

5 Christmas Hits

Volume 2

Alto Saxophone & Organ / Piano

Arr.: Jean-François Michel

EMR 90079

1. God Rest You Merry Gentlemen
2. A Silent Night Fantasy
3. Gospel
4. When The Stars Begin To Fall
5. Good King Wenceslas

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Jean-François Michel

Français:

Chaque culture célèbre Noël à sa manière, avec ses traditions musicales uniques. Dans nos pays, cette fête est souvent associée à des mélodies douces et apaisantes : berceuses, hymnes et danses populaires rythment nos veillées, enveloppant cette période d'une atmosphère de sérénité et de recueillement. Ces airs intemporels bercent notre enfance et perpétuent la magie de Noël à travers les générations.

Cependant, j'ai eu l'envie d'explorer une autre facette de cette fête en lui apportant une touche plus dynamique et festive. Pourquoi ne pas revisiter ces mélodies avec une influence plus jazzy ? Le jazz, avec sa richesse harmonique et sa liberté rythmique, permet d'insuffler une nouvelle énergie aux chants traditionnels. Des arrangements swinguant, des improvisations lumineuses et des harmonies colorées pourraient offrir une palette sonore éclatante, comme autant de lumières scintillantes sur un sapin de Noël.

En intégrant ces sonorités plus modernes, on enrichit la fête d'une ambiance chaleureuse et pétillante, où l'esprit de Noël se pare d'accents joyeux et dansants. Entre douceur et vivacité, tradition et modernité, ces arrangements jazz apporteront une touche de fraîcheur à notre répertoire de Noël. Une façon originale de célébrer cette période magique en alliant le charme du passé à l'énergie du présent.

Deutsch:

Jede Kultur feiert Weihnachten auf ihre Weise und mit ihren eigenen musikalischen Traditionen. In unseren Breitengraden ist das Fest oft mit sanften und beruhigenden Melodien verbunden: Wiegenlieder, Kirchenlieder und Volkstänze bestimmen den Rhythmus der nächtlichen Stunden und hüllen diese Zeit in eine Atmosphäre der Ruhe und Besinnlichkeit. Diese zeitlosen Melodien sind die Wiege unserer Kindheit und tragen den Zauber von Weihnachten über Generationen hinweg.

Ich hatte jedoch den Wunsch, eine andere Facette dieses Festes zu erforschen und ihm eine dynamischere und festlichere Note zu verleihen. Warum nicht diese Melodien neu interpretieren und dabei mehr Jazz einfließen lassen? Der Jazz mit seinem harmonischen Reichtum und seiner rhythmischen Freiheit ermöglicht es, den traditionellen Liedern neue Energie einzuhauchen. Swingende Arrangements, brillante Improvisationen und farbige Harmonien könnten eine strahlende Klangpalette bieten, wie so viele funkelnde Lichter an einem Weihnachtsbaum.

Durch die Integration dieser moderneren Klänge wird das Fest um eine warme und prickelnde Atmosphäre bereichert, in der die Spiritualität der Weihnacht mit fröhlichen und tanzbaren Akzenten angereichert wird. Zwischen Sanftheit und Lebendigkeit, Tradition und Moderne bringen diese Jazz-Arrangements frischen Wind in unser Weihnachtsrepertoire. Eine originelle Art, diese magische Zeit zu feiern, die den Charme der Vergangenheit mit der Energie der Gegenwart verbindet.

English:

Every culture celebrates Christmas in its own way, with its own unique musical traditions. In our part of the world, this holiday is often associated with soft, soothing melodies: lullabies, hymns and folk dances fill our evenings and wrap the season in an atmosphere of serenity and contemplation. These timeless melodies cradle our childhood and perpetuate the magic of Christmas through the generations.

However, I wanted to explore a different facet of this holiday by giving it a more dynamic and festive touch. Why not revisit these melodies with a jazzier influence? Jazz, with its harmonic richness and rhythmic freedom, breathes new energy into traditional songs. Swinging arrangements, bright improvisations and colourful harmonies could provide a dazzling palette of sounds, like so many twinkling lights on a Christmas tree.

By integrating these more modern sounds, we enrich the festivities with a warm, sparkling atmosphere, where the spirit of Christmas is adorned with joyful, dancing accents. Between sweetness and liveliness, tradition and modernity, these jazz arrangements bring a touch of freshness to our Christmas repertoire. An original way to celebrate this magical time of year, combining the charm of the past with the energy of the present.



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E♭ ALTO
SAXOPHONE

5 Christmas Hits

Volume 2

Arr.: Jean-François Michel

1. God Rest You Merry Gentlemen

♩ = ca. 168 Bebop

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The musical score is written for E♭ Alto Saxophone in 4/4 time. It begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a tempo of ca. 168 BPM in a Bebop style. The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 10, 18, 28, 38, 48, 58, 66, and 76 marked at the start of their respective lines. The music features various dynamics including *p* (piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), *f* (forte), *fp* (fortissimo piano), and *ff* (fortissimo). It includes articulation marks such as accents (>) and slurs. Rehearsal marks A, B, C, D, and E are placed above the staff. Rhythmic patterns are indicated by numbers 2, 3, and 4. The score concludes with a *p subito cresc.* (piano subito crescendo) marking and a final *f* (forte) dynamic.

