

CARL FISCHER MUSIC PRESENTS

HOORAY *For* *The* **HOLIDAYS**

ORCHESTRA REPERTOIRE



HOLIDAY SEASON 2023

Programming suggestions to make your Holiday Concert shine



CARL FISCHER

Celebrating 150 Years

HELPING EDUCATORS
AND MUSICIANS SHINE

WINTER & HOLIDAY 2023 PROGRAMMING

for String Orchestra



Add sparkle to timeless tradition and explore new contemporary arrangements as you celebrate the season in concert this winter! With selections that are fun, familiar, and easy to put together, we've hand-picked some of our most popular pieces to help you and your students shine. May your holidays be merry and bright!

Grade 1/2

A Holiday Remix

Traditional / arr. Kathryn Griesinger

Mix it up for a fun first winter concert! This mash-up of familiar holiday tunes uses only quarter and half notes from the D major scale with no shifting in the bass. Melodies include "Joy to the World," "Jingle Bells," "Deck the Halls," "Good King Wenceslas," and "Jolly Old St. Nicholas."

[BAS87](#)

Chanukah Lights and Dreydl

Traditional / arr. Doris Gazda

Two of the most popular of Chanukah tunes are arranged by master string pedagogue Doris Gazda for the youngest of students. Though simple, it give the very young player the chance to sound wonderful at the very first holiday concert.

[PAS16](#)

Christmas Mash-Up

Traditional / arr. Larry Clark

Take lots of familiar Christmas tunes, mix them all together, and you have *Christmas Mash-Up*. The setting is ideal for beginning players with the most difficult rhythm being a quarter note. This piece is perfect to highlight your first year orchestra at their very first holiday concert.

[PAS20](#)

Grade 1

Carol of the Bells

Mykola Leontovich / arr. Larry Clark

As one of the easiest arrangements in existence, Larry Clark has taken this infectious holiday classic and scaled it down for the beginning string group, while keeping the integrity of the original composition intact. He also cleverly combines "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" with the carol for added interest.

[BAS42](#)

Icicles

Todd Parrish

Feel the frigid chill of winter winds and brittle ice! This contemporary sounding work features quarter and half note rhythms in basic stepwise motion. Cello and bass sections have prominent lines and all notes fall within the range of the D major scale. Close (yet easy) intervals create interesting harmonies that hint at dissonance to represent the bitter cold of frozen ice.

[FAS129](#)

Rockin' Ol' St. Nick

James Murray / arr. Caryn Wiegand Neidhold

Have some toe-tapping fun with this rocking arrangement of "Jolly Old St. Nicholas" for young string orchestra. All sections get to play the melody, and students have the opportunity to practice easy chromatic finger patterns with foot stomps, finger snaps, and bass spins for extra entertainment. Optional piano and drum set parts add rhythmic support and festive spirit for a rockin' holiday concert!

[FAS122](#)

Santa's Noisy Workshop

Traditional / arr. Larry Clark

Imagine what it sounds like in Santa's workshop while the elves are building all of those toys: noisy! The technical demands of the arrangement are suitable for the beginning orchestra, but the cuteness factor is off-the-charts! The piece has simple optional percussion that can be played by members of the orchestra or brought in from the band.

[BAS63](#)

Winter Lights

Seth Bedford

Winter Lights is inspired by music of the Italian Baroque period. The colorful and reflective piece merges traditional harmonies with contemporary major seventh chords to create a whimsical and wistful mood. Written using simple rhythms and articulations, the music allows players to stay in first position while developing expressive tone through dynamic contrasts. A charming addition to any winter concert program.

[FAS116](#)

Grade 1 1/2

Bell Carol Tidings!

Traditional / arr. Deborah Baker Monday

This spirited mashup combines the well-known holiday tunes "Carol of the Bells" and "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen." Set in friendly E dorian, this arrangement avoids passages with challenging accidentals and gives all sections exciting melodic material, including the iconic "Ring, Christmas Bells!" rhythm. Sure to inspire students and energize your winter concert.

