

First Christmas Suite

for Strings, Piano, and Percussion

Traditional

arranged by
Francis J. Caravella

1 Full Score

16 Violin

5 Viola

5 Cello

5 Bass

2 Percussion - Triangle, Sleigh Bells

1 Piano

Extra Part - P3036301

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Program Notes

This multi-movement suite of familiar holiday songs is the perfect choice for the very first orchestra concert! By the winter concert, beginning string players will feel confident playing only open strings in a variety of simple rhythms, accompanied by the piano and percussion that fill in the melodic structure and help maintain a steady tempo. Students will also experience simple dynamic changes and minimal independent counting between violins/violas and cellos/basses. The familiar tunes *Jolly Old St. Nick*; *Up on the Housetop*; *Jingle Bells* and *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* are cleverly arranged in festive settings that will bring out the best in young players while charming the audience. Each song is arranged as a separate movement, so each piece be performed alone or as an entire concert program.

About the Arranger

Mr. Francis J. Caravella is the Orchestra Director at Manheim Township High School in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where he also teaches AP Music Theory and IB Music. In addition he serves as the middle school orchestra director and is responsible for developing the string orchestra curriculum used in grades 5-12. He holds a Master of Music Theory from West Chester University (Pennsylvania) and a Bachelor of Science in Music Education from Millersville University (Pennsylvania). He lives in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and is active as a songwriter, composer and conductor.

Free piano and percussion accompaniment tracks are available here:

<http://www.wjpublications.com/wj/extra/index.jsp>

Duration 7:40

First Christmas Suite

for Strings, Piano, and Percussion

Traditional Carols
arranged by Francis J. Caravella (ASCAP)

I. Jolly Old St. Nicholas

E. Miller / J.P. McCaskey

3

Moderato ♩ = 100

sempre pizz.

Musical score for the first system of 'Jolly Old St. Nicholas'. It includes staves for Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, Percussion (Triangle, Sleigh Bells), and Piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is Moderato with a quarter note equal to 100 beats per minute. The instruction 'sempre pizz.' (pizzicato) is written above the string staves. The dynamic marking 'mf' (mezzo-forte) is present. The piano part features a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The percussion part includes triangle and sleigh bells. Measure numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are indicated below the piano staff.

Musical score for the second system of 'Jolly Old St. Nicholas'. It includes staves for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, Bass, Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The dynamic marking 'mf' is present. The piano part continues with its rhythmic accompaniment. The percussion part includes triangle and sleigh bells. Measure numbers 5, 6, 7, and 8 are indicated below the piano staff.

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First Christmas Suite - Score

11

Musical score for measures 9-13. The score is for a string quartet (Violin I, Violin II, Cello, Bass) and Piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. The score consists of five systems. The first system contains measures 9-13. The Violin I part has a melodic line with some rests. The Violin II, Cello, and Bass parts provide harmonic support. The Piano part has a rhythmic accompaniment. The Percussion part has a simple drum pattern. The measures are numbered 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 at the bottom of the system.

Fine

Musical score for measures 14-18. The score is for a string quartet (Violin I, Violin II, Cello, Bass) and Piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. The score consists of five systems. The first system contains measures 14-18. The Violin I part has a melodic line with some rests. The Violin II, Cello, and Bass parts provide harmonic support. The Piano part has a rhythmic accompaniment. The Percussion part has a simple drum pattern. The measures are numbered 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18 at the bottom of the system.

Musical score for measures 19-23. The score is written for Vln., Vla., Cello, Bass, Perc., and Pno. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The score shows a progression of notes across five measures, with dynamics marked *p* and *p*^{8va}. The Percussion part is labeled "Sleigh Bells".

Musical score for measures 24-28. The score is written for Vln., Vla., Cello, Bass, Perc., and Pno. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The score shows a progression of notes across five measures, with dynamics marked *p* and *p*^{8va}. The Percussion part is labeled "Sleigh Bells".

Vln. 

Vla. 

Cello 

Bass 

Perc. 

Pno. 

