

Christmas Classics For Brass Quintet

14 PIECES FOR GRADE 2+ - 4+ BRASS QUINTET

arranged by Gary D. Ziek

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ABOUT THE ARRANGER

Dr. Gary D. Ziek (Roe R. Cross Distinguished Professor of Music) is the Director of Bands and Professor of Trumpet at Emporia State University. He has received the President's Award for Research and Creativity (2017-2018), Liberal Arts and Sciences Award for Scholarship and Creativity (1997-1998 and 2011-2012) and Excellence in Teaching Award for 2014-2015. Dr. Ziek is a Bach Trumpet Artist, and has performed and conducted in twenty-five states, as well as in France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, China and Canada.

He received his Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Wind Conducting from Michigan State University. He received his Master of Arts in Trumpet Performance and his Bachelor of Science in Music Education from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

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BOOKS AVAILABLE SEPARATELY:

Full Score (#18713)
1st Bb Trumpet (#18714)
2nd Bb Trumpet (#18715)
Horn in F (#18716)
Trombone (#18717)
Tuba (#18718)

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Performance Notes

Bring A Torch, Jeannette, Isabella – This traditional French carol utilizes a lovely, lilting triple meter melody throughout. It should be played in a courtly manner.

Ding! Dong! Merrily On High – This 16th Century carol by French cleric Thoinot Arbeau is a joyful piece, making brilliant use of sequential melodies and counterpoint.

Holiday Medley (Jingle Bells, Jolly Old Saint Nicholas, We Wish You A Merry Christmas) – This arrangement combines three light-hearted favorites into one short medley.

O Little Town Of Bethlehem – This carol was composed by Lewis H. Redner, who was born in Philadelphia, PA in 1831. He served for nineteen years as the organist at the Church of the Holy Trinity in Philadelphia. This work is both gentle and noble and requires great musical sensitivity from the ensemble.

Ukrainian Bell Carol – This carol has become instantly recognizable because of its repetitive melodic and rhythmic figures. The brass quintet becomes a bell choir, with the use of bell tone articulations.

The Wassail Song – This traditional English carol is characterized by its alternating triple and double meters. The tempo should stay constant throughout the piece, with seamless transitions between the time signatures.

Angels We Have Heard On High – This traditional French carol has become one of the musical calling cards of the holiday season. Colorful fanfares and cascading melodies have long made it an audience favorite.

Patapan – This favorite by Bernard de la Monnoye establishes a distinctive mood, propelled by the ostinato which underpins the entire piece. Crisp articulation is essential for capturing the style and atmosphere.

Silent Night – Silent Night is arguably the most beloved Christmas carol in the repertoire. Composed by Austrian choirmaster and organist Franz Gruber, it has become a staple of every holiday program. The essence of Austria is portrayed in this arrangement, with echoes of distant alpenhorns in the far-off mountains.

O Christmas Tree (Holiday Fanfare) – This can work as a festive concert opener, or as a holiday fanfare. Bright tone colors, bell-like attacks and florid treatment of the melody help to convey the joy of the holiday season.

God Rest Ye Swinging Gentlemen – This arrangement starts out with a lush, straight eighth-note treatment of this traditional carol. It then transitions into a “cool” swing, ala Miles Davis and Gerry Mulligan. Solo trombone is featured, along with subtle jazz combo writing for the ensemble. The trombone solo can be played as written or improvised.

We Three Kings Of Orient Are – This arrangement utilizes a “West Coast” jazz waltz feel. The syncopated rhythms and sophisticated groove provide a unique brass quintet setting of this well-known tune. The first trumpet solo has a featured jazz solo, which can be played as written or improvised.

March From The Nutcracker – This rendition tries to remain as faithful as possible in capturing the colors, rhythmic energy, and charm of the original Tchaikovsky score. Virtuoso playing from the ensemble is a must!

We Wish You A Funky Christmas – This arrangement gives a funky “Tower of Power” treatment to an old chestnut. Tight horn figures and a funky tuba player are a must!

Bring A Torch, Jeannette, Isabella

traditional French carol
arranged by Gary D. Ziek

Liltingly ♩ = 76

1st B♭ Trumpet *mf*

2nd B♭ Trumpet *mf*

Horn In F *mf*

Trombone *mf*

Tuba *mf*

8 9

17