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COLLECTIONS

EARLY ADVANCED PIANO

Joyful Christmas Medleys

9 Solo Piano Arrangements of Carols with Hymns

Arranged by **Bernadine Johnson**





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There is something magical about Christmas music. My students and I are always excited to begin a season of playing Christmas solos and duets. As I arranged this book of Christmas carols mixed with hymns, I was inspired by how well it worked musically and theologically. A hymn is a song of praise, and the birth of Jesus is certainly a praiseworthy event! I found that my thoughts easily bridged from the jubilant proclamation "O come, let us adore Him" found in "O Come, All Ye Faithful" to "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee." The lyrics "Worship Christ, the newborn King" from "Angels from the Realms of Glory" pair perfectly with the hymn "O Worship the King." As I played through "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (one of the oldest Christmas carols still sung today), it found a perfect partner with "Come, Thou Almighty King" (a hymn from the 18th century).

It is my hope that pianists and audiences find themselves filled with praise through these joyful medleys!

I dedicate this book with the same words used by Johann Sebastian Bach in the epigraph to his *Orgelbüchlein* (*Little Organ Book*): "Dem höchsten Gott allein zu Ehren, / Dem Nächsten draus sich zu belehren" ("To God alone the praise be given, / for what's herein to man's use written").

Bernadine Johnson

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