

The Oxen

Thomas Hardy

William Horne

Gently

Soprano

1. 'Twas Christ - mas Eve, and twelve of the clock, "So now they are all on their
pic - tured the meek, mild crea - tures where They dwelt in their straw - y

Piano

pp *simplice*

col Ped.

4

knees, on their knees," An el - der said as we sat in a flock by the em - bers in hearth-side
pen, in their pen, Nor did it oc-cur to one of us there to doubt they were kneel-ing

poco cresc. *dim.*

8

1. ease. 2. We then. 3. So fair a fan-cy

holding back, reflecting

pp *piu pp* *mf*

12

few would weave in these years! Yet, I feel, if some-one said on

cresc.

15

Christ - mas Eve, "Come, see the ox - en kneel In the

p

ppp *molto tranquillo*

Rec. ->

18

lone - ly bar - ton by yon - der coomb Our child - hood used to

Rec.

21 *pp*

know," I should go with him in the gloom, in the gloom,

pp *rit.*

* *col ped.*

24 **Meno mosso** *ad libitum*

Hop-ing it might be so.

Ad. *