

Alfred's Premier Piano Course

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Alfred's *Premier Piano Course* Christmas Book 3 includes familiar Christmas pieces that reinforce concepts included in Lesson Book 3. The music continues the strong pedagogical focus of the course while providing the enjoyment of playing familiar music during the Christmas season.

Christmas Book 3 is not correlated page-by-page with Lesson Book 3, but the pieces use only the concepts that are introduced in Lesson Book 3. They are arranged in progressive order of difficulty, with the easiest pieces first, though it is not necessary to progress straight through the book.

Allowing students to study music they enjoy during the Christmas season is highly motivating. Consequently, reading and rhythm skills often improve greatly when studying holiday music. The authors hope that the music in Christmas Book 3 brings hours of enjoyment to this festive season. Merry Christmas!

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Although **Jingle Bells** was written while James S. Pierpont lived in Boston, he eventually moved to Savannah, Georgia. While living in Savannah, he served as music director at a Unitarian church where his brother was the pastor. Today, there is a commemorative plaque in honor of Jingle Bells near the church.

Jingle Bells

Cheerfully

James S. Pierpont

1 5 1

mf Dash - ing through the snow, in a one-horse o - pen sleigh,

5 2 5

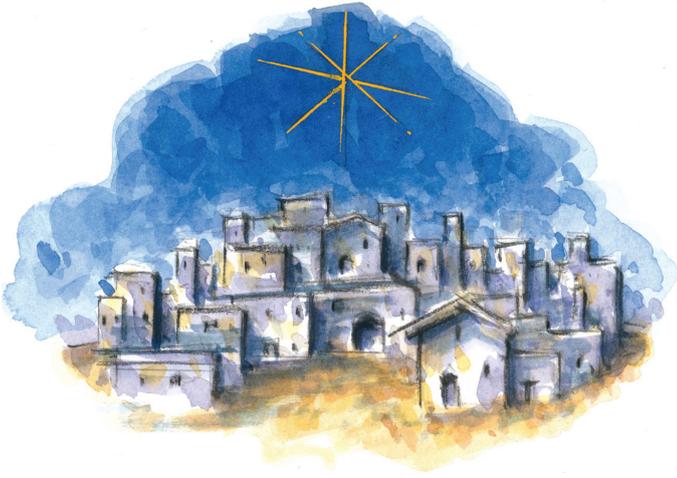
o'er the fields we go, laugh - ing all the way.

9 1

Bells on bob - tail ring, mak - ing spir - its bright, what

13 4 5 4 1 2 5 4 1

fun it is to ride and sing a sleigh - ing song to - night. *f* Oh!



The words for **O Little Town of Bethlehem** were written by Phillips Brooks, an Episcopal priest from Philadelphia. Inspired to write the words by a visit to Bethlehem, he asked Lewis Redner, an organist, to compose music for them. Redner claims that he was suddenly awakened by the song of angels. He wrote the melody in the middle of the night and filled in the harmony the next morning. The words and music were quickly printed on leaflets and sung by Sunday school children and their teachers at the Christmas service.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Words by Phillips Brooks
Music by Lewis H. Redner

Peacefully *mp* **3** **3** **3**

4 *mf* **2** **3** **3**

lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how

7 **2** **4** **2**

still we see thee lie! A - bove thy deep and



Jingle Bell Rock was first released as a recording in 1957, almost 100 years later than the song Jingle Bells, upon which it was based. It was one of the first Christmas songs to use rock music, but many today feel that it has a "country" flavor. The original recording was sung by Bobby Helms, but it has been recorded by numerous artists since that time.

Jingle Bell Rock

Words and Music by
Joe Beal and Jim Boothe

Happily, in swing rhythm (♩ = ♪³ ♪)

f Jin-gle Bell, Jin-gle Bell,
Jin-gle Bell, Jin-gle Bell,

Jin-gle Bell Rock,
Jin-gle Bell Rock,

jin-gle bell swing and
jin-gle bells chime in

jin-gle bells ring,
jin-gle bell time,

1. snow-in' and blow-in' up
danc-in' and pranc-in' in bush-els of fun,
Jin-gle Bell Square

now the jin-gle hop has be - gun.

2. in the frost - y air. What a
mf bright time, it's the right time to

3

1

3

2

2

1

2



The words for **I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day** were written by the famous American poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The poem was originally titled "Christmas Bells" and was published in 1867. Almost ten years later, the English organist Jean-Baptiste Calkin set Longfellow's poem to music. The carol immediately became popular in both Europe and the United States.

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

Words by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
Music by Jean-Baptiste Calkin

With confidence

5

1 1 2

mf

f

1 5

4

1 2 1 3

mf | heard the bells on Christ - mas Day, their

7

1 4 5

old fa - mil - iar car - ols play. And mild and sweet, the

3 1

10

2 1 3 1

words re - peat of peace on earth, good will to men.

2 1 2