

Away in a Manger

Minuet

The Minuet is a graceful, elegant French dance with three beats per measure. Derived from the French word "menu," meaning slender or small, the name refers to the size of the steps in the dance. It became the most popular aristocratic social dance of the mid-seventeenth to late-eighteenth centuries. A minuet, usually paired with a trio, became a standard movement in large classical forms, including the symphony, sonata and string quartet.

William J. Kirkpatrick
Arr. by Peter Jancewicz

Grazioso e dolce

Measures 1-4 of the Minuet. The music is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo/mood is marked "Grazioso e dolce" and the dynamics are marked "mp". The right hand features a melodic line with slurs and fingerings (1, 4, 1, 2, 2). The left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and slurs, including fingerings (1 3, 1 5, 1 5, 1).

Measures 5-9 of the Minuet. The right hand continues the melodic line with slurs and fingerings (2, 3, 1, 3, 4, 2, 1). The left hand accompaniment includes chords and slurs with fingerings (1 2, 1 5, 1 5, 1 3).

Measures 10-13 of the Minuet. The right hand features a melodic line with slurs and fingerings (2, 4 1, 4 2 1, 5 3 1, 5 3 1, 5). The left hand accompaniment includes chords and slurs with fingerings (2, 1, 5). The dynamics are marked "mf".

Away in a Manger/ We Wish You a Merry Christmas

Minuet and Trio

The short Trio was a common feature in eighteenth and nineteenth century dance music. It was often coupled with another piece, such as a minuet, in order to provide enough music for an entire dance. It also offered contrast of texture and sonority with the main piece, which was repeated da capo (from the beginning). The Trio was often played by such wind instruments as the oboes and bassoons.

James R. Murray/Traditional
Arr. by Peter Jancewicz

Con grazia

The first system of music is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo/mood is 'Con grazia' and the dynamics are 'mp'. The right hand starts with a quarter note G5 (fingered 5), followed by a half note G5 (fingered 1) and a quarter note G5 (fingered 1). The left hand has a quarter rest, followed by a half note chord (F#4, C#4) and a quarter note chord (F#4, C#4). Fingerings for the left hand are indicated as 3/5, 1, and 1/5.

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The second system continues in 3/4 time. The right hand has a half note G5 (fingered 4), a quarter note G5 (fingered 2), and a quarter note G5 (fingered 1). The left hand has a half note chord (F#4, C#4) and a quarter note chord (F#4, C#4). Fingerings for the left hand are indicated as 1/4 and 1/4.

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The third system continues in 3/4 time. The right hand has a half note G5 (fingered 1), a quarter note G5 (fingered 2), a quarter note G5 (fingered 4), and a quarter note G5 (fingered 5). The left hand has a half note chord (F#4, C#4) and a quarter note chord (F#4, C#4). Dynamics are 'mf'. Fingerings for the left hand are indicated as (1)/5, 3, and 1/5.