

Uniquely Christmas

Arranged by Bill Cunliffe

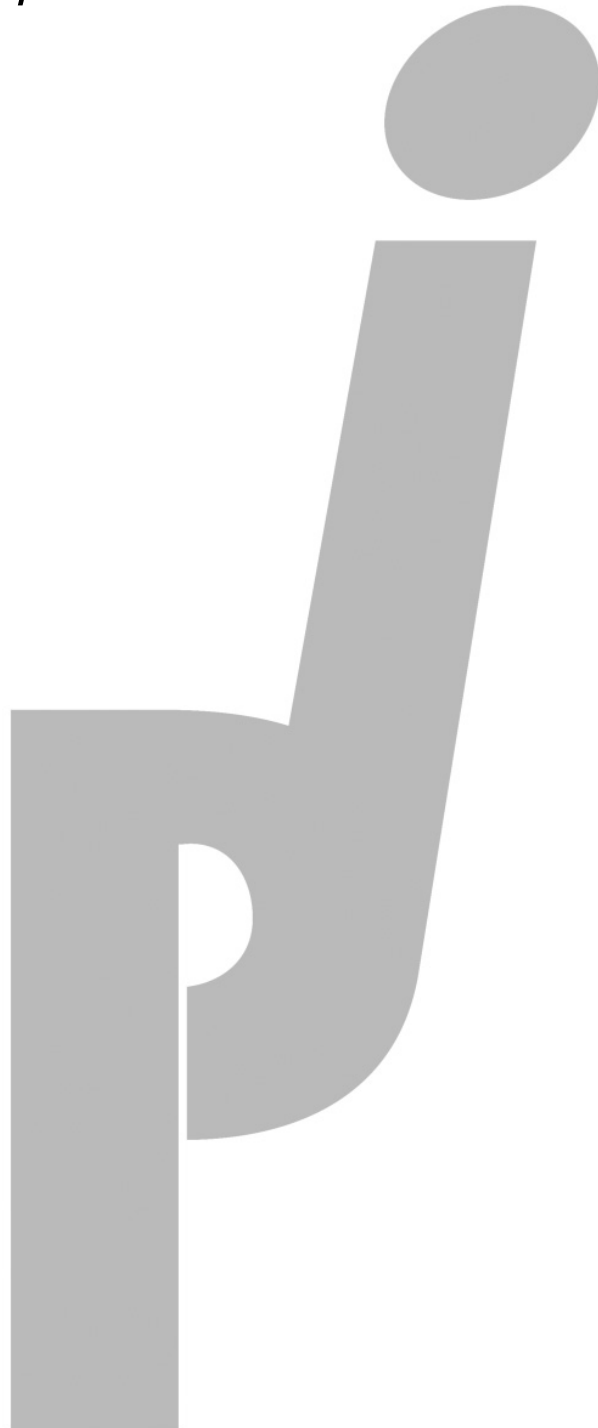
I love the Christmas season—the colors, the smells, and especially the music. I have a deep affinity for all the wonderful old carols, and I had a ball interpreting them in a jazz style.

These arrangements were inspired by my CD *That Time of Year*, which I recorded in six hours on a hot July day in Los Angeles. Most of it was freely improvised. I was excited when presented with the opportunity to make transcriptions of these recordings for sheet music so that the pieces could be played and enjoyed by other pianists.

In the arrangements, you'll hear a multitude of influences—from bebop and swing to Baroque music, Impressionism, and modern jazz. I want to thank Ryan Pryor and Chie Imaizumi, who both helped me with some of the transcriptions.

—Bill Cunliffe

Angels from the Realms of Glory	2
Coventry Carol	42
God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen	6
Jingle Bells	20
Silent Night	30
Ukrainian Bell Carol	34
We Three Kings	14



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 Blue Christmas balls on a night background,
 Christmas time: © Shutterstock.com/Karen Roach

GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN

Traditional English Carol
Arr. Bill Cunliffe

Medium swing ($\text{♩} = 132$) ($\text{♪♪} = \overset{\frown}{\text{♪}} \overset{\frown}{\text{♪}}$)

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The piece is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked 'Medium swing' with a quarter note equal to 132 beats per minute. The first measure starts with a dynamic of *mp* and includes fingerings 2 and 5 for the right hand. The bass line features a long, low note in the first measure. Measure 4 ends with a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand.

Musical notation for measures 5-8. The dynamic is *mf*. Measure 5 has a boxed measure number '5'. Fingerings 1 and 2 are indicated for the right hand in measure 6. Measure 7 has fingerings 5, 3, and 3. Measure 8 has a boxed measure number '4'. The bass line continues with sustained notes and some rhythmic patterns.

Musical notation for measures 9-12. Measure 9 has a boxed measure number '9'. The right hand plays chords and moving lines, while the bass line has a more active, rhythmic accompaniment. Measure 12 ends with a long note in the bass line.

Musical notation for measures 13-16. Measure 13 has a boxed measure number '13' and a dynamic of *f*. Fingerings 2 and 1 are indicated for the right hand in measure 14. Measure 15 has fingerings 1 and 2. Measure 16 ends with a long note in the bass line.

WE THREE KINGS

John Henry Hopkins, Jr.

Arr. Bill Cunliffe

Moderately, with swing (♩ = 160) (♩♩ = $\overset{\frown}{\text{♩}} \overset{\frown}{\text{♩}}$)

mp

mf

with pedal

5

mp

4

9

cresc.

f

(roll when necessary)

15

mf

8va

19

mp

UKRAINIAN BELL CAROL

Traditional
Arr. Bill Cunliffe

Moderately fast (♩. = 63)

3

mf *p*

5

mf

9

mp

pedal ad lib.

13

COVENTRY CAROL

Traditional English Carol
Arr. Bill Cunliffe

Freely (♩ = ca. 72)

mp

with pedal

6

1 2 3

7

6

5 3 2

2 1 4 2

9

1 4 3 2 1 4 3

2

2 1 2

2

13

2 1 4

2 1

5 4 2