[FAS125](#)

Rejoice, East and West

Deborah Baker Monday

Rejoice, East and West pairs two popular holiday pieces. *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*, a song of Advent, has a modal character with roots in Ancient Greece. The melody of *Joy to the World* is attributed to George Frideric Handel. It is one of the most published Christmas hymns in North America. The connection between these two contrasting pieces is “rejoice.” In *Emmanuel* the modal tones arrive at a major chord and the words exclaim “Rejoice, rejoice!” arriving at a jubilant introduction of *Joy to the World*. This arrangement teaches students dynamic contrast, tempo changes, slurs and ties.

[FAS115](#)

Siberian Hunt

Aaron Fryklund

Be transported to the frozen Siberian landscape on a hunt for beasts from a forgotten age. This piece for young string orchestra moves with fierce energy and relentless determination. Written in B minor, it features a call/response section in the middle, rich harmonies, and a range of dynamic contrasts for the students to master. The first violins will enjoy getting to play on the E string. The unison rhythms between sections will encourage playing confidence and listening across the ensemble. The parts are balanced so all players can feel like they are an important piece of the orchestra.

[FAS114](#)

'Tis the Season

Traditional / arr. Doris Gazda

Respected veteran composer and educator Doris Gazda is an expert in making your young orchestra sound fantastic and accomplished, and this lovely arrangement of the melodies from “Good King Wenceslas” and “Deck the Halls” will do just that. Your students will be sure to revel in the celebration of the Christmas season along with the audience.

[FAS63](#)

Wenceslas

Deborah Baker Monday

Based upon the classic Christmas carol “Good King Wenceslas,” composer Deborah Baker Monday takes us on a historical journey that depicts the story of how Wenceslas became the “good King.” The music begins dark and foreboding, depicting the evil that was around during Wenceslas’ time. But the goodness of the King wins out and the piece ends triumphantly as the carol is then brought to us as we know it: the man who became a saint. This exceptionally fresh and different take on a popular Christmas song is perfect for your next holiday concert.

[FAS91](#)

Grade 2

A Canterbury Christmas

Traditional / arr. Kathryn Griesinger

Experience a storybook Christmas with this medley of old English carols. Beginning in 4/4 time, “Good King Wenceslas” meets “12 Days of Christmas” before violas sing “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” under a pizzicato refrain of “God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen.” A turn to 3/4 meter brings garlands of “Deck the Halls” intertwined with “The Holly and the Ivy” before all parts converge for an joyful rendition of “I Saw Three Ships” in a festive finale.

[YAS224](#)

Angels in the Bleak Midwinter

Larry Clark

As the title implies, this unique piece combines the beauty of Gustav Holst’s “In the Bleak Midwinter” with the popular “Angels We Have Heard on High.” Lush and stunningly gorgeous, *Angels in the Bleak Midwinter* manages to be simple and elegant at the same time. This work can be performed alone or with a choral setting and concert band setting. What a great opportunity to include the whole music program!

[YAS106](#)

Away in a Manger

James Murray, Jonathan Spillman / arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

A beautiful setting of the Christmas carols with the same name into one complete arrangement. This is an exceptionally colorful arrangement of these beautiful carols with flowing lines and fresh harmonic treatments. We can see why Schram is so popular in choral music, and we know her flowing style will be popular with strings groups as well.

[YAS138](#)

Canon for Christmas

Johann Pachelbel, / arr. Larry Clark

Johann Pachelbel’s *Canon in D* has long been one of the most popular classical pieces. In this arrangement, the Canon is combined with popular Christmas carols, such as “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing” and “The First Noel,” whose melodies fit nicely over the harmonic progression of Pachelbel’s famous *Canon*. This arrangement will work nicely with strings alone or with the optional choir (CM9401).

