

CHRISTMAS CAROL Activity Book

10 Christmas Favorites with Corresponding Musical Activity Pages
for the Beginning Pianist

(Includes Optional Teacher/Parent Accompaniments)

Gayle Kowalchyk • E. L. Lancaster

Students enjoy learning Christmas music. Playing familiar carols can aid them in developing and strengthening rhythm and performance skills. Because Christmas music provides excellent motivation, students often learn several carols throughout the season. Likewise, students enjoy completing activity pages that relate to this holiday.

This book was designed for beginning students who have had only a few weeks of study and consequently have limited skills in note reading. It contains 10 familiar carols, each with a teacher/parent duet part to create richer sounds and to aid the student with rhythmic security. All student parts are confined to middle C position and use rhythms commonly introduced in the first level of piano methods. The arrangements use no dotted rhythms.

Only one piece, *Jingle Bells*, contains eighth notes (limited to two consecutive eighth notes).

Fun-filled activity pages based on Christmas themes are found throughout the book. These pages reinforce concepts (such as rhythm patterns, musical terms and music theory) through games, puzzles, pages to color, and written exercises. They can be completed either at home or in the lesson.

Playing these carols and completing these pages should make each piano student's holiday season merry and bright. Merry Christmas!

Gayle Kowalchyk

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Away in a Manger

Middle C Position



Traditional
Arr. by Kowalchyk/Lancaster

Moderately slow

3/4 *p* RH 5 * LH 1

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

Detailed description: This block contains the first line of musical notation for the song. It is written in 3/4 time with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The right hand (RH) starts on the fifth line (G5) and plays a descending scale: G5, F5, E5, E5, D5, C5. The left hand (LH) starts on the first line (C4) and plays an ascending scale: C4, B3, A3, G3. The lyrics are placed below the notes: "A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, the". A star symbol (*) is placed above the first G5 note.

DUET PART (Student plays 1 octave higher.)

Moderately slow

pp RH * LH with pedal

5 9 13

Detailed description: This block contains the duet part of the music, consisting of two staves of music. The top staff is for the right hand (RH) and the bottom staff is for the left hand (LH). The music is in 3/4 time with a pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic. The RH part features a melodic line with a star symbol (*) above the first measure. The LH part features a bass line with a "with pedal" instruction. The music is divided into measures, with measure numbers 5, 9, and 13 indicated in boxes above the staves. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

*Note to Teacher: Students may substitute the following rhythm for that written in measures 1, 5, 9, 13: ♩. ♪ ♩

Arranging Dynamic Signs

1. Help Santa arrange the dynamic signs on the stockings by writing *f*, *p*, *mf*, *mp* in order from softest to loudest.
2. Then color the picture.

