

Carols from Around the World

Volume 1

for Lever and Pedal Harp
without exception

Austria, Czechoslovakia, England
Ireland, Poland

arranged by

Ray Pool

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Introduction

The Christmas season is a wonderful time for harp music. The concept of angels we have heard on high strumming their harps while heralding the miracle in the stable has been a constant image in art for centuries. This collection is intended to provide melodies from around the world for harpists in seasonal celebration. Volume 1 contains carols from Austria, Czechoslovakia, England, Ireland and Poland. At a later date, Volume 2 will continue with carols from Canada, Germany, France, Italy and Spain.

The growing popularity of the lever harp is considered in this collection by providing parallel editings for both instruments. Harmonic adjustments for pedal harps and lever harps are treated with equal care. It is possible to modulate on lever harp as well as pedal harp. Transitions from key to key, piece to piece, have been provided. These interludes can be played on either type of harp without exception. Pedal movements are indicated below the staff. Lever movements are indicated by diamond shaped note heads accompanied by appropriate accidentals in convenient locations.

Fingerings are provided sparingly. The extent of notation was given careful consideration. Some harp editions are “fingered to death.” There is so much editing on the page that it is sometimes difficult to concentrate on the notes. Other editions provide no fingering whatsoever. I do not know why composers and arrangers – particularly those who are known to be excellent harpists – have chosen to omit these beneficial indications. In this collection, I have adopted the following policy:

- (1) A passage requiring a fingering that might not be immediately obvious is given in the location of its first occurrence.
- (2) Subsequent patterns in later phrases are left up to the performer’s execution.
- (3) When these arrangements are used by professional harpists for their own performance, they might prefer fewer editings.
- (4) When these arrangements are used by teachers, the learning process can be reinforced by writing in the fingerings on subsequent passages.

And finally, lead sheets of the first verse of each tune are provided on the last five pages. Harpists who play with other instruments will find these very helpful for ensemble performance. Rehearsal letters of “A” and “B” are placed in both the arrangements and the lead sheets to coordinate performance. Permission is granted to duplicate these single line pages.

Merry Christmas!

Ray Pool
New York City
June 2, 2010

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Still, Still, Still

Melody from Salzburg, c. 1819
arranged by Ray Pool

Words: Traditional Austrian

Austria

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo marking of quarter note = 76. It consists of four systems of piano accompaniment. Each system has a treble and bass clef staff. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-3 above notes. A box labeled 'A' is placed above the first measure of the second system. Measure numbers 5, 9, and 13 are placed at the beginning of their respective systems.

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