29 30 31 32 33

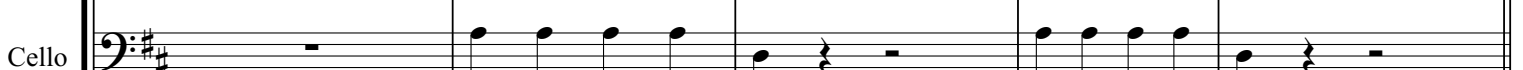
rit. D.C. al Fine

Vln. 

Vla. 

Cello 

Bass 

Perc. 

Pno. 

34 35 36 37 38

4

II. Up on the Housetop

Benjamin Hanby

Moderato ♩ = 100

Violin

Viola

Cello

Bass

Percussion
Triangle,
Sleigh Bells

Piano

8^{va}

mp

arco

p

arco

p

arco

p

Triangle

mp

2 3 4 5

9

Vln.

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Perc.

Pno.

(8)

6 7 8 9 10

5

First Christmas Suite - Score

15

Musical score for measures 11-15. The score includes parts for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, Bass, Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first four measures (11-14) show the strings and piano playing a melodic line, while the percussion plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. In measure 15, there is a repeat sign, and the dynamics change to *mf* for the strings and *f* for the piano and percussion. The piano part includes a dynamic marking *f* and a hairpin symbol indicating a crescendo. The percussion part is labeled "Sleigh Bells".

11 12 13 14 15

Musical score for measures 16-20. The score includes parts for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, Bass, Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The strings and piano play a melodic line, while the percussion plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The piano part includes a dynamic marking *f* and a hairpin symbol indicating a crescendo.

16 17 18 19 20

First Christmas Suite - Score

23

Musical score for measures 21-25. The score includes staves for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, Bass, Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measures 21 and 22 show the beginning of the section. Measure 23 is marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a square box above the staff. Measures 24 and 25 continue the piece. The piano part features chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

27

(repeat optional)

Musical score for measures 26-30. The score includes staves for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, Bass, Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measures 26 and 27 show the beginning of the section. Measure 28 is marked with a square box above the staff. Measures 29 and 30 continue the piece. The piano part features chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The section ends with a repeat sign and a double bar line.

First Christmas Suite - Score

31

34

Musical score for measures 31-34. The score includes parts for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, Bass, Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.).

- Vln.:** Starts with a *f* dynamic in measure 31, then rests in measure 32, and continues with a *p* dynamic in measure 33.
- Vla.:** Starts with a *f* dynamic in measure 31, then rests in measure 32, and continues with a *p* dynamic in measure 33.
- Cello:** Starts with a *f* dynamic in measure 31, then rests in measure 32, and continues with a *p* dynamic in measure 33.
- Bass:** Starts with a *f* dynamic in measure 31, then rests in measure 32, and continues with a *p* dynamic in measure 33.
- Perc.:** Remains silent throughout measures 31-34.
- Pno.:** Starts with a *f* dynamic in measure 31, changes to *mf* in measure 32, *mp* in measure 33, and *p* in measure 34. A *8va* marking is present above the staff in measure 33.

Measure numbers 31, 32, 33, and 34 are indicated below the piano part.

Musical score for measures 35-38. The score includes parts for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, Bass, Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.).

- Vln.:** Starts with a *pizz.* marking in measure 35, then continues with a *p* dynamic in measure 36, and a *f* dynamic in measure 38.
- Vla.:** Starts with a *pizz.* marking in measure 35, then continues with a *p* dynamic in measure 36, and a *f* dynamic in measure 38.
- Cello:** Starts with a *pizz.* marking in measure 35, then continues with a *p* dynamic in measure 36, and a *f* dynamic in measure 38.
- Bass:** Starts with a *pizz.* marking in measure 35, then continues with a *p* dynamic in measure 36, and a *f* dynamic in measure 38.
- Perc.:** Starts with a *p* dynamic in measure 35, then continues with a *p* dynamic in measure 36, and a *f* dynamic in measure 38. A *Tri.* marking is present above the staff in measure 36.
- Pno.:** Starts with a *p* dynamic in measure 35, then continues with a *p* dynamic in measure 36, and a *f* dynamic in measure 38. A *8* marking is present above the staff in measure 35.

