

# Alfred's Premier Piano Express

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## FOREWORD

Alfred's *Premier Piano Express* Christmas Book 4 includes familiar Christmas pieces that reinforce concepts included in the All-In-One Accelerated Course, Book 4 of *Premier Piano Express*. The music continues the strong pedagogical focus of the course while providing the enjoyment of playing familiar music during the Christmas season.

Christmas Book 4 is not correlated page by page with *Premier Piano Express*, Book 4. Pieces 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 4 brings hours of enjoyment to this festive season. Merry Christmas!

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# Jingle Bells

James S. Pierpont came from a wealthy Boston family. In 1857, he wrote a song intended for Sunday School children to sing on Thanksgiving. Though written for that holiday, the jingle-bell rhythm was so appealing that it soon became one of the best-known Christmas songs in the world. Pierpont wrote many songs, but is remembered for **Jingle Bells**.

James S. Pierpont

Moderately fast

The musical score for the first ten measures of 'Jingle Bells' is presented in a grand staff format. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Moderately fast'. The first measure (measure 1) begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic and features a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a quarter note in the left hand. The second measure continues the triplet in the right hand. The third measure shows the end of the triplet and the start of a new melodic line. The fourth measure (measure 4) is marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and includes a crescendo hairpin. The fifth measure continues the melodic line with a slur. The sixth measure has a slur and a first finger fingering. The seventh measure (measure 7) has a slur and a first finger fingering. The eighth measure has a slur and a first finger fingering. The ninth measure (measure 9) has a slur and a first finger fingering. The tenth measure (measure 10) has a slur and a first finger fingering. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and dynamic markings.

# What Child Is This?

This beautiful carol uses the 16th-century melody of the English tune Greensleeves. Originally, the song was played rather fast, for dancing, but its attractive melody became apparent when it was performed slowly. William Chatterton Dix, an insurance man and poet, wrote the words in 1865.

Words by William Chatterton Dix  
Music: "Greensleeves" (16th century)

**Tenderly**

*p*

1 2 4 2

3 1 3

*mp* What

*simile*

1 3 5 2 4

9

2 1 2 1

Child is this who laid to rest on

4 1 2 5 4 1 2

13

2 3 2 1

Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing, *mf* whom

4 4 5 2 4