CHRISTMAS BOOK 1

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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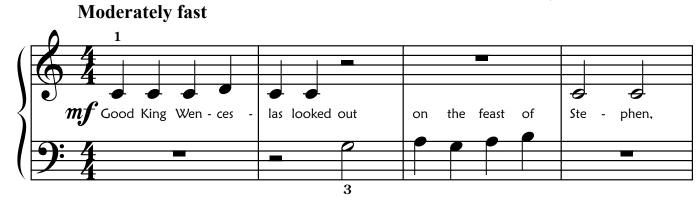
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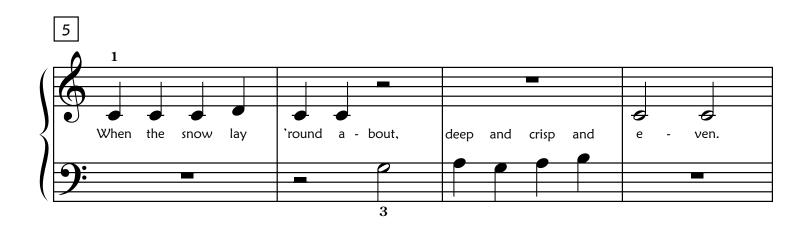


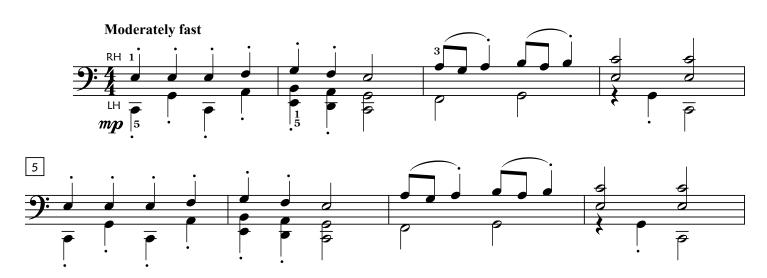
Good King Wenceslas

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

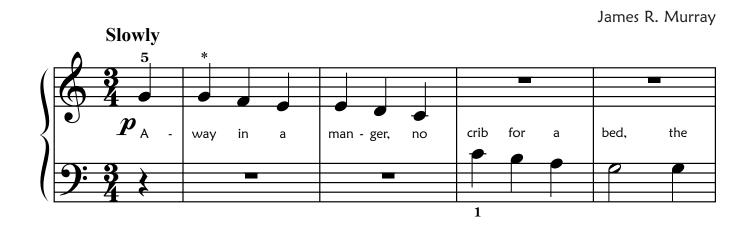


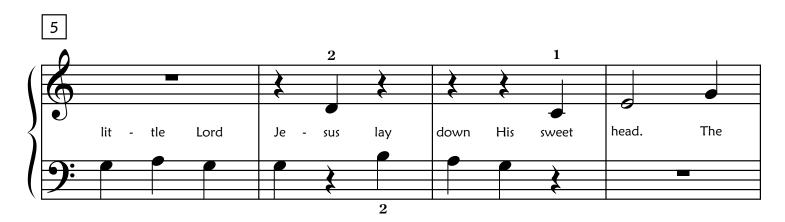




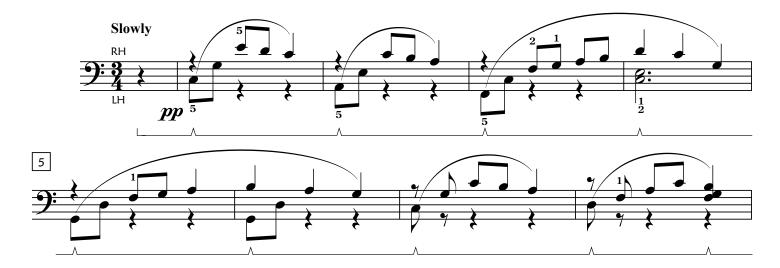
Away in a Manger

The Iullaby **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.





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



CHRISTMAS BOOK 2

Alfred's Premier Piano Express

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

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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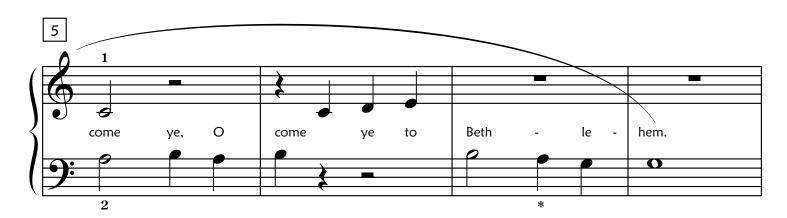


O Come, All Ye Faithful

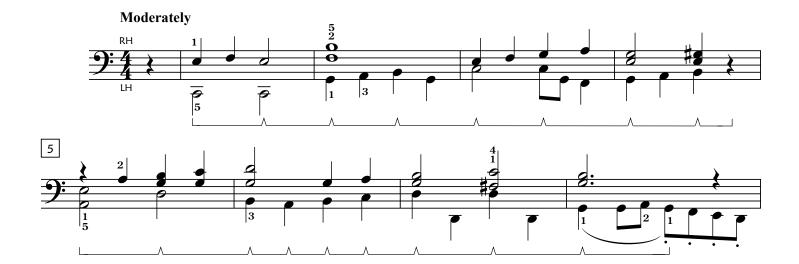
O Come, All Ye Faithful is often called by its Latin title, Adeste Fideles. Written by John Francis Wade, it probably was sung by Catholics in the late 18th century and made its way to England by way of Portugal. Consequently, some English people still call it The Portuguese Hymn.

Moderately

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



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



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.

