

Especially for Christmas

8 Christmas Favorites Arranged for Late Intermediate Pianists

Dennis Alexander

Christmas is the season for giving. I always enjoy sharing the gift of music with friends, family, students and their parents during this special time. *Especially for Christmas, Book 3* includes some of the world's favorite carols and Christmas songs such as *(There's No Place Like) Home for the Holidays*, *I'll Be Home for Christmas*, and a boogie version of *Jingle Bells*. Pianists of all ages will enjoy the sophisticated yet pianistic arrangements. I hope that you, too, will be able to share the gift of music with your friends and loved ones this holiday season through the pieces in my *Especially for Christmas* series.

Merry Christmas!

Dennis Alexander

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This series is dedicated to all the teachers and students from the Puyallup Valley Chapter of the Washington State Music Teachers Association who so kindly created the "Joy of Music Award" in 1998 in memory of my son, Darren. Wishing all of you a blessed and happy holiday season and many more years of joyful music making!

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(There's No Place Like) Home for the Holidays

Words by Al Stillman
 Music by Robert Allen
 Arranged by Dennis Alexander

Moderato (♩ = 92-96)

The piano score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of Moderato (♩ = 92-96). It consists of four systems of music, each with a measure number in a box at the beginning of the system.

- System 1 (Measures 1-4):** Starts with a dynamic marking of *mp*. The right hand has a melodic line with a slur over measures 1-2 and a fermata over measure 4. The left hand has a bass line with fingerings 1, 2, 5, 2, 1, 3, 2. A first ending bracket spans measures 1-2.
- System 2 (Measures 5-8):** The right hand continues the melody. The left hand has a bass line with a crescendo hairpin and fingerings 1, 2, 5, 1, 2, 2. A dynamic marking of *mf* appears in measure 8.
- System 3 (Measures 9-12):** Features a large slur over the right hand. The left hand has a bass line with fingerings 5, 2, 2, 2, 2, 4. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present.
- System 4 (Measures 13-16):** Continues the large slur in the right hand. The left hand has a bass line with fingerings 1, 5, 2, 1, 4, 1, 2, 4, 1, 2, 5, 5, 2, 2.

Joy to the World/ Angels We Have Heard on High

George F. Handel/
Traditional French Carol
Arranged by Dennis Alexander

Triumphantly (♩ = 92-100)

5

8

11

f

mp

ff

f

1 3 5

1 2 4

8va

8va

1

1

8va

5 2 1

3 1

5 3 1

3

4

4

3

1 2 1 2

1 2 1

1 2 1

5 3 1

5 3 1

4

4

3

2

1

5

4

1

1

1

1

2

I'll Be Home for Christmas

Words by Kim Gannon
Music by Walter Kent
Arranged by Dennis Alexander

Moderately, with much expression (♩ = 69-76)

The first system of music is in 4/4 time and features a moderate tempo. The right hand (RH) plays a melody of eighth notes with a slur, while the left hand (LH) provides a bass line of quarter notes. The music is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1-5. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

The second system begins at measure 4. The right hand has a melodic line with a slur and a triplet of eighth notes. The left hand continues with a bass line. The tempo is marked *a tempo* and the dynamics are *rit.* (ritardando) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1-5.

The third system begins at measure 7. The right hand has a melodic line with a slur and a triplet of eighth notes. The left hand continues with a bass line. The dynamics are *mp*. Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1-5.

The fourth system begins at measure 10. The right hand has a melodic line with a slur and a triplet of eighth notes. The left hand continues with a bass line. The dynamics are *mp*. Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1-5.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

J. F. Wade
Arranged by Dennis Alexander

With grandeur (♩ = 112-120)

The first system of the piano arrangement features a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The right hand plays a continuous eighth-note melody, starting with a five-finger pattern (5, 3) on the first two notes. The left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with a long, sweeping slur over several measures. The dynamic marking *ff* (fortissimo) is placed in the left hand.

The second system continues the eighth-note melody in the right hand, marked with a box containing the number 3. The left hand accompaniment continues with a long slur, maintaining the harmonic support.

The third system shows the continuation of the eighth-note melody in the right hand, marked with a box containing the number 6. The left hand accompaniment continues with a long slur.

The fourth system concludes the piece. The right hand melody includes a box with the number 8 and ends with a five-finger pattern (5, 4, 5). The left hand accompaniment features a long slur and concludes with a series of chords in the final measure.