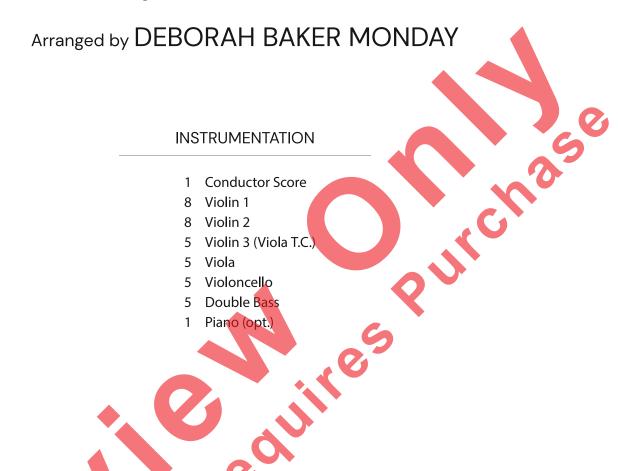
## TWO FRENCH CAROLS

Besançon and Venez Divin Messie







## THE ARRANGER

Deborah Baker Monday is a retired string educator and low string specialist following a 25-year tenure in the award-winning Logan City, Utah orchestra program. Her studies in composition and experience in string teaching combine to make her one of the leading contributors to the repertoire for young string players. She received her B.M.E. Magna Cum Laude from Florida State University with an emphasis in string education. She was awarded an academic fellowship to attend the University of Alabama where she received her M.M. in Composition. During that time, she was a bassist with the Meridian Symphony and the Tupelo Symphony Orchestra. She continued her studies at Louisiana State University where she received the Chancellor's Award to participate with the LSU Symphony Orchestra under the direction

of James Yestadt. She studied theory and composition with Harold Schiffman, John Boda, Frederic Goossen, Paul Hedwall, and Dino Constantinides.

Ms. Monday has over 150 original and arranged works, many of which have been honored as J.W. Pepper Editors' Choice selections and have been selected for many state required music lists. She has received awards for Outstanding Elementary Educator and Superior Accomplishment from UtahASTA and UtahMEA respectively. In 2006 and 2011, Ms. Monday was the winner of the UtahASTA Composition Contest. She continues to accept commissions regularly.

Ms. Monday has presented at many state music conferences throughout the United States as well as numerous national ASTA conferences, The Midwest Clinic, the Ohio State Summer String Workshop, and the Florida Orchestra Association. She is active as a clinician, guest conductor and adjudicator. She and her husband Bill have four amazing children.

## ABOUT THE MUSIC

Besançon (also known as "Carol of the Bells" or "Chantons, je vous en prie") originates from the region of Franche–Comté in eastern France, specifically around the town of Besançon. This carol, dating back to the 17th century, is a popular Christmas song that has been passed down through generations. Its melody is lively and simple, making it easy to remember and sing, which likely contributed to its widespread popularity. The tune was adapted in the early 20th century by British composer George Ratcliffe Woodward, who introduced it to English–speaking audiences, helping to cement its place in the broader Christmas carol tradition.

Venez, Divin Messie is a French Advent carol that also comes from the 17th century. The lyrics, written in a prayerful and reverent tone, are full of hope and faith, capturing the essence of the Advent season. The carol has remained popular in France and in French-speaking regions, often sung during Advent services and Christmas celebrations.

In this arrangement, the melodies flow easily from one to the other. The hooked bowing helps keep the bow in the ideal placement and make for a smoother tone. In fact, if hooked bowing is a new skill, then this piece will be a fun tutorial!

-Deborah Baker Monday

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Arranged by DEBORAH BAKER MONDAY















