

MIDNIGHT IN DECEMBER

10 Portraits of the Season

Elizabeth Swift

In *Midnight in December*, familiar Christmas carols become chapters in a larger story. Elizabeth Swift’s imaginative titles and evocative arrangements create a narrative arc that unfolds across the winter night, moving through moments of anticipation, celebration, memory, and reflection. Along the way, beloved melodies take on new character through expressive textures and colorful harmonies, inviting pianists to experience these familiar carols not simply as individual pieces but as scenes within a musical journey through December.

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ISBN-10: 1-4706-8874-3
ISBN-13: 978-1-4706-8874-5

EVERY DECEMBER

(Go Tell It on the Mountain)

Secondo

Spiritual
Arr. Elizabeth Swift

Slowly and gently

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The music is for piano. Measure 1: Treble clef has a whole rest, bass clef has a whole rest. Measure 2: Treble clef has a whole rest, bass clef has a whole rest. Measure 3: Treble clef has a whole rest, bass clef has a whole rest. Measure 4: Treble clef has a quarter note G4 (first finger), bass clef has a whole rest. Dynamics: *mp* (mezzo-piano) is indicated in measure 4.

Musical notation for measures 5-8. Measure 5: Treble clef has a quarter note A4 (second finger), bass clef has a half note G3. Measure 6: Treble clef has a quarter note B4 (third finger), bass clef has a half note F3. Measure 7: Treble clef has a quarter note C5 (fourth finger), bass clef has a half note E3. Measure 8: Treble clef has a half note D5 (first finger), bass clef has a half note D3. Dynamics: *rit.* (ritardando) is indicated in measure 7, leading to *p* (piano) in measure 8. Fingering: 1, 2, 3, 5 are indicated for the bass line in measures 7 and 8.

Energetically, swing 8ths (♩ = 116–124)

Musical notation for measures 9-12. Measure 9: Treble clef has a quarter note G4 (fourth finger), bass clef has a quarter note G3 (second finger). Measure 10: Treble clef has a quarter note A4 (second finger), bass clef has a quarter note F3. Measure 11: Treble clef has a quarter note B4 (second finger), bass clef has a quarter note E3. Measure 12: Treble clef has a quarter note C5 (second finger), bass clef has a quarter note D3. Dynamics: *mp* (mezzo-piano) is indicated in measure 9. *detached* is indicated for the bass line in measure 9.

Musical notation for measures 13-16. Measure 13: Treble clef has a quarter note G4 (fourth finger), bass clef has a quarter note G3 (second finger). Measure 14: Treble clef has a quarter note A4 (fourth finger), bass clef has a quarter note F3. Measure 15: Treble clef has a quarter note B4 (first finger), bass clef has a quarter note E3. Measure 16: Treble clef has a quarter note C5 (first finger), bass clef has a quarter note D3. Dynamics: *mf* (mezzo-forte) is indicated in measure 15.

A DREAM OF CHILDHOOD

29

(Up on the Housetop)

Benjamin R. Hanby
Arr. Elizabeth Swift

Slowly and a little hesitant (♩ = 104–112)

Measures 1-4 of the piece. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo/mood is 'Slowly and a little hesitant' with a quarter note equal to 104-112 beats per minute. The first staff (treble clef) begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The melody starts on G4, moves to A4, then Bb4, and continues with a series of eighth and quarter notes. The second staff (bass clef) provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords. Fingering numbers (1, 5, 1, 3, 1, 4) are indicated above the treble staff notes. A bracket spans the first four measures.

Measures 5-8 of the piece. Measure 5 is marked with a box containing the number 5. The melody continues with a slur over measures 5 and 6. Measure 7 includes a *rit.* (ritardando) marking. The piece concludes in measure 8 with a final chord. Fingering numbers (1, 4, 5, 2, 1) are indicated above the treble staff notes. A bracket spans measures 5 through 8.

Measures 9-12 of the piece. Measure 9 is marked with a box containing the number 9. The tempo changes to *a tempo*. The melody begins with a slur over measures 9 and 10. The dynamic is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The melody continues through measures 11 and 12. Fingering numbers (4, 1, 2, 1, 4) are indicated above the treble staff notes. A bracket spans measures 9 through 12.

Measures 13-16 of the piece. Measure 13 is marked with a box containing the number 13. The melody begins with a slur over measures 13 and 14. The melody continues through measures 15 and 16. Fingering numbers (5, 1, 3, 2) are indicated above the treble staff notes. A bracket spans measures 13 through 16.