

Foreword

Philips Brooks (1835-1893) was a clergyman who served in Philadelphia and Boston, eventually becoming the Bishop of Massachusetts. Today, he is best known as the author of the Christmas hymn “O Little Town of Bethlehem.” But he wrote *another* Christmas song that begins with these lines:

Christmas in lands of the fir-tree and pine,
 Christmas in lands of the palm tree and vine,
 Christmas where snow peaks stand solemn and white,
 Christmas where cornfields stand sunny and bright;
 Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight.

That stanza was the spark that led me to put together this new book of Christmas carols from many nations. The following pages contain songs that represent each line of that poem.

In my previous “international” books of Christmas music for piano, I have focused on a particular country or region: first Germany and Austria (70/1574L), then France (70/1648L), the British Isles (70/1683L) and North America (70/1724L). In this new collection, we will go on a whirlwind tour, including several stops in Europe, plus Liberia, Puerto Rico, and the United States of America. Many of these tunes will be new to you, and I hope they will catch your ear as they did mine. The many moods of the Christmas story are reflected in these carols, and I hope you will soon find something “just right” for your church programs and concerts this year!

Larry Shackley

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Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

Larry Shackley
Tune: MENDELSSOHN
by Felix Mendelssohn

With a bright classical touch ♩ = 104

The musical score is written for piano in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of four systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The second system includes a crescendo (*cresc.*) marking. The third system features a forte (*f*) dynamic and a decrescendo (*dim.*) marking. The fourth system returns to a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

Duration: 3:20

to Jennifer Fry

What Shall We Give?

(El Noi de la Mare)

Larry Shackley
Traditional Catalan Carol

Gently rocking ♩ = 104

mf

poco rit.

ten.

p
a tempo

Duration: 2:30

to Randall Berner

All My Heart This Night Rejoices

Larry Shackley

Tune: WARUM SOLLT' ICH

by Johann G. Ebeling (1637-1676)

With a bounce ♩ = 88

The musical score is written for piano in 2/4 time, featuring a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of four systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system includes dynamic markings *mp* and *mf*. The second system begins at measure 5. The third system begins at measure 10. The fourth system begins at measure 15 and includes a melodic line in the treble staff marked *(mel.)* and a dynamic marking *f* in the bass staff.

Duration: 2:25

to Sandy Davis

Christmas, Glorious Christmas

(Jul, Jul, Strålande Jul)

Larry Shackley

Tune: JUL, JUL

by Gustaf Nordquist (1886-1949)

With a sense of awe ♩ = 100

p *cresc.*
pedal harmonically throughout

3 *mp* *rit. e dim.* *a tempo* *p*

6

9 *mp*

Duration: 2:50

to Michael Joseph James

African Noel/ The First Nowell

Larry Shackley

Tune: FIRST NOWELL

and Traditional Liberian Folk Song

Light jazz feel ♩ = 96

4

7

10

mf

mp

mf

f

mf

Duration: 2:25

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to Joan Parajón

The Stable of Bethlehem

(En el Portal de Belén)

Larry Shackley
Traditional Puerto Rican Carol

Lively ♩ = 72

The musical score is written for piano and consists of four systems of music. The first system (measures 1-4) is in bass clef with a 6/8 time signature. It features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *mf* and *f*. The second system (measures 5-8) continues in bass clef, with a *mf* dynamic. The third system (measures 9-12) introduces a treble clef for the right hand, while the left hand remains in bass clef. The fourth system (measures 13-16) continues in treble clef with a *f* dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

Duration: 2:00

to Evangeline Keeley

When Christ Was Born

(*Gdy Się Chrystus Rodzi*)

Larry Shackley
Traditional Polish Carol

Joyfully ♩ = 112

The musical score is written for piano in 4/4 time, with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It consists of four systems of music, each with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs).

- System 1:** Starts with a dynamic marking of *f* and the instruction *detached*. The right hand features chords with accents (*v*), and the left hand plays a rhythmic accompaniment.
- System 2:** Begins at measure 4. The right hand has a melodic line with accents (*v*), and the left hand continues the accompaniment.
- System 3:** Begins at measure 7. The right hand has a melodic line with the instruction *simile* and a dynamic marking of *mp*. The left hand plays a simple bass line.
- System 4:** Begins at measure 10. The right hand has a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The left hand plays a simple bass line.

Duration: 2:30

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Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child!

Larry Shackley
Traditional American Spiritual

With a joyful swing ♩ = 112 ♩ = ♩³

The musical score is written for piano in 4/4 time, featuring a joyful swing feel. It consists of four systems of music, each with a treble and bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score includes various dynamics such as *mf*, *f*, and *mp*, and includes triplets and slurs. The first system starts with a tempo marking of 112 beats per minute. The second system begins at measure 5, the third at measure 9, and the fourth at measure 13. The piece concludes with a final chord in the bass staff.

Duration: 2:15

to Andrew Remillard
Gesu Bambino

Larry Shackley
Tune: GESU BAMBINO
by Pietro A. Yon (1886-1943)
Quoting: ADESTE FIDELES
by John Francis Wade (1711-1786)

Nobly ♩ = 84

Gently ♩ = 60

Duration: 3:05