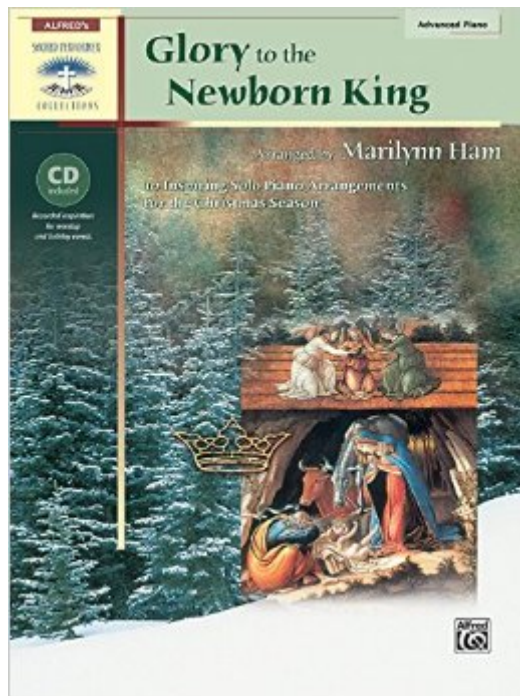


The book was found

Glory To The Newborn King: 10 Inspiring Solo Piano Arrangements For The Christmas Season, Book & CD (Sacred Performer Collections)



Synopsis

Original introductions and postludes, large colorful chords, octave displacement and rubato are infused into these contemporary arrangements of 10 holiday favorites. Titles: Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella * Ding, Dong, Merrily on High * The First Noel * Hark! The Herald Angels Sing * Huron Carol * It Came Upon the Midnight Clear * O Little Town of Bethlehem * Still, Still, Still * Sussex Carol * What Child Is This?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have a quite a collection of Christmas sheet music, from adaptations of carols that sound like Chopin or Handel (fun!), the Guaraldi Charlie Brown Christmas suite to hymnal standards. Marilyn Ham's arrangements, however, are a step above any I've played before. The 10 songs include Hark, The Herald Angels Sing, Sussex Carol, Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabelle, Ding, Dong, Merrily on High' It Came Upon the Midnight Clear, Still, Still, Still, O Little Town of Bethlehem, What Child is This, and a Huron Carol. All of them have a certain structure; generally the introductory page is the familiar carol in a relatively high tessitura (usually at or above Middle C), with simple arrangement, followed by a transition and key change to a more broad arrangement, either keyboard-spanning chords or arpeggio accompaniment (either treble or bass) with the melody in the other hand. The logic of these arrangements is so beautifully thought-out that if you are a moderately advanced

pianist, you can sight-read these with little trouble. If you are below intermediate, you will have a bit of trouble; there are a lot of keyboard-spanning arpeggios and big chords plus key changes requiring quick thinking. However, the openings are playable by any intermediate pianist, even advanced beginner (take a look online at the sample pages to get an idea.) These are beautiful arrangements, well worth learning and they are traditional enough for most church performances as they stay very true to the original melody and harmony. Gorgeous work and pure pleasure to play.

I discovered this Arranger quite by accident and what a great day that was. I typically can fully fill-in nicely, given a one-note melody and a chord, but I wanted something more challenging with harmonies and key changes I might not do on my own. While this was a little over my head technically, I appreciate that I'll get closer each Christmas as I practice, and that when I eventually get close to mastery of these I'll really have accomplished something, and won't be looking for an arrangement just a little better. The CD alone is worth the price of admission, and is helpful in playing without tediously counting to determine the phrasing.

This book is full of lovely arrangements, including many very familiar Christmas songs and one beautiful song I had never heard before (Huron Carol). I am a mediocre piano player (9 years of experience) and can learn one of these songs fairly fast, within about 1 month. The CD is helpful since it allows you to listen to all the songs and choose which one you would like to begin working on first.

Marilynn Ham has been writing arrangements of hymns and sacred songs for years and is very good indeed. Some are quite difficult, but they fit the hands well and can be mastered with a little practise. Highly recommended. Marilynn's arrangements are always interesting and satisfying. She has the knack. She also loves Christmas and has done many such things previously. This is a nice blend of standard Christmas carols and some that are lesser known.

Okay, my review for Marilynn's music is probably very biased because I am one of her piano students. She is an incredible teacher, a gifted composer and arranger and uses her talents to glorify God. Working on her music is challenging and fulfilling. Purchasing any of her books and learning any of her arrangements is very much worth the effort.

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