[YAS175](#)

Canon Noel

Traditional / arr. Deborah Baker Monday

Canon Noel combines the iconic Pachelbel theme with graceful melodies from “The First Noel” and “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing.” This lyrical setting in D major includes just a little shifting in the bass and easy high-3 finger patterns in violin 2 and viola. Simple scale-based motion and frequent doubling will give the developing ensemble a full, rich sound as all sections get to play melodic material.

[YAS218](#)

Carol of the Bells Variant

Peter Wilhousky / arr. Bill Calhoun

Carol of the Bells Variant for string orchestra is an interesting adaptation of the popular Christmas classic. The opening three-note ostinato is presented in 4/4 time and immediately sets the tone for this intriguing variation. The piece is built on driving rhythms, and the musicians should take an aggressive performance approach. *Carol of the Bells Variant* will provide a creative addition to the holiday repertoire.

[YAS151](#)

Celtic Carols

Deborah Baker Monday

From the very first measure of this arrangement you will be hooked on the spirit of Celtic music. The term Celtic has come to refer to folk music handed down from Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales. Deborah Baker Monday’s unique setting contains several carols for the holiday season that will thrill your audiences. Includes the tunes “Springtime is Returning” and “Hey, Ho, Nobody Home.”

[YAS121](#)

Heart of Gold (A Greensleeves Fantasy)

Traditional / arr. Nicolas Repetto

Enjoy this fresh take on a traditional favorite, drawing its name from the lyrics of the original secular song, “Greensleeves was my heart of gold.” A gentle introduction flows into the familiar poignant melody, using beautiful and unexpected harmonies for a contemporary sound. A solo violin and solo cello restate the melody against a gentle pizzicato accompaniment in this lush orchestration.

[YAS220](#)

Light the Candles!

Deborah Baker Monday

In true Hanukkah style, the modal harmonies, chromatic figures, and syncopated rhythms of *Light the Candles!* are a stunning change of pace for the holiday season, written by one of the most respected string educators/composers in the business. This work provides you with an opportunity to spice up your holiday program with the music of Hanukkah.

[YAS105](#)

Pacem Noel

Larry Clark

This arrangement takes two of the most well-known songs for the holidays and combines them into a seamless new musical experience. The famous tune of “Dona Nobis Pacem” is merged with “The First Noel” into an exquisite arrangement with the title suggesting that we all have “Peace for Christmas.” Your students will feel the spirit of the season while playing this heartwarming work for the holidays, ideal for a holiday concert.

[YAS86](#)

Snowfall at Dusk

Aaron Fryklund

This elegant and nostalgic piece depicts gentle snow falling as twilight fades on a winter's eve. The legato theme is heard in several sections, featuring a flowing accompaniment. Rich harmonies, slurs, and sustained pedal-tone pitches allow students to work on playing with good tone and bow control. The contrasting staccato section sparkles like snowflakes in the golden sun, with easy meter changes and a playful syncopated feel. In a quiet finale, the piece ends with a soft diminuendo reflecting the last rays of sunlight, vanishing over the darkening horizon.

[YAS200](#)

Snowflake

Yukiko Nishimura

This floating, delicate work from Yukiko Nishimura features long melodic lines and plenty of sustaining harmonies. While the first violin part leads with the main theme, other sections also have an inner melody, to keep things interesting for everyone. Each line should be played *espressivo* at all times. Snowflake will allow your students to truly “sing from the heart” with their instruments.

[YAS78](#)

Swingin' Santa

Benjamin Hanby / arr. Carl Strommen

Get your orchestra swinging this year with a fun Christmas piece based on the ever-popular “Up On The Housetop.” Drawing from his jazz background, Carl Strommen delivers an arrangement that is unique and authentic to the idiom, but within the technical capabilities of the intermediate student. Oh what fun it will be to ride this sleigh – Ho, ho ho!