Measure numbers 35, 36, 37, and 38 are indicated below the piano part.

III. Jingle Bells

James Pierpont

Allegro ♩ = 120

5

Musical score for measures 2-6 of 'Jingle Bells'. The score includes staves for Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, Percussion (Triangle, Sleigh Bells), and Piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Allegro' with a quarter note equal to 120 beats per minute. The score begins with a 'pizz.' (pizzicato) instruction. The Violin and Viola parts play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The Cello and Bass parts play a similar pattern. The Piano part features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The Percussion part includes a Triangle and Sleigh Bells. The score is marked with 'mf' (mezzo-forte) and 'pizz.' (pizzicato) throughout.

Musical score for measures 7-12 of 'Jingle Bells'. The score includes staves for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, Bass, Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The score continues with the same instruments and parts as the previous section. The Piano part features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The Percussion part includes a Triangle and Sleigh Bells. The score is marked with 'mf' (mezzo-forte) and 'pizz.' (pizzicato) throughout.

Vln.

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Perc.

Pno.

13 14 15 16 17

Vln.

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Perc.

Pno.

18 19 20 21 22

First Christmas Suite - Score

Musical score for measures 23-27. The score includes parts for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, Bass, Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measures 23-25 feature a melodic line in the strings with a 'V' marking above the notes. Measures 26-27 feature a more rhythmic accompaniment with 'V' markings above the notes. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and arpeggiated figures.

30

Musical score for measures 28-32. The score includes parts for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, Bass, Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measures 28-29 feature a melodic line in the strings with a 'V' marking above the notes. Measures 30-32 feature a more rhythmic accompaniment with 'V' markings above the notes. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and arpeggiated figures.

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Musical score for measures 33-37. The score includes staves for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, Bass, Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 8/8. Measures 33-37 show a steady rhythmic pattern with various dynamics and articulation marks.

38

Musical score for measures 38-42. The score includes staves for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, Bass, Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 8/8. Measures 38-42 show a steady rhythmic pattern with various dynamics and articulation marks. Measure 38 is marked with a box containing the number 38. Measure 39 includes the instruction 'pizz.' and 'p'. Measure 40 includes the instruction 'Tri.'. Measure 41 includes the instruction 'mf'. Measure 42 includes the instruction 'dampen'.

IV. We Wish You a Merry Christmas

Traditional English Carol

Moderato ♩ = 100

3 pizz.

Musical score for measures 1-5. The score includes staves for Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, Percussion (Triangle, Sleigh Bells), and Piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is Moderato with a quarter note equal to 100 beats per minute. A triplet of eighth notes is indicated in measures 3-5. Dynamics include *mf* and *mp*.

Musical score for measures 6-10. The score includes staves for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, Bass, Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. Dynamics include *mf*.

Musical score for measures 11-14. The score includes staves for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, Bass, Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The Percussion part features a simple rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents. The Piano part has a flowing melody in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand.

11 12 13 14

Musical score for measures 15-18. The score includes staves for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, Bass, Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The Percussion part continues with the same rhythmic pattern. The Piano part features a more complex melody in the right hand, including some sixteenth-note passages, and a bass line with some chords.

15 16 17 18

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Musical score for measures 19-23. The score includes staves for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, Bass, Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.).

- Vln.:** Rests in measures 19-22. In measure 23, plays a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4. Marked *f* arco.
- Vla.:** Rests in measures 19-22. In measure 23, plays a quarter note G3, quarter note A3, quarter note B3. Marked *f* arco.
- Cello:** Rests in measures 19-20. In measure 21, plays a quarter note G2, quarter note A2, quarter note B2. Marked *f* arco. In measure 22, rests. In measure 23, plays a quarter note G2, quarter note A2, quarter note B2. Marked *f*.
- Bass:** Rests in measures 19-20. In measure 21, plays a quarter note G2, quarter note A2, quarter note B2. Marked *f* arco. In measure 22, rests. In measure 23, plays a quarter note G2, quarter note A2, quarter note B2.
- Perc.:** Sleigh Bells. Continuous eighth-note pattern starting in measure 19. Marked *f*.
- Pno.:** Right hand: Continuous eighth-note chords starting in measure 19. Marked *f*. Left hand: Rests in measures 19-20. In measure 21, plays a quarter note G2, quarter note A2, quarter note B2. In measure 22, plays a half note G2. In measure 23, plays a half note G2.

