

Christmas Carol Accompaniments

Reproducible Accompaniments for Twelve Familiar Christmas Carols

*for 2, 3, 4 or 5 octaves handbells or handchimes
with voice(s) and/or instrument (Bb or C treble, C bass, and/or keyboard)*

by
Margaret R. Tucker

These arrangements may be used in several ways:

- as accompaniment for group singing of carols, with or without a solo instrument playing the melody, and with or without keyboard
- as accompaniment for a vocal or instrumental soloist singing/playing the melody
- as accompaniment for piano/organ playing of hymnal version (see Hymnal Index on page 3 for compatible hymnal versions)
- as an alternate accompaniment for one or more stanzas of a carol (with or without organ/piano or solo instrument)

Although a few accidentals occur in these arrangements, those notes may be omitted by the beginning choir, if desired. Shakes may also be omitted.

Carols #1 - #5 are all in the key of F major and may be played as a medley. An introduction to each hymn can be provided by keyboard (playing the final phrase of the carol) or by bells/chimes (ringing the final phrase of the melody line.)

This entire set of carols may be played as a medley with piano or organ. At the end of carols #5, #7, #9, #10 and #11, the pianist/organist should repeat the final chord followed by the dominant 7th chord of the next key.

Christmas Carol Accompaniments provides opportunities for handbell and handchime choirs to ring chords to accompany familiar Christmas carols. The accompaniments in this collection are written for 2, 3, 4 or 5 octaves handbells or handchimes. They are very accessible for beginning choirs, but are also wonderful for more advanced groups looking for ways to participate in carol singing with minimal preparation.

The carol melodies may be sung or played by instruments. Instrumental melody parts for C treble, Bb treble, and C bass instruments are provided on pages 28-39.

C instrument (treble): flute, violin, oboe

Bb instrument (treble): clarinet, trumpet, soprano saxophone

C instrument (bass): cello, trombone, bassoon

Songsheets for group singing are also provided (pages 40-42), offering wonderful “sing-along” opportunities for the audiences of handbell and handchime choirs, particularly those in senior citizen centers and nursing homes.

This reproducible collection is designed to meet the needs of handbell and handchime choirs by helping to stretch their music budgets. With the purchase of this collection, the original purchasing organization (church, school, or community ensemble) is granted permission to make copies as needed for their ringers. This permission to reproduce applies to this product only, and does not transfer to other churches or organizations.

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BH – The Baptist Hymnal (1991)
CG – Celebrating Grace (2010)
CH – The Chalice Hymnal (1995)
ELW – Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006)
HFG – Hymns for the Family of God (1976)
HPP – Hymns for a Pilgrim People (2007)
HTL – Hymns of Truth & Light (1998)
LBW – Lutheran Book of Worship (1978)
NCH – The New Century Hymnal (1995)

PH – Pilgrim Hymnal (1958)
PS – Psalter Hymnal (1987)
RL – Rejoice in the Lord (1985)
UM – The United Methodist Hymnal (1989)
UP – The Presbyterian Hymnal (1990)
W II – Worship II (1975)
WC – The Worshiping Church (1990)
WH – The Hymnal (Word – 1986)
WR – Worship & Rejoice (2001)

1. In the Bleak Midwinter

2, 3, 4, or 5 octaves
Handbells used: 15, (22), (24), (32)

Christina Rossetti, 1830-1894

2 octave choirs omit notes in < >.
3 octave choirs omit notes in ().
4 octave choirs omit notes in [].

CRANHAM
Gustav T. Holst, 1874-1934
arr. Margaret R. Tucker

Melody

1. In the bleak mid - win - ter frost - y wind made
2. Our God, heav'n can - not hold him, nor earth sus -

5 octave choirs double top note 8va

Handbells

1 2 3

4

moan, earth stood and hard earth as i ron,
tain; heav'n and earth shall pass a - way

4 5 6

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2. Once in Royal David's City

2, 3, 4, or 5 octaves
Handbells used: 17, (24), (27), (37)

optional

optional

2 octave choirs omit notes in < >.
3 octave choirs omit notes in ().
4 octave choirs omit notes in [].

