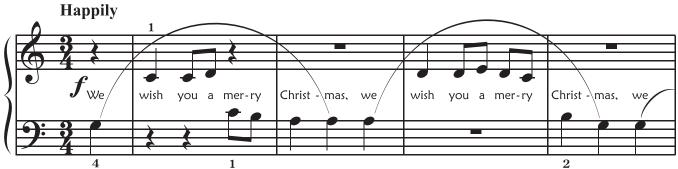


Nothing is known about the composer of **We Wish You a Merry Christmas.** It is a traditional English carol that probably originated in the 16th or 17th century and was passed down from generation to generation. It is one of the few Christmas carols that also refers to the New Year.

Traditional English Carol



Duet: Student plays one octave higher.



It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

The words for **It Came Upon the Midnight Clear** were written in 1846 by Edmund H. Sears, a Unitarian minister from Massachusetts. They were first published as a poem in The Christian Register in 1849. The music was written by Richard Storrs Willis, an editor for the New York Tribune newspaper. Most likely, the two never met.





Ukrainian Bell Carol (Carol of the Bells)

Carol of the Bells was originally a Ukrainian folk song unrelated to Christmas. In 1916 it was included in a composition by Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovych. The original folk tune was often sung on New Year's Eve. It was first performed in the United States in 1921. Christmas lyrics were added later.



