**Foreword**

The birth of God in human form was the most important moment in all of history. After centuries of anticipation, the long-awaited Messiah had been born in flesh. Now, the wonder of the incarnation – the union of God and man in the Person of Christ – had finally entered the world.

The hymns chosen in this collection recount these events: the yearning for a Redeemer, the fulfillment of His birth, and the appearance of the Savior. *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* pleads and “mourns in lonely exile” until the coming of Israel’s King. *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* shifts to confident expectancy, and *On Christmas Night*, “all Christians sing” and rejoice for the “news the angels bring.” *He is Born, the Divine Christ Child* paints a further picture of this “gracious gift of God to man,” and *As With Gladness, Men of Old* depicts the beautiful guiding star and the Magi who followed it. The book concludes with a peaceful setting of *Silent Night, Holy Night*, bringing us the comfort of “the dawn of redeeming grace.”

May each pianistic team communicate the beauty and wonder of God as they express His gospel through these truths, and may each listener experience the joy that comes from these reminders of God’s miraculous gift to us.

—Molly Ijames
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STILLE NACHT
With sincerity $p$ = ca. 92

Secondo

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Molly Ijames
Tune: VENI EMMANUEL
Plainsong, adapt. by Thomas Helmore

Duration: 3:30
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Molly Ijames
Tune: HYFRYDOL
by Rowland Prichard

With sincerity \( \frac{\text{ duration: 2:05}}{} \)

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He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child

Molly Ijames and Duane Ream
Tune: IL EST NÉ
Traditional French Carol

Joyfully $\frac{7}{12} = 120$

Duration: 2:20

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