IRBY
Henry John Gauntlett, 1805-1876
arr. Margaret R. Tucker

Melody

1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's_ cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle_
 2. He came down to earth_ from_ heav - en who is God and Lord_ of_

5 octave choirs double top note 8va

Handbells

1 2 3

4

shed where a moth - er laid_ her_ ba - by in a
 all, and his shel - ter was_ a_ sta - ble, and his

4

4 5 6

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8. Go, Tell It on the Mountain

2, 3, 4, or 5 octaves

Handbells used: 17, (23), (27), (33)

2 octave choirs omit notes in < >.

3 octave choirs omit notes in ().

4 octave choirs omit notes in [].

Stanzas: John W. Work, Jr., 1871-1925

Refrain: African American spiritual

GO TELL IT

African American spiritual

arr. Margaret R. Tucker

Refrain

Melody

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and

5 octave choirs double top note 8va

Handbells

1 2 3

4

ev - 'ry - where; go, tell it on the moun - tain, that Je - sus Christ is born.

5 6 7 8

Fine

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11. O Come, All Ye Faithful

2, 3, 4, or 5 octaves
Handbells used: 17, (24), (27), (38)

attr. John F. Wade, c. 1711-1786
tr. Frederic Oakley and others

ADESTE FIDELES
attr. John F. Wade, c. 1711-1786
arr. Margaret R. Tucker

Melody

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri -
2. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul -

Handbells

4
um - phant, O come ye, O come_ ye to Beth - le - hem;
ta - tion, O sing all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n_ a - bove!

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C Treble Instrument
(flute, violin, oboe)

1. In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM
Gustav T. Holst, 1874-1934
arr. Margaret R. Tucker

Musical score for 'In the Bleak Midwinter' in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests. The second staff starts at measure 7, and the third staff starts at measure 12. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

2. Once in Royal David's City

IRBY
Henry John Gauntlett, 1805-1876
arr. Margaret R. Tucker

Musical score for 'Once in Royal David's City' in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests. The second staff starts at measure 4, and the third staff starts at measure 8. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

3. O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS
Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908
arr. Margaret R. Tucker

Musical score for 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests. The second staff starts at measure 6, and the third staff starts at measure 11. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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B \flat Treble Instrument
(clarinet, trumpet,
soprano saxophone)

1. In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM
Gustav T. Holst, 1874-1934
arr. Margaret R. Tucker

Musical score for 'In the Bleak Midwinter' in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The music features a series of chords and eighth notes. The second staff starts at measure 7, and the third staff starts at measure 12. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

2. Once in Royal David's City

IRBY
Henry John Gauntlett, 1805-1876
arr. Margaret R. Tucker

Musical score for 'Once in Royal David's City' in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The music features a series of chords and eighth notes. The second staff starts at measure 4, and the third staff starts at measure 8. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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C Bass Instrument
(cello, trombone,
bassoon)

1. In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM
Gustav T. Holst, 1874-1934
arr. Margaret R. Tucker

Musical score for 'In the Bleak Midwinter' in bass clef, 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of three staves of music. The first staff starts with a 7-measure rest, followed by a melodic line. The second staff begins at measure 7. The third staff begins at measure 12 and ends with a double bar line.

2. Once in Royal David's City

IRBY
Henry John Gauntlett, 1805-1876
arr. Margaret R. Tucker

Musical score for 'Once in Royal David's City' in bass clef, 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of three staves of music. The first staff starts with a 4-measure rest, followed by a melodic line. The second staff begins at measure 4. The third staff begins at measure 8 and ends with a double bar line.

3. O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS
Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908
arr. Margaret R. Tucker

Musical score for 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' in bass clef, 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of three staves of music. The first staff starts with a 6-measure rest, followed by a melodic line. The second staff begins at measure 6. The third staff begins at measure 11 and ends with a double bar line.

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