piano thing you did but this new idea sounds really interesting so I'd run with that - If it feels good it **is** good and all that.

Look forward to hearing a snippet when ready.

Shame you are not round the corner for this one as think we could work out the approach pretty quick F2F. A bit rad but should I plug my gtr in and we try a Zoom to get a vibe together ?

I can hear less chords to the original and that may set it apart in a nice way. But I need to bounce it off the vocal to see if it will work... Or I can muck about here and send something over?

**Julianne:** Ah, I'm really sorry, but any spontaneity I ever had is long gone. I'd be hare in the headlights. I'd honestly just freeze, even though it is you and we could be having a glass of wine as we did this. Let's sleep on it?

Hope that's not too much of a downer.

PS: I could send you just the vocal, the vocal of that verse I did? Would that help?

**Tim:** No problem - I understand. It's been several decades since we did something like that, so yes, let's sleep on it.



• 05 Oct

**Tim:** :No need to respond to this anytime soon but here are the results of a morning's fiddle - It's the sort of thing I was thinking of for Snows.

I have done the melody on gtr just to see if it works. It's in G Minor at the minute - The key may need to be altered for your voice but not a problem.

Also included one without melody so you can try it out.

Any road, see what you think.

**Julianne:** Oh yes, I like that vibe a lot.

I like the very sparse, subtle percussion / beat. Perfect. Makes it very different to Bleak Midwinter, and that's good.

Is it in the same key as the snippet I sent to you? I think it might be, so it should be fine. Magic!

**Tim:** Thanks a lot - Really pleased you are digging the approach. First time out playing a beat live on my recently bodged together pots 'n' pans drum kit - It's so much quicker than programming drums & a bit of a human feel nicely creeps in too.

The key is the same as the clips you sent over - Are you sure it's not a wee bit low at present? Please let me know either way before I commit to the whole thing.

• 11 Oct

**Julianne:** Just a quick(ish) note to reassure you that all is well!

It's been one of those weeks, kicking off with an asthma (mini) attack, computer issues and then today is a car service / M.O.T / faint when you see the bill kind of day. 'Flu jab tomorrow. Still one of the perks of being asthmatic is that I get one of those gold dust Covid jabs too.

So, today I'll check that the key for Snows is right, so that you can proceed without fear of getting an 'Im so sorry, Tim...' email when I find out I'm having to sing like Lee Marvin.

Actually, I've just checked and the key of the song is just about in my vocal range. If we go higher I'll need helium. A sure case of **don't touch that dial**. It's just right.

Anyway, time is on our side for this. Have you had any thoughts about release day? The next opportunities are November 6th or December 1st. No more Bandcamp Fridays this year after that.


I was thinking we could offer something 'almost' tangible to go with it. You can offer PDFs via Bandcamp, so a slim pamphlet of lyrics, bits of artwork and some thoughts? We could both write a little about why we chose the songs, how we thought about doing Cov Carol but felt it'd been done to death etc. etc. What do you think? But perhaps our email exchange would make it clear as to why and how we made the decisions we did.



And there, dear reader, you have it.







*At the time of writing, adjustments to lyrics are still in the balance and it's not been decided which verses will be sung. But here they are, as things stand.*

*Oh, the snows they melt the soonest when the winds begin to sing;  
And the corn it ripens fastest when the frosts are setting in;  
And when somebody tells me that my face they'll soon forget,  
Before we part, I'd wage a crown, they're fain to follow it yet.*

*The snows they melt the soonest when the wind begins to sing;  
And the swallow skims without a thought as long as it is spring;  
But when spring goes, and winter blows, my love, an' you'll be fain,  
For all your pride, to follow me across the stormy main.*

*Oh, the snow it melts the soonest when the wind begins to sing;  
The bee that flew when summer shone, in winter cannot sting;  
I've seen a lover's anger melt between the night and morn,  
And it's surely not a harder thing to melt a lover's scorn.*

*Oh, never say farewell to me - no farewell I'll receive,  
For you shall meet me at the stile, and kiss and take your leave;  
But I'll stay here till the woodcock comes, and the martin takes his wing,  
Since the snows they melt the soonest, love, when the wind begins to sing*