

Christmas Music for Orchestra

Concert pieces and carol arrangements for orchestra & ensemble



Christmas concert pieces

[A Carol Symphony](#)

Victor Hely-Hutchinson (1927) 24'

3(pic)2(ca)3(bcl)3(cbn)/4331/timp.perc/hp[=pf]/str

Reduced orchestration: 2(2=pic)1(ca)21/2220/timp.perc/hp[=pf]/str

[Chorale Prelude on Silent Night — from “Die Natali”](#)

Samuel Barber (1961) 2'

1.1[+ca].2[+bcl].1/2[+2].0.1[+2].[1]/cel.hp/str

[Christmas Vespers](#)

John Harbison (1988) 24'

Narrator, hn.2tpt.tbn.tba

[Die Natali — Chorale Preludes for Christmas](#)

Samuel Barber (1960) 16'

2+pic.2+ca.2+bcl.2/4331/timp.perc/hp/str

[A Gathering of Angels: Bolero for Orchestra](#)

Robert Xavier Rodríguez (1989) 8'

3(3pic)3(ca)3(Ebcl)2/4.3.2+btbn.1/timp.3perc/hp.pf/str [Optional handbell choir (12 players)]

[Holiday Music](#)

Morton Gould (1947) 16'

2(pic)2(ca)22/4331/timp.3perc/hp.pf(ce)/str

I. The First Thanksgiving | II. Halloween | III. Easter Morning | IV. Home for Christmas |

V. Fourth o' July

[The Holly and the Ivy: Fantasy on Christmas Carols](#)

Malcolm Arnold, arr. Christopher Palmer (1952, arr. 1991) 9'

3(pic)222/4331/timp.3perc/2hp.pf[cel]/str

[Improvisations on Christmas Carols](#)

Bryan Kelly (1969) 12'

2222/4231/timp.perc/hp/str

Movements can be performed individually or as a suite.

I. God rest you merry gentlemen | II. Es ist ein Ros entsprungen | III. Past Three O'Clock |

IV. I saw three ships | V. Ding dong, merrily on high / Unto us is born a son

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[Introduction, March, and Shepherd's Dance \(from "Amahl and the Night Visitors"\)](#)

Gian Carlo Menotti (1951) 7'

1211/1100/perc/hp.pf/str

[Little Fantasy on 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'](#)

John Harbison (1988) 3'

hn.2tpt.tbn.tba

From 'Christmas Vespers'

[Nativity Prelude](#)

John Joubert (2004) 13'

2222/4321/timp.perc/hp/str

[The Nutcracker Suite \(Duke Ellington\)](#)

Tchaikovsky, freely arr. by Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn; arr. and adapted by Jeff

Tyzik (1892/1960) 17'

2.1+ca.2+bcl.asx(tsx).2/4331/dmkit/jazz bass/str

I. Overture | II. Toot Toot Tootie Toot (Dance of the Reed Pipes) | III. Danse of the Floreadores (Waltz of the Flowers) | IV. Sugar Rum Cherry (Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairy) | V. Peanut Brittle Brigade (March)

[Serenade of Carols](#)

Morton Gould (1949) 15'

2(pic).2.2+bcl.2/2200/hp/str(2.2.2.2.0)

[The Snowman Fantasia for string quartet and string orchestra](#)

Howard Blake (2011) 26'

2vn.va.vc; string orchestra

With optional parts for Narrator and/or Treble singer. Solo string quartet can be taken from the main ensemble.

[Sugar Plum on the Run](#)

Lior Rosner (2016) 14'

Narrator; 2+pic.2+ca.2(ebcl)+bcl.2+cbn/4.3.3.1/timp.4perc/hp.pf(cel)/str(12.10.8.6.4)

See also Variations on a Theme of Tchaikovsky (concert suite without narrator) below

[Variations on a theme by Tchaikovsky](#)

Lior Rosner (2016) 9'

2+pic.2+ca.2(ebcl)+bcl.2+cbn/4.3.3.1/timp.4perchp.pf(cel)str(12.10.8.6.4)

See also Sugar Plum on the Run (version with narrator) above

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Carol arrangements

[Adeste fidelis](#)

Morton Gould (1949) 4'
2222/4231/perc/str

[First Noel](#)

Morton Gould 4'
2222/4231/perc/hp/str

[Good King Wenceslas](#)

Morton Gould 3'
2(2pic)1+ca.1+bcl.1/2220/2perc/hp/str

[In the Bleak Midwinter](#)

Gustav Holst, arr. Craig Leon (arr. 2011) 3'
hp/str

[The Lamb](#)

John Tavener (1982, arr. 2006) 4'
str

[Silent Night](#)

F. X. Gruber, arr. Craig Leon (arr. 2011) 3'
2222/2000/hp/str

[Walking in the Air](#)

Howard Blake (1981, arr. 2017) 4'
Soprano; 1(pic)111/2100/timp.cym/hp.pf/str

[The Wexford Carol \[The Enniscorthy Carol\]](#)

Trad, arr. Craig Leon (arr. 2011) 2'40"
1101/hp/str

[What Child Is This \[Greensleeves\]](#)

Trad, arr. Craig Leon (arr. 2011) 4'30"
2222/2000/hp/str