[YAS104](#)

The North Pole Express

Kathryn Griesinger

Take a sparkling ride through the snow aboard an express train, headed straight for the North Pole. In this Grade 2 holiday arrangement, developing players will “travel” through several holiday tunes, including “Jingle Bells,” “Deck the Halls,” “Jolly Old St. Nicholas,” “Good King Wenceslas,” “O Christmas Tree,” and “We Wish You a Merry Christmas.” Students can work on staccato bow technique, easy dotted rhythms, and low 2 / low 1 finger patterns, but all while staying in first position. Be sure to use the included percussion and train whistle to make the journey come alive.

[YAS206](#)

Winter Reverie

Kathryn Griesinger

Peaceful scenes of quiet, gentle snow are reflected in this nostalgic melody for intermediate strings. A flowing legato theme evokes warm memories of innocence and joy as it moves between the sections, allowing all players a chance to practice playing with sustained bows and beautiful tone. Moments of modulation use easy accidentals in first position to relay the mystery and magic of the season. Piano and bells add to the dream-like quality of this serene concert selection.

[YAS191](#)

Winter Stars

Kathryn Griesinger

This Grade 2 original work was inspired by the tender poem of the same name by Sara Teasdale. Gentle phrases capture the wistful hope the poet felt as she contemplated the steadfast stars that “burn steadily as long ago” even as the world changed below. Lyrical melodies provide developing players opportunities to work on tone, slurs, and expressive playing with one easy key change from D major to G major. A tranquil winter concert selection that evokes images of shimmering stars in the cold December night sky.

[YAS211](#)

Grade 2½

A Cold Winter's Night

Traditional / arr. Erica Donahoe

This elegant arrangement blends the familiar Christmas carols “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” and “The First Noel.” The melody is passed to all sections of the orchestra with delicate pizzicato accompaniments, giving developing players the opportunity to work on slurs, dotted rhythms, legato phrasing, and tone production in the key of C major. This peaceful setting will be a wonderful addition to your winter concert.

[YAS216](#)

A Medieval French Carol

Traditional French Carol /
arr. Ian David Coleman

The re-imagining of this medieval carol reflects the timeless nature of the Christmas season. Students will work on sustaining long tones and tuning non-traditional chords in this choral-like setting for string orchestra. The melody flows between all the parts with short musical interludes between.

[YAS201](#)

Star of Emmanuel

John Henry Hopkins / arr. Cooper Ford

This exciting and contemporary arrangement blends two traditional carols, “We Three Kings” and “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” Opening in slow and mysterious 6/8, the tempo shifts to an energetic rhythmic 3/4 with moments of syncopation, melodic interplay, and other musical surprises. Every section of the orchestra gets to play melodic material, as well as a range of dynamics and articulations for dramatic effect.

[YAS213](#)

The Nutcracker (Excerpts)

Peter Illiych Tchaikovsky

This arrangement for Young String Orchestra includes some of the most beloved excerpts from Tchaikovsky's original, including the “March of the Toy Soldiers,” “Dance of the Sugarplum Fairy,” and “Trepak.”

[YAS7](#)

Under a Winter Sky

Yukiko Nishimura

This extraordinarily beautiful work captures the awesome wonder of a winter night. Using simple rhythms and lush harmony, the first section creates a mood of reflection and solitude. The middle section uses syncopation and a faster tempo to paint a magical winter landscape before settling back into the simplistic beauty of a quiet night. Students will quickly grasp the mood and legato style required to portray this scene. With only a few accidentals it works well with developing groups, while giving them a mature sound.

[YAS202](#)

Veni, Veni, Emmanuel

Michael John Trotta

In this imagining of “Veni, Veni Emmanuel,” you will find a distinctive dialogue between old and new. The light and buoyant treatment of the familiar melody grows and subsides in musical swells, providing unmistakable forward motion. The use of pizzicato syncopation adds a fresh approach to this ancient tune. Counterlines envelop the main theme, dancing and growing as all voices blend together for a resounding finish. Although this is a perfect addition to any holiday programming, this work is a wonderful choice year round.

