

O Christmas Three

Traditional Carols

arranged by
Vince Gassi

1 Full Score

8 Flute

2 Oboe

1 Bassoon

4 Bb Clarinet 1

4 Bb Clarinet 2

1 Bb Bass Clarinet

2 Eb Alto Saxophone 1

2 Eb Alto Saxophone 2

2 Bb Tenor Saxophone

1 Eb Baritone Saxophone

4 Bb Trumpet 1

4 Bb Trumpet 2

3 F Horn

8 Trombone/Baritone B.C.

2 Baritone T.C.

4 Tuba

1 Timpani

4 Percussion 1: Snare Drum, Bass Drum,
Triangle

2 Percussion 2: Suspended Cymbal,
Crash Cymbals

1 Percussion 3: Sleigh Bells

2 Mallet Percussion (any)

Extra Part - P3018491

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PUBLICATIONS

3018492



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Program Notes

As the title suggests, three popular carols are combined to create this cheerful holiday setting that is sure to brighten the mood of the season. *Good King Wenceslas* opens the piece on a very festive note, followed by a lyric yet energetic presentation of *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*. The piece closes with *The First Noel* for a musical and full-sounding finish that will leave a warm and satisfying feeling for all.

About the Arranger

Vince Gassi is a much sought-after composer, conductor, and clinician. With almost 100 published titles to his credit, Vince's creative and energetic style has made him a favorite with young musicians. His works, both challenging and musically rewarding, appear on many international concert and contest lists.

Vince received his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Western Ontario in London, Canada, and later studied composing and arranging at the Dick Grove School of Music in Los Angeles, California. He is currently working to complete his Ph.D. at York University in Toronto.

For 25 years Vince has taught instrumental music at the elementary and secondary school levels. He is in frequent demand as a guest conductor, adjudicator, and clinician throughout the United States and Canada. His *Cool Ideas* and *Arranging Concepts* seminars focus on ways to engage students and teachers in the creative process.

Vince continues to receive many commissions, and his works have been recorded and performed throughout North America, Europe, and Japan.

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Achievement Series Lesson Guide

Every selection in the Wingert-Jones *Achievement Series* features concise learning objectives that support the **National Standards for Arts Education**.

O CHRISTMAS THREE

Vince Gassi

National Standards addressed through this publication:

- #2 Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
- #5 Reading and notating music.
- #6 Listening to and analyzing and describing music.
- #9 Understanding the music in relation to history and culture.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This work provides a fun opportunity to work on style and dynamic contrast. Distinguish between staccato notes, accented notes, and notes that are neither staccato or accented. Staccato notes should be separated and light, and accented notes are separated and heavy. Be sure that *mezzo forte* is played less loud than *forte*, and that *forte* is not as loud as *fortissimo*.

MUSIC THEORY

KEY: Concert B♭ Major. Learn or review the scale and arpeggio, which is printed at the top of each player's part.

Concert B♭ Major
Scale and Arpeggio

Key of B♭

The musical staff shows a scale and arpeggio in Concert B-flat Major (Key of B-flat). The staff has a treble clef, a B-flat key signature, and a common time (indicated by a '4'). The scale consists of eight notes: B-flat, C, D, E-flat, F, G, A, and B-flat. The arpeggio follows the same sequence of notes. The notes are separated by vertical stems, indicating they are to be played individually (staccato).

TIME SIGNATURE

4

4 - The upper number indicates that there are four beats to a measure. The lower number indicates that a quarter note receives one beat.

3

3 - The upper number indicates that there are three beats to a measure. The lower number indicates that a quarter note receives one beat.

TEMPO INDICATOR

Rall. (rallentando) – gradually play slower

DYNAMIC MARKINGS

p (*piano*) - soft

mp (*mezzo piano*) – moderately soft

mf (*mezzo forte*) – moderately loud

f (*forte*) – loud

ff (*fortissimo*) – very loud

Crescendo () – gradually play louder

Diminuendo () – gradually play softer

STYLE INDICATORS

Accent () – a sudden emphasis on a note or chord. Accented notes are separated notes.

Staccato () – detached, separated, and light

OTHER MUSICAL TERMS

Slur – a curved line over or below notes of different pitches, indicating that they are to be played connected and not tongued

Tie – a curved line over two notes of the same pitch, indicating that they are connected

Fermata () – sustain the note as long as the conductor indicates

(Student worksheet is on the score's back cover.)

