

CHRISTMAS COMES BUT ONCE A YEAR

for S.A.T.B. voices and piano
with optional PianoTrax CD*

Words and Music by
JAY ALTHOUSE

Brightly, in two (♩ = ca. 96)

PIANO

mf

The piano introduction consists of two staves. The right hand plays a melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The left hand plays a bass line of half notes: G3, B2, G3, B2, G3, B2, G3. The music is in 2/4 time and begins with a treble clef and a bass clef.

4

The piano accompaniment continues with two staves. The right hand plays a melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The left hand plays a bass line of half notes: G3, B2, G3, B2, G3, B2, G3. The music is in 2/4 time and begins with a treble clef and a bass clef.

8 SOPRANO & ALTO

mf

Christ - mas comes but once a year, deep in cold De -

TENOR & BASS

The vocal line consists of two staves. The top staff is for Soprano & Alto and the bottom staff is for Tenor & Bass. The melody is: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics are: "Christ - mas comes but once a year, deep in cold De -". The music is in 2/4 time and begins with a treble clef and a bass clef.

The piano accompaniment continues with two staves. The right hand plays a melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The left hand plays a bass line of half notes: G3, B2, G3, B2, G3, B2, G3. The music is in 2/4 time and begins with a treble clef and a bass clef.

* Also available for S.A.B. (47631) and S.S.A. (47632).
PianoTrax 11 Accompaniment CD available (47188).

Please visit alfred.com/choralparts to download free parts for drum and tambourine.

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11

cem - ber.

mf

Sing with voic - es strong and clear,

14

car - ols we re - mem - ber.

19

Deck the hall with

red and green: hol - ly and the i - vy.

Play the drum and tam - bou - rine. Make the mu - sic

live h. Trim, now, the Christ - mas tree,

29

tall and bright and mer - ry. Oh, what a

This system contains the first three measures of the piece. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment with treble and bass staves. The music is in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (Bb).

This system contains the piano accompaniment for measures 29-31, showing the treble and bass staves with chords and melodic lines.

32

sight we'll see in - to Jan - u - ar - y.

This system contains the next three measures. The vocal line continues with the lyrics, and the piano accompaniment provides harmonic support.

This system contains the piano accompaniment for measures 32-34.

35

Now, hang high the mis - tle - toe. All the boys are

This system contains the final three measures of the page. The vocal line concludes with the lyrics, and the piano accompaniment ends with a final chord.

This system contains the piano accompaniment for measures 35-37.

smil - ing. Can - dle lights are all a - glow,

and the girls be - guil - ing

Fa la **45** *la,* *fa la* *la,* *fa la*

47 la, fa la la la la. Fa la la, fa la

fa la la la la la la. Fa la la

fa la la la la. Fa la

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of music, measures 47-49. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The vocal line starts with a half note 'la,' followed by eighth notes 'fa la la la la.' and quarter notes 'Fa la la,' ending with a half note 'fa la'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes in both staves.

50 la, fa la la la la la la.

la la la, fa la la la.

la la, fa la la la.

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of music, measures 50-52. The vocal line continues with 'la, fa la la la la la la.' followed by 'la la la, fa la la la.' and 'la la, fa la la la.'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and single notes. A sharp sign (#) appears at the end of the system, indicating a key change.

53

f

Detailed description: This block contains the third system of music, measures 53-55. It shows the piano accompaniment for measures 53 and 54, which are mostly rests. Measure 55 begins with a piano (f) dynamic marking and continues with chords and single notes in both staves. A sharp sign (#) is present at the beginning of the system.

56 57 *f*

Strike the chime and ring the bell.

This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It begins with a whole rest, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef, starting with a whole rest.

The piano accompaniment for the first system consists of two staves. The right hand (treble clef) plays a series of chords: a whole note G4, a half note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. The left hand (bass clef) plays a steady bass line with a whole note G2, a half note A2, and a quarter note B2.

59

Join the cel - e - bra - tion. Catch a goose and

f

This system contains the third and fourth staves of music. The vocal line (treble clef) has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. The piano accompaniment (bass clef) has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a half note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2.

The piano accompaniment for the second system consists of two staves. The right hand (treble clef) plays a series of chords: a whole note G4, a half note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. The left hand (bass clef) plays a steady bass line with a whole note G2, a half note A2, and a quarter note B2.

62

roast it well, on this glad oc - ca - sion.

This system contains the fifth and sixth staves of music. The vocal line (treble clef) has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. The piano accompaniment (bass clef) has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a half note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2.

The piano accompaniment for the third system consists of two staves. The right hand (treble clef) plays a series of chords: a whole note G4, a half note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. The left hand (bass clef) plays a steady bass line with a whole note G2, a half note A2, and a quarter note B2.

65

Hey, ho, it's time to eat. Place the meal be -

68

fore us. Bring, now the Christ - mas treat,

71

73

and we'll sing a chor - us. Christ - mas comes but

74

once a year, deep in cold De - cem - ber.

77

Sing with voic - es strong and clear, car ols we re -

80

mem - ber. Fa la la, fa la la, fa la

83 la, fa la la la la. Fa la la, fa la

fa la la la la la la. Fa la la

fa la la la la. Fa la

86 la, fa la la la la la la.

la la la, fa la la la.

la la, fa la la la.

89

Christ - mas comes but

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once a year, Christ-mas comes but

once a year, deep in cold De - cem -

ber. Fa la la la la la la la.

la la.