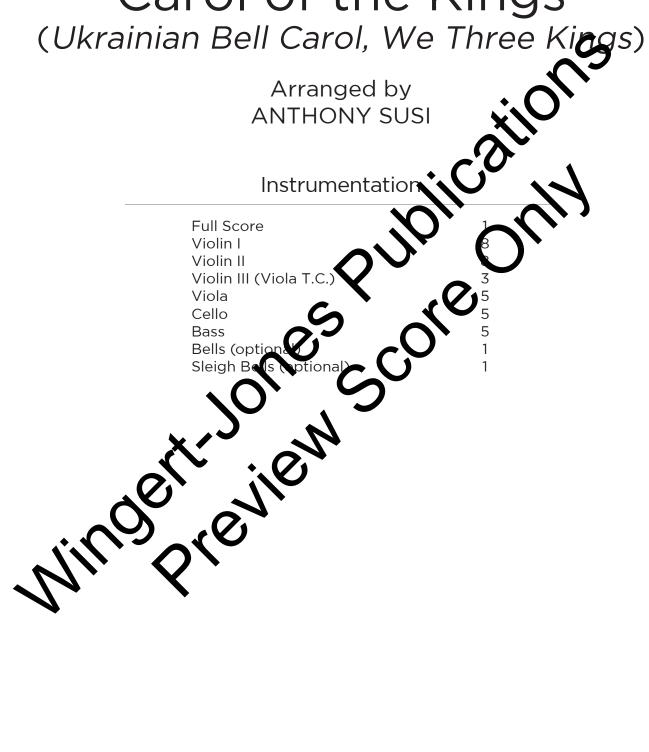


## Carol of the Kings

(Ukrainian Bell Carol, We Three Kings)





## About the Composer

Anthony Susi has been teaching music in Connecticut schools at the middle, high school, and collegiate levels since 1985. Mr. Susi's diverse experience as a music director and adjudicator has provided him a unique understanding of the aesthetic appeal and technical needs for compositions written at various age levels. This is evident by the number of commissions he receives each year from both middle and high school band and string orchestra directors since 1998. Come of his published works have been noted through The Instrumental st magazine, JW Pepper's Editors Choice, and the Top 100 lists by Bandworld magazine as well as the CT Chapter of ASBDA.

## Carol of the King

(Ukrainian Bell Carol, We Thee Kings)

Carol of the Kings is a fresh, creative blend of two learly holiday favortes, *The Ukrainian Bell Carol* and *We Three Kings*. This energetic arrangement is filled with dynamic contrast along with optional sparkling metallic percussion (Bells & Sleigh Bells). A driving ostinato takes the listener on an adventurous journey with the three wise nep through the desert leading to a powerful, uplifting conclusion. Easy syncopation and carefully assigned 8th-nate runs make this a very accessible and distinctive holiday selection.

## ORIGINIS

The Ukrainian Bell Carol was composed by Mykola Leonto ych in 1904. The song is based on a traditional folk chant known in Ukrainian as 'Snchedryk" and was associated with the coming New Year that in pre-Christian Ukraine was celebrated in April. The song's four-note motif has made it a familiar holiday favorite. The original work was for an a cappell, mixed four-voice choir. Leontovych also created two other settings of the composition: one for a cappella women's choir and another for children's choir with Piano accompanie and. It was introduced to America by the Ukrainian National Chorus during its concert tour of the Ukrainian States when it premiered on October 5, 1921 at Carnegie Hall.

We Three Kings is a Christmas and I that was written by Reverend John Henry Hopkins, Jr. in 1857. At the time of composing the carol, Hopkins was the head of an Episcopal Church in Williamsport Penroulunia and he work the carol for a Christmas pageant held at the seminary in New York City where he has teaching. It was uncommon among carol composers at that time to write both the music and the lyrics. The carol's minor based melody sounds like a song from the Middle Ages. Originally titled "Three Kings of Orient", it was sung during the holidays among his family and friends and began to achieve popularity. Hopkins decided to publish it in a compilation entitled "Carols, Hymns and Songs" in 1862. It was the first Christmas carol originating from the United States to achieve international popularity. We Three Kings was also published in the "Oxford Book of Carols" in 1928, which applauded the song and regarded it as "one of the most successful of modern composed carols" and it is still popular today.







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**Tony Susi** 

(Ukranian Bell Carol, We Three Kings)

Arranged by
ANTHONY SUSI









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