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5 Christmas Hits

Volume 2



1. God Rest You Merry Gentlemen

Arr.: Jean-François Michel

♩ = ca. 168 Bebop

Alto Saxophone

Piano / or Organ

Contrabass (optional)

5

A

10

B

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15

C

15

cresc. *f* *mf*

20

20

mf *f*

25

25

f *f* *mf*

29

D

29

f *mf* *mf*

2. A Silent Night Fantasy

Arr.: Jean-François Michel

♩ = ca. 92

Measures 1-7 of the piece. The score is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as ca. 92. The music features a piano (p) dynamic. The right hand plays a melody with slurs and accents, while the left hand provides harmonic support with chords and a pizzicato (pizz.) line in the bass.

8

Measures 8-14. Measure 8 is marked with a box containing the letter 'A'. The music continues with the same piano (p) dynamic. The right hand features a melodic line with slurs, and the left hand continues with harmonic accompaniment, including a pizzicato line in the bass.

15

Measures 15-20. The music continues with the same piano (p) dynamic. The right hand features a melodic line with slurs, and the left hand continues with harmonic accompaniment, including a pizzicato line in the bass.

21 **B**

Measures 21-27. Measure 21 is marked with a box containing the letter 'B'. The music continues with the same piano (p) dynamic. The right hand features a melodic line with slurs, and the left hand continues with harmonic accompaniment, including a pizzicato line in the bass.

28 C

mf *p*

35

p

42 D

p *pp* *arco* *p* *pp*

49

mf

3. Gospel

Jean-François Michel

Largo ♩ = ca. 66

Piano

Play

A

Measures 1-5: The vocal line begins with a melodic phrase. The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines. The bass line is marked *pizz.* and *f*. Dynamics include *p*, *sostenuto*, *f*, *dim.*, and *p*.

6

Measures 6-11: The vocal line continues with a melodic phrase. The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines. The bass line is marked *f*. Dynamics include *sim.*, *f*, and *dim.*.

12

Measures 12-18: The vocal line continues with a melodic phrase. The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines. The bass line is marked *f*. Dynamics include *f* and *dim.*.

19

B

Measures 19-24: The vocal line begins with a melodic phrase. The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines. The bass line is marked *f*. Dynamics include *cresc.*, *f*, and *dim.*.

26

C Moderato ♩ = ca. 112

26

f *dim.*

dim. *f marcato*

f

33

f marcato

43

53

D

4. When The Stars Begin To Fall

Arr.: Jean-François Michel

♩. = ca. 68

The musical score is written for three staves: a single treble staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass) below it. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 12/8. The tempo is marked as ♩. = ca. 68.

The score is divided into four systems, with measure numbers 5, 9, and 13 indicated at the beginning of their respective systems.

- System 1 (Measures 1-4):** The top staff is mostly rests. The grand staff features a piano (*p*) accompaniment. The right hand of the grand staff has a melodic line with eighth notes and a slur. The left hand has a bass line with eighth notes and a slur. The bottom staff (bass clef) has a line with *arco* and *pizz.* markings.
- System 2 (Measures 5-8):** The top staff continues with a melodic line, marked *p*. A box labeled 'A' is placed above the staff at measure 7. The grand staff continues with piano accompaniment. The bottom staff continues with *arco* and *pizz.* markings.
- System 3 (Measures 9-12):** The top staff continues with a melodic line. The grand staff continues with piano accompaniment. The bottom staff continues with a bass line.
- System 4 (Measures 13-16):** The top staff continues with a melodic line, ending with a *mf* marking. The grand staff continues with piano accompaniment. The bottom staff continues with a bass line.

17 **B**

Measures 17-21 of section B. The score is written for three staves: a single treble staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass) below. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, and some longer note values. The grand staff includes complex chordal textures with many beamed notes.

22

C

Measures 22-26 of section C. The score continues with the same three-staff layout. Measure 22 begins with a repeat sign. The music includes a *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic marking in measure 24. The notation includes various note values and rests, with the grand staff showing dense harmonic accompaniment.

27

Measures 27-31. This section continues the musical development. The single treble staff has several measures of whole rests. The grand staff continues with active melodic and harmonic lines. The key signature remains one sharp.

32

D

Measures 32-35 of section D. The score begins with a *mf* dynamic marking. The single treble staff features a more active melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The grand staff provides a steady harmonic foundation with sustained notes and some movement in the bass line.

5. Good King Wenceslas

Arr.: Jean-François Michel

Cool ♩ = ca. 172

The musical score is arranged for three staves: a single melodic line (likely for voice or flute) and a piano accompaniment consisting of a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Cool ♩ = ca. 172'. The score is divided into four systems, with measure numbers 7, 13, and 19 indicated at the beginning of their respective systems. The first system (measures 1-6) features a piano (p) dynamic. The second system (measures 7-12) includes a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The third system (measures 13-18) includes both mezzo-forte (mf) and piano (p) dynamics. The fourth system (measures 19-24) begins with a section marked 'A' in a box and includes mezzo-forte (mf) and piano (p) dynamics. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with occasional triplets and chords, while the grand staff provides harmonic support with sustained chords and moving lines. The melodic line consists of eighth and quarter notes, often with slurs and ties.

25

B

25

B

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

31

f

mf

p

p

p

f

p

38

C

mf

p

mf

p

p

mf

44

D

p

p

p

p

p

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