

Notes for the Advanced Christmas Carol Collection for Kalimba
Arranged by Mark Holdaway, 2008 - mark@kalimbamagic.com

Welcome to this new (Dec 2008) collection of 20 advanced Christmas Carols arranged for the Hugh Tracey Bb Treble Kalimba. Arrangements are available in both KTabS (*.ktb) form and in PDF (45 pages worth!) This collection is available only as a download and not in any hardcopy or book format. The PDF files have the kalimba tablature written out, and they are sufficient to learn these arrangements. However, I advise that you download the KTabS (Kalimba Tablature Software) program so you can PLAY the KTabS files. KTabS runs on Windows computers, and will display the tablature on the screen and play the sound for the song, highlighting the notes as they are played. KTabS is the Guitar Hero of kalimba. The KTabS Player is \$5, the full KTabS Program, which lets you write your own music or modify THIS music, is \$30.

If you don't have KTabS, you can get it at: <http://ktabs.theirhouse.org>

I am imagining that one of the best uses of this collection of Christmas tablature will be when people modify my arrangements to meet their own needs. For example, maybe a quick turnaround is too ambitious - you can actually edit my arrangements and simplify that complex part with something easier for you to do. Or maybe you'd like to change the arrangement - just copy and past the verse, or cut a part out all together. And I sometimes use non-traditional harmonies or even dissonances which the kalimba lends itself to, and you'd like to change a note or two that doesn't sound right to you. For that reason, the KTabS files that come with this collection are not read-only. If you make a significant change, you might want to add your name in the "arranger" field.

Each year, I do a few dozen 1-2 hour Christmas performances on the kalimba. The arrangements I perform are related to these arrangements. I swim in an improvisational sea of music, and I go with the flow, so I probably never perform a carol exactly as I have notated it here. But I do know for sure that all of the arrangements in this collection are playable. It is easy to write kalimba music that is not playable - keeping fast parts moving in a Right-Left alternating fashion and not skipping notes between two or more played notes on the same side help make these arrangements playable.

The arrangements for the Alto, Treble, and Bb Treble kalimbas are similar but not identical. The Alto and Treble can play together, but they don't work with the Bb Treble. These arrangements are advanced - if you are having difficulty, you probably want to check out the progressive book "Christmas Carols for the Hugh Tracey Alto and Treble Kalimbas", or even one of the Fundamentals books. Another option is for you to purchase the KTabS files that go with the Christmas Carols book - all 25 carols are available from <http://ktabs.theirhouse.org> for either Treble or Alto for only \$5. This is also a good option for you if you want to play a song which is not available in the advanced Christmas Carol Collection. And another option yet is to just slow the tempo down - left-click select the spot at the beginning of the song, right-click on the selected region to get the menu, move to the "Tempo" menu item, and change that tempo to a lower number in beats per minute so KTabS plays back at a slower speed.

The arrangements in this collection are a labor of love - love for God, love for music, love for the kalimba, and love for people who are seeking to make beautiful music on the kalimba. Please receive this as

a labor of love, and add your own love it. A great thanks to Sharon Eaton for helping to inspire this collection. And a great thanks to both Randy and Sharon Eaton, the creators of the KTabS program, for without KTabS I would never have been able to create something so beautiful as the songs in this collection.

SONGS:

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Moderately easy, only one verse - lots of room for your own variations

Angels we have Heard on High

Moderately hard because of the syncopated kalimba style - one verse

Away in a Manger AMERICAN

First verse is easy, the second verse has continual counterpoint.

Away in a Manger ENGLISH

Easy, one verse

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella

Easy, one verse.

Carol of the Bells

This one is not too hard, but your speed will be limited by adjacent right notes repeated often in the main theme.

The diatonic kalimba is missing some required notes, so an alternate melody is written.

Deck the Halls

Moderately difficult because it is so fast! Two verses, the first has full harmonies sprinkled through the melody, the second has a continual sixteenth note melody flourish with occasional counterpoint.

Emmanuel

First verse is easy, second verse is moderately difficult.

Fairest Lord Jesus

Pretty easy, one verse - this one is lovely on the kalimba!

The First Noel

Moderately easy - one verse with full harmony.

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Two verses, the first verse is moderately easy, with lots of harmony, and the second verse is difficult as it is very fast and has a syncopated kalimba part with an alternating bass accompaniment.

Good King Wenceslas

Difficult - two verses, the first of which is syncopated with alternating bass, the second of which is a fast melody descant with some harmony.

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Moderately difficult - one verse with alternating bass accompaniment and some syncopation and full harmony.

Jingle Bells

Moderate - walking bass part with melody, counterpoint, and harmony. Very cute ending!

Joy To the World

Three verse variations, moderately difficult, and beautiful!

Oh Christmas Tree

One verse, fairly easy

O Come All Ye Faithful

Two verses, first verse is moderate, the second verse is difficult with syncopation. Wonderful!

Silent Night

Two verses, the first is moderately easy with simple harmony,
but it evolves into a picking accompaniment underneath the
melody in the second verse, which is challenging.

We Three Kings

Two verses, first is moderately easy, the second has fancy
melodic elaboration and some syncopation and is moderately
difficult.

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

One verse, easy

If you need some help, please contact me at: mark@kalimbamagic.com

You can learn more about the kalimba at: <http://www.kalimbamagic.com>

Blessings through love and music.

-Mark Holdaway
Tucson, Arizona
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