

Notes from the Arranger

I originally wrote this arrangement of "Christmas Time is Here" for Pacific Chorale's annual "Tis the Season" Holiday concert. We then included this arrangement on our "Christmas Time is Hear" CD, released on the Gothic Label. Since then, it has fallen into the category of "favorites" for our holiday audiences, so we have performed it many times.

The original arrangement is scored for choir, brass, percussion, harp, piano and double bass. The full score and parts of the original version are now being made available through this publication. Also, as part of this publication, I have created a new piano-vocal score so that choirs can also perform the piece successfully with piano accompaniment alone.

I have notated specific parts of the soprano line as solo lines. I originally found it very effective to use a boy soprano on these short solo lines. However, this could also be done by a soprano soloist within the ranks of your choir, or by the whole soprano section.

A special note regarding the piano part:

You will find that the piano part is written at times in a bold format, and at other times in a smaller note format. The sections which are "piano solo" in the original orchestral version are in bold. In the sections that are written in smaller note format, the pianist should tacet when performing the orchestral version. For performances without orchestra, the pianist will play the full score with the exception of bars 46-52, which should be sung a cappella.

Finally, I hope you enjoy this arrangement, and that it puts a holiday smile on the faces of your choir and your holiday audiences. John Alexander



Artistic Director of Pacific Chorale since 1972, **John Alexander** is one of America's most respected choral conductors. His inspired leadership both on the podium and as an advocate for the advancement of the choral art has garnered national and international admiration and acclaim.

Alexander's long and distinguished career has encompassed conducting hundreds of choral and orchestral performances nationally and in 27 countries around the globe. He has prepared choruses for many of the world's most outstanding orchestral conductors.

He is a board member and former president of Chorus America, the service organization for choruses in North America. Alexander also has served on artistic review panels for the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council, and the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.

Alexander retired in spring 2006 from his position as Director of Choral Studies at California State University, Fullerton, having been awarded the honor of Professor Emeritus. From 1970 to 1996, he held the position of Director of Choral Studies at California State University, Northridge.

He is in demand as a teacher, clinician, and adjudicator in festivals, seminars and workshops across the United States. In 2003, Chorus America honored him with the establishment of the "John Alexander Conducting Faculty Chair" for their national conducting workshops.

Alexander is a composer of numerous works and has two choral series, one with Pavane Publishing and another with Hinshaw Music.

Christmas Time Is Here

S.A.T.B., div., opt. soloist, piano, opt. Instrumental Ensemble *

Lee Mendelson

Vince Guaraldi

Arranged by John Alexander

Piano *mf* $\text{♩} = 66$

1 2 3 4

5 *mf* 6 7 8

Christ-mas time is here, hap-pi-ness and cheer,

9 10 11 12

Fun for all that child-ren call their fav-'rite time of year.

13 *(tutti sop.) mp* 14 15 16

Snow-flakes in the air, car-ols ev - 'ry - where.

p

* Instrumental Ensemble Full Score and Parts (Brass, Percussion, Harp and Double Bass) are available separately, P9075

P1532

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S. 17 18 19 20

A. *mp* Ah

T. *mp* Old-en times and an cient rhymes of love and dreams to share.

B. Old-en times and an cient rhymes of love and dreams to share

Detailed description: This block contains the vocal staves for Soprano (S.), Alto (A.), Tenor (T.), and Bass (B.) from measures 17 to 20. The Soprano part begins with a vocalization 'Ah' in measure 17. The Alto and Tenor parts enter in measure 18 with the lyrics 'Old-en times and an cient rhymes of love and dreams to share.' The Bass part has a whole rest in measures 17 and 18, then enters in measure 19 with the same lyrics. The music is in a minor key with a common time signature.

mp Brass/Perc.

Detailed description: This block shows the piano accompaniment for measures 17-20. It features a right-hand part with chords and a left-hand part with a bass line. A 'Brass/Perc.' section is indicated in measure 20. The dynamics are marked 'mp'.

21 22 23 24

mf Sleigh bells in the air, beau-ty ev - 'ry - where.

mf Sleigh bells in the air, beau-ty ev - 'ry - where.

mf Sleigh bells in the air, beau-ty ev - 'ry - where.

mf Sleigh bells in the air, beau-ty ev - 'ry - where.

Detailed description: This block contains the vocal staves for Soprano (S.), Alto (A.), Tenor (T.), and Bass (B.) from measures 21 to 24. All parts sing the lyrics 'Sleigh bells in the air, beau-ty ev - 'ry - where.' The dynamics are marked 'mf'. The Soprano part has a melodic line with a slur over measures 21-24. The Alto and Tenor parts have a similar melodic line. The Bass part provides a harmonic accompaniment.

mf

Detailed description: This block shows the piano accompaniment for measures 21-24. It features a right-hand part with chords and a left-hand part with a bass line. The dynamics are marked 'mf'.

25 *mf* 26 27 28

Yule-tide by the fire-side and joy-ful mem-'ries there.

mp

Ah

mp

Ah

mp

Ah

end tacet

(solo voice, small group or all sopranos)

29 30 31 32

Christ-mas time is here, we'll be draw - ing near.

mp

3

3

33 34 35 36

Oh, that we could al-ways see such spir - it through the year.

3

(tutti sop.)

37 *mf* 38 39 40

Ah *mf*

Ah *mf*

Ah *mf*

Ah *mf*

Brass/Perc *f*

41 42 43 44

45 *mp* 46 47 48

Christ-mas time is here, we'll be draw - ing near.

mp

Christ-mas time Christ-mas time is here, we'll be draw-ing near,...

mp

8 Christ - mas time is here, we'll be draw-ing near.

mp

Christ - mas time is here, we'll be draw-ing near.

p

a cappella - piano for rehearsal only

49 50 51 52

Oh that we could see the spir - it through the year.

Oh, that we could al- ways see such spir - it through the year.

8 Oh, to see such spir - it through the year.

Oh, to see such spir - it through the year.

end a cappella section

53 *p* 54 55 56

Christ-mas time is here.

p

Christ - mas time is here.

harp

57 58 *pp* 59 60

(solo voice)
Christ - mas time is here.

Hmm

pp

Hmm

pp

Hmm

pp

Hmm

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