

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.

ISBN: 9781778930126
CATALOG NUMBER: BQ223566

COST: \$15.00
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 with a "lead" instruction in measure 10.

Measures 15-21: B♭ Trumpet 1 and 2 enter with a melodic line marked *mp*. F Horn and Trombone/Tuba continue the bass line. B♭ Trumpet 2 has a "not lead" instruction 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 shift to *mf* occurs across all staves. Measures 26-28 continue with melodic development and a return to *mf* dynamics.

29 30 31 32 33 34 35

mp mp mp mf mf mf

This system contains measures 29 through 35. Measures 29-31 feature a *mp* dynamic. At measure 32, the dynamic shifts to *mf*. Measures 33-35 show further melodic and harmonic progression with *mf* dynamics.

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 shifts to *p*. Measure 41 includes a *lead* instruction above the bass staff, which is marked *mp*. Measure 42 concludes the system with a final melodic flourish.

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*.

86 87 89 90

rit. 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*. Measures 88-90 are marked *f* and include a *rit.* (ritardando) leading to *a Tempo*. The music is more rhythmic and active in this section.

91 92 94 95 96

lead mp

p

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 *lead* section in the first treble staff, marked *mp*. The other staves have a *p* (piano) dynamic. The music concludes with a *p* dynamic in the grand staff.

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*

lead