

5 Christmas Hits

Volume 2

Baritone Saxophone & Organ / Piano

Arr.: Jean-François Michel

EMR 90080

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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Volume 2

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 apporteraient 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♭ BARITONE
SAXOPHONE**

5 Christmas Hits

Volume 2

Arr.: Jean-François Michel

1. God Rest You Merry Gentlemen

♩ = ca. 168 Bebop

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10 **A** 3

p *mf* *f*

18 **B** *p* *cresc.* *mf* *p* *cresc.*

28 **C** *f* 3 *f*

38 **D** 2 *f* *fp*

48 **E** 3 *f* 1. 4 *p* 2. *f* *ff*

58

66 3 *f* 3

76 *p subito cresc.* *f*

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5 Christmas Hits

Volume 2


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1. God Rest You Merry Gentlemen

Arr.: Jean-François Michel

♩ = ca. 168 Bebop

Baritone Saxophone

Piano /
or Organ

Contrabass
(optional)

p *mf* *f*

p *mf*

pizz. *p* *mf*

5

A

p

10

B

p *cresc.* *mf* *p*

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15

C

15

cresc.

f

mf

20

20

25

25

f

f

f

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 vocal line in the upper staff, a piano accompaniment in the middle staff, and a pizzicato bass line in the lower staff. The piano part consists of sustained chords, while the bass line is a simple eighth-note pattern. The vocal line enters in measure 5 with a melodic phrase.

8

Measures 8-14. Measure 8 is marked with a box containing the letter 'A'. The vocal line continues with a melodic phrase. The piano accompaniment features sustained chords. The bass line continues with a simple eighth-note pattern.

15

Measures 15-20. The vocal line continues with a melodic phrase. The piano accompaniment features sustained chords. The bass line continues with a simple eighth-note pattern.

21 **B**

Measures 21-27. Measure 21 is marked with a box containing the letter 'B'. The vocal line continues with a melodic phrase. The piano accompaniment features sustained chords. The bass line continues with a simple eighth-note pattern.

28 C

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

35

p *p* *p* *p* *p* *p* *p*

42 D

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

49

mf *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *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 a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more active bass line. The pizzicato bass line provides a rhythmic foundation. Dynamics range from piano to forte.

6

Measures 6-11: The vocal line continues with a melodic phrase. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more active bass line. The pizzicato bass line provides a rhythmic foundation. Dynamics range from piano to forte.

12

Measures 12-18: The vocal line continues with a melodic phrase. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more active bass line. The pizzicato bass line provides a rhythmic foundation. Dynamics range from piano to forte.

19

B

Measures 19-24: The vocal line continues with a melodic phrase. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more active bass line. The pizzicato bass line provides a rhythmic foundation. Dynamics range from piano to forte.

26

C Moderato ♩ = ca. 112

f *dim.* *dim.* *f marcato* *f*

33

f marcato

43

D

53

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 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 of the grand staff 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, marked *mf* at the end. 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: Treble, Grand (Treble and Bass), and Bass. The key signature has one sharp (F#). Measure 17 features a melodic line in the Treble staff and a bass line in the Bass staff. Measures 18-21 show a complex harmonic texture with chords and moving lines in all three staves.

22

C

Measures 22-26 of section C. The score continues with three staves. Measure 22 has a melodic line in the Treble staff. Measures 23-26 show a complex harmonic texture with chords and moving lines in all three staves. A *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic marking is present in measure 24.

27

Measures 27-31. The score continues with three staves. Measures 27-31 show a complex harmonic texture with chords and moving lines in all three staves.

32

D

Measures 32-36 of section D. The score continues with three staves. Measure 32 has a melodic line in the Treble staff. Measures 33-36 show a complex harmonic texture with chords and moving lines in all three staves. A *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic marking is present in measure 32.

5. Good King Wenceslas

Arr.: Jean-François Michel

Cool ♩ = ca. 172

p

pizz.

p

mf

p

mf

p

mf

A

mf

p

mf

25 **B**

mf

31

f

mf

p

38 **C**

p

mf

p

mf

44 **D**

p

mf

f

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