



# The First Noel

Traditional English Carol  
Arranged by Dan Forrest  
String orchestra setting by Kirk Moss

## INSTRUMENTATION

- 1 Full Score
- 8 Violin I
- 8 Violin II
- 5 Viola
- 5 Cello
- 5 String Bass
- 1 Piano/Harp Accompaniment  
(Optional)

As a standalone or paired with Dan Forrest’s choral setting, the captivating musical message of this beloved traditional English carol will touch hearts of performers and listeners alike. Scored for string orchestra with piano or harp accompaniment, this wonder-filled setting sits so well for strings that you could perform it with a younger ensemble or your most advanced students—or with everyone and choirs combined!

## PROGRAM NOTES

“The First Noel” is of Cornish origin; that is, from Cornwall, a county in the South West Peninsula of England. The text likely extends back to the 18th century, the first printing of the tune comes from *Christmas Carols, Ancient and Modern* (1833) by William Sandys. The word Noël (French)/Nowell (English) derives from the Latin “natalis,” meaning “birth.”

## NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Encourage mature players to make expressive fingering choices and use vibrato. To practice shifting and vibrato, along with coloring the tone through bowing lanes, variable bow weight, and using a fitting bow speed, see *Sound Innovations: Sound Development* (Alfred Music). For a similar standalone string orchestra arrangement, that also works with choirs, try *See Amid the Winter’s Snow*, another Kirk Moss & Dan Forrest collaboration (Alfred Music).

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

In orchestral music, there are many editorial markings that are open for interpretation. In an effort to maintain consistency and clarity you may find some of these markings in this piece. In general, markings for fingerings, bowing patterns, and other items will only be marked with their initial appearance. For a more detailed explanation of our editorial markings, please download the free PDF at [www.alfred.com/stringeditorial](http://www.alfred.com/stringeditorial).

x  
extended position

-  
shift

,  
bow lift/reset

(b), (#), (d)  
high or low fingerings

▣▣ or V V  
hooked bowings

I hope you will find these explanations to be helpful. Best wishes with all of your musical endeavors!

Chris M. Bernotas  
Director of String Publications



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# The First Noel

FULL SCORE  
Duration - 4:45

Traditional English Carol  
Arranged by Dan Forrest  
String orchestra setting by Kirk Moss

Rubato, with warmth and wonder (♩ = 76)

Violins

Viola

Cello

String Bass

Piano/Harp  
Accompaniment  
(Optional)

Rubato, with warmth and wonder (♩ = 76)

Vlms.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno./Harp  
Accomp.

poco rit. 8 a tempo

poco rit. 8 a tempo

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I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno./Harp Accomp.

9 10 11 12

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno./Harp Accomp.

13 14 15 16

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno./Harp Accomp.

17 18 19 20

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno./Harp Accomp.

21 22 23 24

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno./Harp  
Accomp.

25 26 27 28

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno./Harp  
Accomp.

29 30 31 32

**Vlns. I**  
*mf*

**Vlns. II**  
*mf*

**Vla.**  
*mf*  
4

**Cello**  
*mf*  
-3  
x2

**Str. Bass**  
*mp*

**Pno./Harp Accomp.**  
*mf*  
*mp*

**Vlns. I**  
*mp*  
*mf*  
*mp*

**Vlns. II**  
*mp*  
*mf*  
*mp*

**Vla.**  
*mp*  
*mf*  
*mp*  
4

**Cello**  
*mp*  
*mf*

**Str. Bass**  
*mf*

**Pno./Harp Accomp.**  
*mf*  
*mp*

33 34 35 36  
37 38 39 40 41

I Vlns. II Vlns. Vla. Cello Str. Bass Pno./Harp Accomp.

42 43 44 45 46

I Vlns. II Vlns. Vla. Cello Str. Bass Pno./Harp Accomp.

47 48 49 50



**Vlns.**  
I  
II

**Vla.**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

**Pno./Harp  
Accomp.**

*mp*

*mf*  
*arco*

51 52 53 54 55

**Vlns.**  
I  
II

**Vla.**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

*mf*

*mf*

*poco rit.*

56 *poco rit.*

56 57 58 59 60

**a tempo** **poco più mosso (♩ = 78)**

Vlns. I *f*

Vlns. II *f* *mp*

Vla. *f* *mp*

Cello *f* *mp*

Str. Bass *f* *mp* *pizz.*

Pno./Harp Accomp. *f* *a tempo* *mp* *poco più mosso (♩ = 78)* *mf*

61 62 63 64

65

Vlns. I *mf*

Vlns. II *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Cello *mf*

Str. Bass *mf* *arco*

Pno./Harp Accomp. *mf*

65 66 67 68

Vlns. I *f* *poco rit.* *a tempo*

Vlns. II *f*

Vla. *f*

Cello *f*

Str. Bass *f* *poco rit.* *a tempo*

Pno./Harp Accomp.

69

70

71

72

Vlns. I *mf* **With forward motion ( $\text{♩} = 80$ )**

Vlns. II *f*

Vla. *mf* 4

Cello *f*

Str. Bass *mf*

73

73

73

74

75

76

I  
Vlns.  
II  
Vla.  
Cello  
Str. Bass  
Pno./Harp  
Accomp.

77 78 79 80

I  
Vlns.  
II  
Vla.  
Cello  
Str. Bass  
Pno./Harp  
Accomp.

81 82 83 84

**Vlns. I**

**Vlns. II**

**Vla.**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

**Pno./Harp Accomp.**

*poco rit.*

*mf*

*div.*

*f*

*poco rit.*

*f*

85

86

87

88

**Vlns. I**

**Vlns. II**

**Vla.**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

*a tempo*

*f*

*div.*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*pizz.*

*mf*

*a tempo*

*div.*

*div.*

*-1 x2*

*o -1*

89

89

90

91

92

I Vlns. II Vlns. Vla. Cello Str. Bass Pno./Harp Accomp.

93 94 95 96

I Vlns. II Vlns. Vla. Cello Str. Bass Pno./Harp Accomp.

97 98 99 100

103 a tempo

Vlns. I  
Vlns. II  
Vla.  
Cello  
Str. Bass

*mp*

Pno./Harp  
Accomp.

101 102 103 104

Vlns. I  
Vlns. II  
Vla.  
Cello  
Str. Bass

*div.*

*x2*

poco rit. a tempo

Pno./Harp  
Accomp.

105 106 107 108

I  
Vlns.  
II  
Vla.  
Cello  
Str. Bass  
Pno./Harp  
Accomp.

109 110 111 112

I  
Vlns.  
II  
Vla.  
Cello  
Str. Bass  
Pno./Harp  
Accomp.

Solo *mp* rit. Tutti -4 4 *p*

113 114 115 116 117