

Alfred's Basic Piano Library

Merry Christmas!

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Complete Level 1

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FOREWORD

Piano students who have completed the first book of any method will enjoy playing some familiar carols as the Christmas season approaches.

HAND POSITIONS: Every carol in this book is in a five finger position. The basic positions used are C, Middle C, and Middle D. A chart indicating the hand position is placed at the beginning of each carol. If either hand moves, the new position is indicated above the measure where the change takes place.

PROGRESSIVE ORDER: The carols are placed in order of difficulty, with the easiest ones first. The first four carols use familiar rhythms involving only whole, dotted half, half, and quarter notes. The pieces after page 8 use the dotted quarter and eighth note rhythm that is characteristic of most Christmas carols. Students unfamiliar with the musical notation of these rhythms will usually play them correctly by memory or, if not, they can be quickly taught by rote.

DUETS: Every carol in this book has a duet part. These carols make excellent student-teacher or student-parent duets. Both solo and duet parts contain measure numbers for easy reference.

Merry Christmas!

Students in the Complete Lesson Book 1 of *ALFRED'S BASIC PIANO LIBRARY*: Students past page 11 of the Lesson Book are already familiar with the keys used in Middle C Position. Page 2 of *MERRY CHRISTMAS* introduces this position on the grand staff earlier than these notes are introduced in the Lesson Book. This permits the student to begin in *MERRY CHRISTMAS* after reaching page 11 of the Lesson Book. It is advisable to use the carols beginning on page 12 of *MERRY CHRISTMAS* after the student has been introduced to eighth notes on page 47 of the Lesson Book.

Away in a Manger

MIDDLE C POSITION



Traditional

Moderately slow

5

p

A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, The lit - tle Lord

1

6

2 3 5

Je - sus lay down His sweet head; The stars in the sky looked

4 2

11

4 5 3

down where He lay, The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.

1 3

DUET PART: (Student plays 1 octave higher.)

R.H.

p L.H.

6

11

Angels We Have Heard on High

MIDDLE D POSITION



Moderately fast

Traditional

mf An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,

2 4 3 2 2 1 2 2 1

2 3 2 2 3 2 5 3 2

5

2

And the moun-tains in re-ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.

DUET PART: (Student plays 1 octave higher.)

R.H.

mf L.H.

5

9

12

15

18

ritard.