

# Alfred's Premier Piano Express

Dennis Alexander, Gayle Kowalchyk, E. L. Lancaster, Victoria McArthur & Martha Mier

## FOREWORD

Alfred's *Premier Piano Express* Christmas Book 1 includes familiar Christmas pieces that reinforce concepts included in the All-In-One Accelerated Course, Book 1 of *Premier Piano Express*. The music continues the strong pedagogical focus of the course while providing the enjoyment of playing familiar music during the Christmas season.

Christmas Book 1 is not correlated page by page with *Premier Piano Express*, Book 1. The Christmas pieces in this book can be studied after the student has begun reading on the staff (pp. 18–42). They are arranged in progressive order of difficulty with the easiest pieces first, though it is not necessary to progress straight through the book.

Allowing students to study music they enjoy during the Christmas season is highly motivating. Consequently, reading and rhythm skills often improve greatly when studying holiday music. The authors hope that the music in Christmas Book 1 brings hours of enjoyment to this festive season. Merry Christmas!

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ISBN-10: 1-4706-4073-2  
ISBN-13: 978-1-4706-4073-6

Cover Photo:  
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# Good King Wenceslas

**Good King Wenceslas** tells the story of a Duke of Bohemia who always visited poor people on Christmas day. Even in the worst weather, he knocked on doors with gifts of food, clothing, and firewood. John Mason Neale, an Englishman, wrote the lyrics in 1853 to fit a melody whose original words were about Spring.

Traditional  
Words by John Mason Neale

Moderately fast

1

*mf* Good King Wen - ces - las looked out on the feast of Ste - phen,

3

5

1

When the snow lay 'round a - bout, deep and crisp and e - ven.

3

Duet: Student plays one octave higher.

Moderately fast

RH 1

LH *mp* 5 1/5

3

5

# Away in a Manger

The lullaby **Away in a Manger** was written by James R. Murray of Pennsylvania around 1885. Murray worked as a music editor and hymn writer throughout his life. When it was first published, Murray suggested that the words were written by Martin Luther, and entitled it Luther's Cradle Hymn. Researchers now know that this is not true, but the myth about the piece still exists.

James R. Murray

**Slowly**

*p* A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, the

**5**

lit - tle Lord Je - sus lay down His sweet head. The

\* **Note to Teacher:** In measures 1, 5, 9, and 13, students may substitute the following rhythm for the quarter notes: ♩ ♪♪

Duet: Student plays one octave higher.

**Slowly**

RH  
LH  
*pp*  
5  
5  
5  
5  
2  
1  
5  
1

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## FOREWORD

Alfred's *Premier Piano Express* Christmas Book 2 includes familiar Christmas pieces that reinforce concepts included in the All-In-One Accelerated Course, Book 2 of *Premier Piano Express*. The music continues the strong pedagogical focus of the course while providing the enjoyment of playing familiar music during the Christmas season.

Christmas Book 2 is not correlated page by page with *Premier Piano Express*, Book 2. Pieces are arranged in progressive order of difficulty with the easiest pieces first, though it is not necessary to progress straight through the book.

Allowing students to study music they enjoy during the Christmas season is highly motivating. Consequently, reading and rhythm skills often improve greatly when studying holiday music. The authors hope that the music in Christmas Book 2 brings hours of enjoyment to this festive season. Merry Christmas!

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ISBN-10: 1-4706-4074-0  
ISBN-13: 978-1-4706-4074-3

Cover Photo:  
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# O Come, All Ye Faithful

**O Come, All Ye Faithful** is often called by its Latin title, *Adeste Fideles*. Written by John Francis Wade, it probably was sung by Catholics in the late 18th century and made its way to England by way of Portugal. Consequently, some English people still call it *The Portuguese Hymn*.

John Francis Wade

**Moderately**

*mf* O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O

5

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem.

\*

\* **Note to Teacher:** In measures 7, 12, and 19, students may substitute the following rhythm for the quarter notes: ♩ ♩

Duet: Student plays one octave higher.

**Moderately**

RH

LH

5

5

1 3

1 2 4

5

1 3

1 2

# We Wish You a Merry Christmas

Nothing is known about the composer of **We Wish You a Merry Christmas**. It is a traditional English carol that probably originated in the 16th or 17th century and was passed down from generation to generation. It is one of the few Christmas carols that also refers to the New Year.

Traditional English Carol

**Happily**

**1**  
We wish you a mer-ry Christ - mas, we wish you a mer-ry Christ - mas, we

**3**  
wish you a mer - ry Christ - mas and a hap - py New Year! *mp* Good

**9**  
tid - ings we bring to you and your kin: *mf* good

Duet: Student plays one octave higher.

**Happily**

**5**

**9**