

Christmas Extravaganza

9 Early Intermediate Arrangements in a Variety of Styles

ROBERT D. VANDALL

Part of the definition of the word "extravaganza" is "an exciting show or event featuring extreme freedom of style and structure." Each piece in *Christmas Extravaganza* features a well-known Christmas favorite arranged with pianistic freedom appropriate to the song. Each arrangement combines both fresh and familiar harmonies, unique melodic treatments, and interesting rhythms. Yet, even when the hands move freely around the keyboard, my goal was to keep the technique required to play each piece within limited boundaries to ensure student success. I wanted each solo to feel comfortable in the hands, yet sound good and impressive to an audience.

Part of the joy of Christmas, for me, is hearing the many wonderful choral settings of familiar and not-so-familiar carols and songs. Then, there are the many colorful orchestral settings of these pieces that satisfy my own personal longing to hear this music set in many creative ways. I wanted the pieces in *Christmas Extravaganza* to have their moment of pianism and creativity that would shed a similar light on the familiar songs and carols. I hope that each arrangement will allow students to shine as they play during the wonderfully musical Christmas season!

Robert D. Vandall

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Angels We Have Heard On High

Traditional French Carol
Arr. Robert D. Vandall

Fast and joyful (♩ = ca. 172)

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The piece is in 4/4 time. The right hand (treble clef) has rests in measures 1 and 2, then plays a melodic line starting in measure 3 with a triplet of eighth notes. The left hand (bass clef) plays a steady accompaniment of eighth-note chords. Dynamics are marked *mp* for measures 1-2 and *mf* for measures 3-4. A triplet of eighth notes is indicated in measure 3.

Musical notation for measures 5-8. The right hand continues the melodic line with a slur over measures 5-6 and another slur over measures 7-8. The left hand continues with eighth-note chords. Dynamics are *mf*. Measure numbers 5 and 8 are boxed in the top left of their respective staves.

Musical notation for measures 9-12. The right hand has a slur over measures 9-10 and a more complex melodic line in measures 11-12 with slurs and fingerings (1, 3, 1, 3). The left hand continues with eighth-note chords. Dynamics are *f*. A triplet of eighth notes is indicated in measure 11. Measure numbers 9 and 12 are boxed in the top left of their respective staves.

Musical notation for measures 13-16. The right hand has a slur over measures 13-14 and another slur over measures 15-16. The left hand continues with eighth-note chords. Dynamics are *mp*. Measure numbers 13 and 16 are boxed in the top left of their respective staves.

Silent Night

Franz Grüber
Arr. Robert D. Vandall

With simplicity (♩ = ca. 72)

p

mp cantabile

5 1/4 5 1/5 *simile*

5

3

9

5 4

1/4 1/5

13

3 1