Measures 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 are indicated at the bottom of the system.

Musical score for measures 24-28. The score includes staves for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, Bass, Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.).

- Vln.:** Rests in measures 24-25. In measure 26, rests. In measure 27, plays a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4. In measure 28, rests.
- Vla.:** Rests in measures 24-25. In measure 26, rests. In measure 27, plays a quarter note G3, quarter note A3, quarter note B3. In measure 28, rests.
- Cello:** Rests in measures 24-25. In measure 26, plays a quarter note G2, quarter note A2, quarter note B2. In measure 27, plays a quarter note G2, quarter note A2, quarter note B2. In measure 28, rests.
- Bass:** Rests in measures 24-25. In measure 26, plays a quarter note G2, quarter note A2, quarter note B2. In measure 27, plays a quarter note G2, quarter note A2, quarter note B2. In measure 28, rests.
- Perc.:** Sleigh Bells. Continuous eighth-note pattern starting in measure 24.
- Pno.:** Right hand: Continuous eighth-note chords starting in measure 24. Left hand: Rests in measures 24-25. In measure 26, plays a quarter note G2, quarter note A2, quarter note B2. In measure 27, plays a half note G2. In measure 28, plays a half note G2.

Measures 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 are indicated at the bottom of the system.

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31

Musical score for measures 29-33. The score includes staves for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, Bass, Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The Percussion part features a steady eighth-note pattern. The Piano part has a complex texture with chords in the right hand and sustained notes in the left hand. Measure numbers 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33 are indicated at the bottom of the piano staff.

37

Musical score for measures 34-38. The score includes staves for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, Bass, Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The Percussion part has a steady eighth-note pattern with a triplet (Tri.) in measure 38. The Piano part features a complex texture with chords in the right hand and sustained notes in the left hand. Measure numbers 34, 35, 36, 37, and 38 are indicated at the bottom of the piano staff.

First Christmas Suite - Score

41 Grandioso

Musical score for measures 39-44. The score includes parts for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, Bass, Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The music begins at measure 39 with a rest for all instruments. At measure 41, the music starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The Violin and Viola parts play a rhythmic pattern of quarter notes and eighth notes. The Cello and Bass parts play a similar pattern, with the Bass part starting on a lower note. The Percussion part plays a steady eighth-note rhythm. The Piano part plays a complex accompaniment with chords and moving lines in both hands. The measure numbers 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, and 44 are indicated at the bottom of the score.

49

Musical score for measures 45-49. The score includes parts for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, Bass, Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The music continues from measure 44. The Violin and Viola parts play a rhythmic pattern of quarter notes and eighth notes. The Cello and Bass parts play a similar pattern, with the Bass part starting on a lower note. The Percussion part plays a steady eighth-note rhythm. The Piano part plays a complex accompaniment with chords and moving lines in both hands. The measure numbers 45, 46, 47, 48, and 49 are indicated at the bottom of the score.

First Christmas Suite - Score

Musical score for measures 50-54. The score includes staves for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, Bass, Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The Cello and Bass parts are marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The Percussion part features a steady eighth-note rhythm. The Piano part consists of chords and arpeggiated figures. Measure numbers 50, 51, 52, 53, and 54 are indicated below the staves.

56

Musical score for measures 55-59. The score includes staves for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, Bass, Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The Percussion part features a steady eighth-note rhythm. The Piano part consists of chords and arpeggiated figures. Measure numbers 55, 56, 57, 58, and 59 are indicated below the staves.