O Christmas Three

Incorporating *Good King Wenceslas*, *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*, and *The First Noel*

Joyously ♩ = 100

Arranged by Vince Gassi

The musical score consists of ten staves of music, each with a different instrument name and its corresponding musical notation. The instruments are:

- Flute/Oboe
- B♭ Clarinet 1/2
- E♭ Alto Saxophone 1/2
- B♭ Tenor Saxophone
- B♭ Trumpet 1/2
- F Horn
- Trombone/Baritone/Bassoon
- Tuba/Low Woodwinds
- Timpani
- Percussion 1 (Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Triangle)
- Percussion 2 (Suspended Cymbal, Crash Cymbals)
- Percussion 3 (Sleigh Bells)
- Mallet Percussion (any)

Each staff includes dynamic markings such as **f** (fortissimo), **ff** (fortississimo), **a2** (acciaccatura), and **p** (pianissimo). The tempo is indicated as **Joyously ♩ = 100**. The score is divided into measures 1 through 5.

O Christmas Three

6

Fl./
Ob.

Cl. 1
2

A. Sx. 1
2

T. Sx.

Tpt. 1
2

Hn.

Tbn./
Bar./
Bsn.

Tba.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Mlts.

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

p — *mf*

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

a2

a2

a2

a2

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O Christmas Three

Musical score for *O Christmas Three*, page 3, showing measures 11 through 15. The score includes parts for Fl./Ob., Cl. 1, A. Sx. 1, T. Sx., Tpt. 1, Hn., Tbn./Bar./Bsn., Tba., Timp., Perc. 1, Perc. 2, Perc. 3, and Mlts. The score features various musical patterns and dynamics, including measure 11 where Fl./Ob. has a sustained note; measure 12 where Cl. 1 and Tpt. 1 play eighth-note chords; measure 13 where A. Sx. 1 and T. Sx. play eighth-note chords with dynamic *mp*; measure 14 where Hn. and Tbn./Bar./Bsn. play eighth-note chords with dynamic *mp*; and measure 15 where Tba. and Timp. play eighth-note chords with dynamic *p*. Percussion parts include eighth-note patterns on measures 11-14 and sixteenth-note patterns on measure 15.

O Christmas Three

16

Fl./Ob. *mf* *p* *p* *= mf*

Cl. 1 *p* *mf* *f* *p* *= mf*

A. Sx. 1 *p*

T. Sx. *mf* *f* *p* *= mf*

16

Tpt. 1 *mf* *p* *f*

Hn. *p* *mf*

Tbn./Bar./Bsn. *mf* *f* *p* *= mf*

Tba. *p* *p* *= mf*

F to G

Timp. *p*

Perc. 1 *p* Bass Drum to Triangle *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

Triangle ↓

Perc. 2 *p* *mf*

Perc. 3 *p* *p* *p* *= mf*

Mlts. *p* *p* *p* *= mf*

O Christmas Three

22 a²

Fl./Ob.

Cl. 1

A. Sx. 1

T. Sx.

Tpt. 1

Hn.

Tbn./Bar./Bsn.

Tba.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Mlts.

22

Tpt. 1 only

p —————— mf —————— f —————— f —————— f

p —————— mf —————— f —————— f —————— f

p —————— mf —————— f —————— f —————— f

p —————— mf —————— f —————— f —————— f

p —————— mf —————— f —————— f —————— f

p —————— mf —————— f —————— f —————— f

p —————— mf —————— f —————— f —————— f

p —————— mf —————— f —————— f —————— f

p —————— mf —————— f —————— f —————— f

p —————— mf —————— f —————— f —————— f

p —————— mf —————— f —————— f —————— f

p —————— mf —————— f —————— f —————— f

p —————— mf —————— f —————— f —————— f

p —————— mf —————— f —————— f —————— f

G to F

Tri. to B.D.

p —————— mf —————— f —————— f —————— f

p —————— mf —————— f —————— f —————— f

p —————— mf —————— f —————— f —————— f

p —————— mf —————— f —————— f —————— f

p —————— mf —————— f —————— f —————— f

p —————— mf —————— f —————— f —————— f

p —————— mf —————— f —————— f —————— f

p —————— mf —————— f —————— f —————— f

p —————— mf —————— f —————— f —————— f

p —————— mf —————— f —————— f —————— f

21 p —————— mf 22 f 23 f 24 25

O Christmas Three

Fl./
Ob.

Cl. 1
2

A. Sx.
2

T. Sx.

Tpt. 1
2

Hn.

Tbn./
Bar./
Bsn.

