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For the Beauty of the Earth



The First Noel



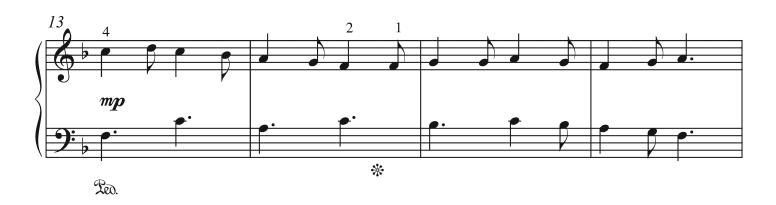
Good Christian Men, Rejoice!

14th century German carol Arranged by Dan Forrest (ASCAP)









Teacher's Focus Points

Remember to teach your students the importance of trying to communicate the words of each song as they play.

We Gather Together

- · Legato melody
- Expressive phrase shaping, emphasis on downbeats
- Anticipate shifts of position

Now Thank We All Our God

- Ensemble skills: listening to the whole, keeping tempo steady
- Dynamic contrast between phrases
- Smaller ritard vs. bigger ritard second time
- Projecting melody over accompaniment
- Playing in octaves-strike notes exactly together

For the Beauty of the Earth

- Voicing LH Melody
- · Anticipate shifts of position
- · Legato melody and accompaniment
- · Dynamic contrasts between phrases
- Form (AAB)
- Repetition within and between stanzas means much less actual music to learn!
- Learning to play both hands treble clef (second stanza) is also much easier if student thinks of playing previous stanza, just up an octave.

Away in a Manger

- Gentle feel, tone control at soft dynamic level
- Steady rhythmic figure in LH
- Try blocking LH measures to learn patterns
- Simple pedaling, once per measure
- Optional duet-Ensemble/listening skills

The First Noel

- Anticipate shifts of position (more extensive in this piece); relax and move freely
- · Voice the melody whether in RH or LH
- · Legato melody
- · Expressive phrase shaping
- Form (AAB)

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

- · Minor mode
- · Staccato articulation from finger/wrist
- · Facility with staccatos at quick tempo
- Dynamic contrasts (echoes)
- Enjoy finding the last note!

Good King Wenceslas

- Cut time signature: 2 beats per measure
- Dynamics (echoes)
- Repetition at the octave: "look before you leap"
- Emphasize hymn tune when it enters after introduction

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

- Compound time signature: 2 beats per measure
- Quick staccato production
- · Beginning pedaling
- Dynamic contrasts
- Let the meter dance-accent strong beats and don't accent weak beats
- Optional transposition by ear/fingering/thinking up one note