

# A Merrie Olde Christmas

Featuring The Holly and the Ivy; God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen; and The First Nowell

TRADITIONAL BRITISH CAROLS
Arranged by DOUGLAS E. WAGNER (ASCAP)

### **INSTRUMENTATION**

- 1 Conductor
- 8 Flute
- 2 Oboe
- 2 Bassoon
- 4 1st B<sup>1</sup> Clarinet
- 4 2nd Bb Clarinet
- 2 Bb Bass Clarinet
- 5 El Alto Saxophone
- 2 Bl-Tenor Saxophone
- 2 Eb Baritone Saxophone
- 4 1st B<sup>1</sup>, Trumpet
- 4 2nd Bb Trumpet

- 4 F Horn
- 4 Trombone
- 2 Baritone
- 2 Baritone Treble Clef
- 4 Tuba
- 1 Mallet Percussion
  (Bells)
- 1 Timpani (Tune: C, F)
- 2 Percussion 1 (Snare Drum, Bass Drum
- 3 Percussion 2 (Sleigh Bells/Triangle/Suspended Cymbr

#### WORLD PARTS

Available for download from www.alfred.com/worldparts

Horn in Ell Trombone in Blass Clef

Trombone in Bb Bass Clef Baritone in Bb Bass Clef

Tuba in E Bass Clef
Tuba in E Treble Clef

Tuba in B<sub>b</sub> Bass Clef

Tuba in B♭Treble Clef

### PROGRAM NOTES

It is difficult to disagree with the fact that Queen Victoria, aided by Prince Albert, was responsible for bringing Christmas and all of its various traditions into the mainstream culture of the time. Cards were first exchanged, lavish feasting took place, and homes and businesses were decorated extravagantly. No tradition, however, was as all-embracing for the season than that of carol singing, which in England in the mid-19th century was a staple of all holiday gatherings of family and friends.

So to celebrate Christmas now, as the traditions began several centuries ago, here is a colorful medley of carels in contemporary treatments that were popular in Victorian England. In order of appearance, you will hear "The Holly and the lwy," God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen," and "The First Nowell"—joyous music for the happiest time of the year.

#### **NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR**

Repeated eighth notes in the opening and closing sections should be tongued lightly (and slightly detached) to avoid a plodding rhythmic accompaniment that will tend to impede the forward motion and compromise the style. Except for the last two measures, the tempo remains constant throughout, making for easy transitions. Keep the dynamics controlled as indicated, beginning the arrangement with a true mezzo-piano that allows for subtle music increments along the way.

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