Tba.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Suspended Cymbal
to Crash Cymbals

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Mlts.

mf

26 27 28 29 30

O Christmas Three

32

Fl./
Ob. *p*

Cl. 1
2 *p*

A. Sx. 1
2 *p*

T. Sx. *p* *f*

Tpt. 1
2 *p* *a2* *f* *a2*

Hn. *p* *f*

Tbn./
Bar./
Bsn. *p* *f*

Tba. *p* *f*

Tim.

Perc. 1 *mp* *f*
Crash Cymbals

Perc. 2 *f*

Perc. 3 *p* *f*

Mlts.

O Christmas Three

Fl./Ob. a2

Cl. 1 2 a2

A. Sx. 1 2 a2

T. Sx. a2

Tpt. 1 2 a2

Hn. a2

Tbn./Bar./Bsn. a2

Tba. a2

Tim. a2

Perc. 1 Cr. Cyms. to Sus. Cym.

Perc. 2 to Cr. Cyms.

Perc. 3

Mlts. f

O Christmas Three

44

Fl./Ob.

Cl. 1 2

A. Sx. 1 2

T. Sx.

Tpt. 1 2

Hn.

Tbn./Bar./Bsn.

Tba.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Mlts.

41 42 43 44 45

O Christmas Three

Fl./Ob.

Cl. 1

A. Sx. 1

T. Sx.

Tpt. 1

Hn.

Tbn./Bar./Bsn.

Tba.

Tim.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Mlts.

a2

a2

mf

a2

mf

a2

a2

a2

a2

a2

a2

a2

a2

to Cr. Cyms.

p f

mf

46 47 48 49 50 51

O Christmas Three

56

Fl./
Ob.

Cl. 1
2

A. Sx. 1
2

T. Sx.

p

Tpt. 1
2

Hn.

p

Tbn./
Bar./
Bsn.

p

Tba.

p

Timp.

p

Perc. 1

p

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

p

Mlts.

52 53 54 55 56 57

O Christmas Three

rall.

Musical score for *O Christmas Three*, page 12, showing measures 58 through 63. The score includes parts for Fl./Ob., Cl. 1, A. Sx. 1, T. Sx., Tpt. 1, Hn., Tbn./Bar./Bsn., Tba., Timp., Perc. 1, Perc. 2, Perc. 3, and Mlts. The score features dynamic markings such as *rall.*, *a2*, *p*, *f*, *mf*, *mp*, and *p*. Measure 58: Fl./Ob. (eighth note), Cl. 1 (eighth note), A. Sx. 1 (eighth note), T. Sx. (eighth note). Measure 59: Fl./Ob. (eighth note), Cl. 1 (eighth note), A. Sx. 1 (eighth note), T. Sx. (eighth note). Measure 60: Fl./Ob. (eighth note), Cl. 1 (eighth note), A. Sx. 1 (eighth note), T. Sx. (eighth note). Measure 61: Fl./Ob. (eighth note), Cl. 1 (eighth note), A. Sx. 1 (eighth note), T. Sx. (eighth note). Measure 62: Fl./Ob. (eighth note), Cl. 1 (eighth note), A. Sx. 1 (eighth note), T. Sx. (eighth note). Measure 63: Fl./Ob. (eighth note), Cl. 1 (eighth note), A. Sx. 1 (eighth note), T. Sx. (eighth note).

Name _____ Date _____

Instrument _____

O Christmas Three

Hit the right note! (2 points each)

Fill in the **#**s and **b**s in the concert scale below. You only have to complete the scale written in the clef for your instrument.

1. B♭ Major Scale



or



Transpose Scales for YOUR instrument! (2 points each)

Now it's time to write each concert scale as you play it on your instrument. Write the notes, including **#**s and **b**s, in the clef for your instrument. *Don't forget to transpose if you need to! Make sure you have the correct starting note!*

2. B♭ Major Scale



or



Musical terms you should know! (1 point each)

Choose a term that best matches the definition.

3. indicates how many beats per measure?

- a. 3
- b. 4
- c. 7

8. *Mezzo piano* (*mp*) is an Italian term meaning ...

- a. soft
- b. medium soft
- c. very soft

4. Rallentando (rall.) is an Italian term meaning ...

- a. gradually play slower
- b. gradually play louder
- c. gradually play softer

5. This symbol → > is called what?

- a. a crescendo
- b. a staccato
- c. an accent

6. A curved line over two notes of the same pitch (a tie) indicates that the notes should be ...

- a. emphasized
- b. connected
- c. detached

7. A in the bottom of a time signature indicates that a ____ gets one beat.

- a. whole note
- b. half note
- c. quarter note