

The First Noel

Traditional English Carol
Arranged by Travis Beck

This well-known English Christmas carol is arranged to feature all the members of a brass quintet.

Full of text-painting, this arrangement moves through three stanzas. The first statement of the melody, written over a drone bass, evokes the pastoral scene of the shepherds “in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep”. A second statement of the melody in the low brass begins with distant bell-tone-like accents in the trumpets, painting a picture of the “star shining in the east beyond them far” before building in m. 50 (“and to the earth it gave great light”). The melody returns for a final, majestic variation, inspired by the Magi “full reverently upon their knee” offering their “gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.”

The final section features the iconic ascending line written by John Stainer in 1871. This section should be played freely and expressively, with a suggested tempo around 60 bpm.

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DURATION: 5:10

DIFFICULTY RATING: Medium-Difficult

Brass Quintet

THE FIRST NOEL

Traditional English Carol
Arranged by Travis Beck

Gently ♩ = 66

Musical score for "The First Noel" featuring B♭ Trumpet 1, B♭ Trumpet 2, F Horn, Trombone, and Tuba. The score is in 3/4 time and includes measures 1 through 21. A large "Preview" watermark is overlaid on the score.

Measures 1-7: B♭ Trumpet 1 and 2 are mostly silent. F Horn and Trombone/Tuba play a steady bass line. B♭ Trumpet 2 enters in measure 5 with a melodic line marked *mp*.

Measures 8-14: B♭ Trumpet 1 and 2 continue to be silent. F Horn and Trombone/Tuba continue the bass line. B♭ Trumpet 2 has a melodic line marked "lead" in measure 10.

Measures 15-21: B♭ Trumpet 1 and 2 enter with a melodic line marked *mp* in measure 17. F Horn and Trombone/Tuba continue the bass line. B♭ Trumpet 2 has a melodic line marked "not lead" in measure 17.

22 23 24 25 26 27 28

mf

mf

mf

mp

mf

This system contains measures 22 through 28. It features five staves: two treble clefs and three bass clefs. The key signature has two flats. Measures 22-24 show a steady melodic line in the upper staves. At measure 25, a dynamic marking of *mf* is introduced. The lower staves provide harmonic support with sustained notes and moving lines. A large watermark 'Preview' is overlaid across the score.

29 30 31 32 33 34 35

mp

mp

mp

mf

mf

mf

This system contains measures 29 through 35. Measures 29-32 feature a *mp* dynamic. At measure 33, the dynamic changes to *mf*. The music continues with melodic and harmonic development across the five staves. A large watermark 'Preview' is overlaid across the score.

36 37 38 39 40 41 42

mf

p

lead

mp

This system contains measures 36 through 42. Measures 36-37 are marked *mf*. At measure 38, the dynamic changes to *p*. At measure 41, the word 'lead' is written above the staff, and the dynamic is *mp*. The system concludes with a final melodic phrase in the upper staves. A large watermark 'Preview' is overlaid across the score.

43 44 45 46 47 48 49

p *mf* *mf*

50 51 52 53 54 55

mf *mp* *mp*

56 57 58 59 60 61 62

mf *lead* *mf* *mf*

63 64 *rit.* 65 *mf* 66 *a Tempo* 67 68 69

70 *rit.* 71 *a Tempo* 72 73 74

f *f* *lead* *f* *f*

75 76 77 78 79

mf *lead* *mf*

80 81 82 83 84 85

mf

mf

This system contains measures 80 through 85. It features five staves: two treble clefs, two bass clefs, and a grand staff. The music is in G major. Measures 80-81 show a melodic line in the first treble staff with a *mf* dynamic. Measures 82-85 show a more active bass line in the second bass staff, also marked *mf*. The other staves have rests or simple accompaniment.

86 87 89 90

sub.*mp* *rit.* *f* *a Tempo*

sub.*mp* *f*

sub.*mp* *f*

sub.*mp* *f*

sub.*mp* *f*

sub.*mp* *f*

This system contains measures 86 through 90. It features five staves. Measures 86-87 are marked *sub.mp*. Measure 88 is marked *rit.*. Measures 89-90 are marked *f* and *a Tempo*. The music is more rhythmic and active across all staves, with a prominent bass line in the second bass staff.

91 92 94 95 96

lead *mp* *p* *p*

This system contains measures 91 through 96. It features five staves. Measures 91-92 show a melodic line in the first treble staff. Measures 93-96 show a more active bass line in the second bass staff. The music is in G major. Dynamics include *mp* and *p*. A "lead" instruction is present above measure 94.

97 98 *rit.* 99 Slower with rubato 100 101 102 103

mf *mp* *f* *mp*

104 105 106 107 108 109 110 *rit.*

mp *p* *p* *p* *p* *p* *p*