

CHRISTMAS COMES BUT ONCE A YEAR

for S.A.B. voices and piano
with optional PianoTrax CD*

Words and Music by
JAY ALTHOUSE

Brightly, in two (♩ = ca. 96)

PIANO

mf

The piano introduction consists of two staves. The right hand plays a melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The left hand plays a bass line of half notes: G3, B2, G3, B2, G3, B2, G3. The music is in 2/4 time and begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic.

4

The piano accompaniment continues with two staves. The right hand plays a melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The left hand plays a bass line of half notes: G3, B2, G3, B2, G3, B2, G3. The music is in 2/4 time.

8 SOPRANO & ALTO

mf

Christ - mas comes but once a year, deep in cold De -

BARITONE

The vocal line is written on a single staff. It begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The lyrics are: "Christ - mas comes but once a year, deep in cold De -". The baritone part is indicated by a bracket below the staff.

The piano accompaniment continues with two staves. The right hand plays a melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The left hand plays a bass line of half notes: G3, B2, G3, B2, G3, B2, G3. The music is in 2/4 time.

* Also available for S.A.T.B. (47630) and S.S.A. (47632).
PianoTrax 11 Accompaniment CD available (47188).

Please visit alfred.com/choralparts to download free parts for drum and tambourine.

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11

cem - ber.

mf

Sing with voic - es strong and clear,

14

car - ols we re - mem - ber.

19

Deck the hall with

red and green: hol - ly and the i - vy.

Play the drum and tam - bou - rine. Make the mu - sic

live h. Trim, now, the Christ - mas tree,

29

tall and bright and mer - ry. Oh, what a

This system contains the first three measures of the piece. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The piano part consists of chords in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand.

sight we'll see in - to Jan - u - ar - y.

This system contains measures 31 and 32. The vocal line continues with the lyrics. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and a steady bass line.

32

sight we'll see in - to Jan - u - ar - y.

This system contains measures 32, 33, and 34. The vocal line concludes the phrase. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line.

Now, hang high the mis - tle - toe. All the boys are

This system contains measures 34 and 35. The vocal line begins a new phrase. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line.

35

Now, hang high the mis - tle - toe. All the boys are

This system contains measures 35, 36, and 37. The vocal line continues with the lyrics. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line.

This system contains measures 37, 38, and 39. It features the piano accompaniment with chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The vocal line is not present in this system.

smil - ing. Can - dle lights are all a - glow,

and the girls be - guil - ing

45 *fa la* la, *fa la* la, *fa la*
Fa la la la la la,
Fa la la la,

47 la, fa la la la la. Fa la la, fa la

fa la la la la la la. Fa la la

fa la la la la. Fa la

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of music, measures 47-49. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The vocal line starts with a half note 'la,' followed by eighth notes 'fa la la la la.' and quarter notes 'Fa la la,' ending with a half note 'fa la'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes in both hands, with a fermata over the final measure.

Detailed description: This block shows the piano accompaniment for measures 47-49. The right hand plays chords and moving lines, while the left hand provides a harmonic foundation with chords and single notes. A fermata is present at the end of the system.

50 la, fa la la la la la la.

la la la, fa la la la.

la la, fa la la la la la.

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of music, measures 50-52. The vocal line begins with a half note 'la,' followed by eighth notes 'fa la la la la la la.' and quarter notes 'la la la, fa la la la.' The piano accompaniment continues with chords and single notes, ending with a fermata.

Detailed description: This block shows the piano accompaniment for measures 50-52. The right hand features chords and moving lines, while the left hand plays a steady accompaniment. A fermata is placed at the end of the system.

53

Detailed description: This block contains the third system of music, measures 53-55. The vocal line and piano accompaniment are mostly blank, with only a few notes visible in the vocal line. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes. A fermata is present at the end of the system.

Detailed description: This block shows the piano accompaniment for measures 53-55. The right hand starts with a forte 'f' dynamic and plays chords and moving lines. The left hand plays a steady accompaniment. A fermata is placed at the end of the system.

56 57 *f*

Strike the chime and ring the bell.

59

Join the cel - e - bra - tion. Catch a goose and

f

62

roast it well, on this glad oc - ca - sion.

65

Hey, ho, it's time to eat. Place the meal be -

68

fore us. Bring, now, the Christ - mas treat,

71

and we'll sing a chor - us. Christ - mas comes but

73

74

once a year, deep in cold De - cem - ber.

77

Sing with voic - es strong and clear, car ols we re -

80

mem - ber. *fa la* **81** *la, fa la la, fa la*

Fa la la la la la,
Fa la la la,

83 la, fa la la la la. Fa la la, fa la

fa la la la la la la. Fa la la

fa la la la la. Fa la

86 la, fa la la la la la la.

la la la, fa la la la.

la la, fa la la la la la.

89

Christ - mas comes but



once a year, Christ-mas comes but

once a year, deep in cold De cem

ber. Fa la la la la la la la.

la la.

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