[YAS198](#)

Winter Milky Way

Yukiko Nishimura

The words “lush” and “beautiful” best describe this wonderful new ballad from Yukiko Nishimura. Its whimsical lines and jazz-influenced harmonies are just right for intermediate string players: idiomatic and impressive. A true delight for players and audience alike.

[YAS108](#)

Grade 3

Carol of the Bells

Mykola Leontovich / arr. Bill Calhoun

Carol of the Bells for string orchestra is a unique treatment of an old holiday favorite, ending in a major key that gives it a surprising, uplifting ending. This adaptation, with its interesting harmonic variation, will be enjoyed by both the audience and your students, making for an exciting conclusion to your holiday concert.

[CAS55](#)

Carol of the Bells/Greensleeves

Mykola Leontovich / arr. Larry Clark

This arrangement cleverly combines two of the most popular Christmas carols into a seamless symphonic style composition. A perfect Christmas piece to challenge your students and delight your audience.

[CAS32](#)

Christmas Quatrain

Traditional / arr. Elliot Del Borgo

Four familiar carols are the basis for the stirring orchestra work that will enhance the joy of the holiday season. “Angels We Have Heard On High,” “Coventry Carol,” “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen,” and “O Come, All Ye Faithful” are presented in a vibrant musical setting that is festive and reflective of the excitement of Christmas.

[CAS5](#)

Pantomime

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

This arrangement features music from the final scene of Act I of Tchaikovsky’s *The Nutcracker*. A wonderful work for building musicianship, *Pantomime* is appropriate not only for the holiday season, but throughout the year.

[CAS21](#)

The Winter King

Doug Spata

Bold, brisk melodies describe thrilling adventures in *The Winter King*, an exciting concert overture in D minor! Intermediate-level players will enjoy the vivid and expressive style, but the real focus is on triple-meter rhythms and hooked bowings as players experience a variety of common 6/8 rhythms. Perfect for winter concerts, or any time of year.

[CAS154](#)

We Three Kings

John Henry Hopkins / arr. Sean O’Loughlin

Advanced ensembles will welcome the exciting challenge of this spirited holiday arrangement. This setting of the popular carol “We Three Kings” is highly stylized and musically sophisticated. A welcome addition to the repertoire lists of more advanced groups.

[CAS76](#)

What Child Is This?

Traditional Christmas Hymn / arr. Jeffrey E. Turner

This delicate, enchanting arrangement uses chord substitutions that make the harmonic structure of this arrangement sound much more advanced than expected at this grade level. The *con sordino* technique adds to the transcendent feel, and two key changes give students experience in shifting tonalities.

[CAS136](#)

Grade 3½

Frost on the Plow

Samuel Gelfer

Frost on the Plow is an energetic composition perfect for introducing some fiddlin’ fun to your classroom. A relentless pace and syncopated bass accompaniment depict a stormy winter season, melting into spring. Written in the style of traditional fiddle-tunes, players will encounter authentic fiddle techniques such as shuffle-bowing, chops, and double-stops at a brisk tempo. Each section is given interesting melodic and accompaniment lines, with exciting accented rhythms that require all players to match bow placement, internalize a common tempo, and listen across the ensemble for a precise, focused sound.

[CAS130](#)

Nutcracker Suite Selections

Peter Tchaikovsky / arr. Bud Capeluto

Bud Caputo presents *Nutcracker Suite Selections* for string orchestra featuring three abridged movements of Tchaikovsky’s “Nutcracker Suite”: Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy, March, and Trepak. These abridged movements are sure to be crowd-pleasers around the winter holidays.

