



# A Festival of Carols

By Randall D. Standridge

## Program Notes

The Christmas season is full of lights, colors, foods, and most importantly...music. The long tradition of Christmas carols is rich in its tapestry of styles, melodies, and overall feeling of good-will. It is from this plethora of songs that I have assembled this medley for young ensembles, *A Festival of Carols*; in this work, you will hear fragments of *O Tannenbaum*, *Good King Wenceslas*, *Joy to The World*, *In Excelsis Deo*, *Deck the Halls*, *Jingle Bells*, *Jolly Old St. Nicholas*, and *Come All Ye Faithful* wrapped up into a neat little present for performers and audiences alike. Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas to all.

## Educational goals of the work:

- Rhythmic stability and vocabulary in 4/4 Time
- Articulation differences between: Tenuto, Accents, Staccatos, Slurs
- Navigating Slight Tempo Changes
- Familiarize performers with the songs included: *O Tannenbaum*, *Good King Wenceslas*, *Joy to The World*, *In Excelsis Deo*, *Deck the Halls*, *Jingle Bells*, *Jolly Old St. Nicholas*, and *Come All Ye Faithful*. While the French Horns will sound a fourth away from the other instruments, the melody sheets were written to be in a more comfortable range for these players.

## Rehearsal suggestions

- The tempo of this work is critical to its character. When planning your preparation, make sure to allow time for proper technical development to achieve the written tempos, lest the work come off as "boring."
- The percussion should be on the slightly louder side of the balance spectrum. Please do not "hide" them. However, they should not cover the ensemble.
- Please use the COPYABLE melody sheets to help work with your students on their knowledge of the carols and to provide all players with melodic opportunities, which is ESSENTIAL to their development.**



## About the Composer

Randall Standridge (b.1976) received his Bachelor of Music Education from Arkansas State University. During this time, he studied composition with Dr. Tom O'Connor, before returning to Arkansas State University to earn his Master's in Music Composition, studying with Dr. Tom O'Connor and Dr. Tim Crist. From 2001 to 2013, he served as the Director of Bands at Harrisburg High School in Harrisburg, Arkansas.

Mr. Standridge is currently published by Grand Mesa Music, Alfred Music, FJH Music, Wingert-Jones Music, BandWorks Publications, Twin Towers Music, and Northeastern Music Publications. Mr. Standridge has had several of his pieces performed internationally, and has had numerous works selected to the J.W. Pepper's Editor's Choice and Bandworld Top 100 lists. His composition *Snake Charmer*, published by Grand Mesa Music, is included in *Teaching Music through Performance in Band Vol. 8*, and his work *Gently Blows the Summer Wind*, also published by Grand Mesa Music, is included in *Teaching Music through Performance in Middle School Band*. He has had several works performed at the Midwest Music Clinic in Chicago, IL. His work *Art(isms)* was premiered by the Arkansas State University Wind Ensemble at the 2010 CBDNA conference in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Mr. Standridge is also a contributing composer for Alfred Music's *Sound Innovations: Ensemble Development* series. His music is gaining recognition as worthwhile literature for concert festivals and performances across the United States and internationally.

In addition to his career as a composer, Mr. Standridge is the Marching Band Editor for Grand Mesa Music Publishers. He is in demand as a conductor, clinician, drill designer, composer, and music arranger for the marching arts. He is also a freelance artist, photographer, and writer. He lives in Jonesboro, AR with his family.

For more information about Mr. Standridge, visit his website at: [www.randallstandridge.com](http://www.randallstandridge.com)























This musical score is for a piece titled "A Festival of Carols". It is arranged for a large ensemble of instruments and percussion. The score is written in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature (C). The instruments included are:

- Flute (Fl.)
- Oboe (Ob.)
- Clarinets 1 and 2 (Cl. 1-2)
- Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.)
- Alto Saxophone (A. Sx.)
- Tenor Saxophone (T. Sx.)
- Bass Saxophone (B. Sx.)
- Trumpets 1 and 2 (Tpt. 1-2)
- Horn (Hn.)
- Trumpet, Euphonium, and Bass Trombone (Tr., Euph., Bssn.)
- Tuba
- Mallets 1 (Mal. 1)
- Mallets 2 (Mal. 2)
- Timpani (Timp.)
- Percussion 1/2 (Perc. 1/2)
- Percussion 3 (Perc. 3)
- Percussion 4 (Perc. 4)

The score spans measures 61 to 67. A large, diagonal watermark reading "FOR PREVIEW ONLY" is overlaid across the entire page. Performance markings include dynamics such as *fp* (fortissimo piano) and *f* (forte), and articulation marks like accents and slurs. A "Div." (diviso) marking is present at the end of measure 67. A "Tam-Tam" instrument is indicated in measure 63. A "(Ch.)" marking is present in measure 67. The page number "11" is located in the top right corner.