[CAS110](#)

Grade 4

Fantasia on Christmas Carols

Ralph Vaughan Williams / arr. Todd Parrish

Fantasia on Christmas Carols is unique medley offering a fresh alternative to traditional holiday programming. Ralph Vaughan Williams used three folk carols from his native country of England: “The Truth Sent from Above,” “Come all you Worthy Gentlemen,” and the “Sussex Carol.” Though shortened for time, this arrangement contains moments from each carol, including the solo cello opening. Though the melodies are mostly of unknown origin, the harmonies are uniquely the work of Vaughan Williams.

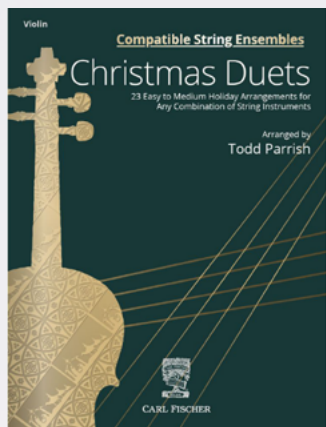
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CHRISTMAS DUETS

23 Easy to Medium Holiday Arrangements for Any Combination of String Instruments

Arranged by Todd Parrish

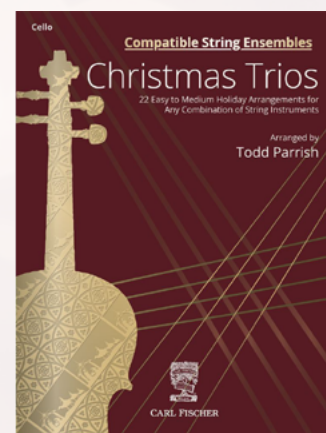
The 23 holiday classics contained in this collection have been carefully arranged for any combination of string duet. Providing a range of keys, style, and difficulty level, melodies include favorite carols and familiar movements from Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite." Each work was selected for its quality, musical interest, and appropriateness in a chamber setting. The flexible duets may be performed by any combination of string instruments in a variety of venues, from church services to holiday gatherings. This Compatible String Ensembles collection of Christmas Duets will set the festive mood in any environment.

CHRISTMAS TRIOS

22 Easy to Medium Holiday Arrangements for Any Combination of String Instruments

Arranged by Todd Parrish

The 22 holiday classics contained in this collection have been carefully arranged for any combination of string trio. The melodies, both sacred and secular, cover many centuries and originate in Western Europe and the United States. Each work was selected for its quality, musical interest, and appropriateness in a chamber setting. All pieces in this collection have stood the test of time and are worthy of both study and performance. Arranged specifically for a chamber setting, the trios may be performed in a variety of venues from church services to holiday gatherings. This Compatible String Ensembles collection of Christmas Trios will set the festive mood in any environment.



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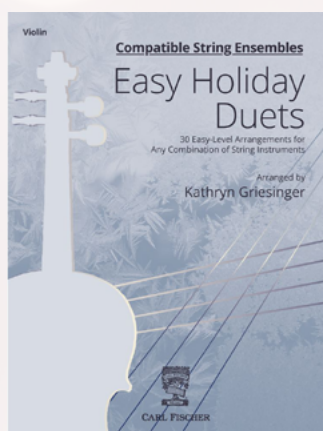
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EASY HOLIDAY DUETS

30 Easy-Level Arrangements for Any Combination of String Instruments

Arranged by Kathryn Griesinger



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Learning to play chamber music is an important milestone in the music student's journey, building vital skills for playing in an ensemble. These progressive duets offer beginning players the opportunity to play along with others, or with the helpful support of the teacher in a lesson. Each duet adds new techniques and challenges that align with the natural advancement of lessons. This book features familiar melodies for the holidays, including sacred and secular Christmas songs, music for Hanukkah, and folk tunes from many countries. Appropriate for caroling, recitals, or chamber holiday concerts, there are 30 festive selections of different tempi, styles, and keys for variety, while remaining in string-friendly ranges. Put new skills into practice while celebrating the season.

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