

Kjos String Orchestra
Grade 3
Full Conductor Score
SO506F

R. Scott Whittington, Arr.

Christmas of Kings

(Good King Wenceslas/We Three Kings)



Neil A. Kjos Music Company • *Publisher*



The Arranger



R. Scott Whittington is a graduate of the Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto, where he pursued studies in arranging, orchestration, conducting, and music pedagogy. He has been actively engaged in multiple fields of adult and youth music education for over 30 years. Scott is a widely published composer in the United States with 140 compositions and commissions to his credit. His publishers include Neil A. Kjos Music Company, Excelcia, FJH, Grand Mesa Strings, Kendor Music Publishing, Keiser Southern Music, LudwigMasters, MSB Publishing, Tempo Press, and Wingert-Jones Publications. Whittington writes for string orchestra, full orchestra, concert band, choir, chamber ensembles, and the stage. His work has a contemporary and fresh feel to it, with a leaning toward strong melody and catchy rhythmic content. Scott is a member of the Canadian League of Composers (CLC) and the Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada (SOCAN).

The Composition

Christmas of Kings shines a fun and festive light on kings, a fundamental facet of most annual Yuletide celebrations. It is in this work that players and audiences revisit two well-loved classics, **Good King Wenceslas** and **We Three Kings**.

The tune we know as **Good King Wenceslas** was popular during the 13th century in Medieval times, and in those days, it was a springtime song that celebrated nature's powers of renewal. Fast forward to the mid-1800s, Englishman John Mason Neale added new lyrics to the melody, paying homage to Wenceslas.

Wenceslas was a duke from what is now Czechia. He lived during the tenth century and was known for his kindness and generosity to the poor. His story, as it is told in the carol, is about a journey he took, braving cold temperatures and deep snow to give alms to a poor peasant on the Feast of Stephen (December 26). Because of Wenceslas' exemplary deeds during his lifetime, he earned the posthumous title of king.

The composer of music and lyrics for **We Three Kings** was American clergyman John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1792-1868). He composed the carol for the 1857 Christmas pageant in New York City. It became the first American-penned Christmas carol to attain widespread popularity in the United States. It was intended as an Epiphany carol – to be sung towards the end of the 12 days of Christmas. The three kings are the three wise men who brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the newborn baby. Much loved for its storytelling, religious symbolism, and haunting melody, its minor quality gives it a rather mystical character.

Instrumentation List (Set C)

- 8 – 1st Violin
- 8 – 2nd Violin
- 5 – Viola
- 5 – Cello
- 5 – String Bass
- 1 – Orchestra Bells
- 1 – Piano (Optional – for rehearsal)
- 1 – Full Conductor Score

Additional scores and parts are available.

To hear a recording of this piece or any other Kjos publication, go to www.kjos.com.

6 7 pizz. 8 9 10

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Bells

Pno.

mp

pizz.

mp

11 arco 12 13 14 15

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Bells

Pno.

arco

arco non div.

arco

arco 3 1 2 4

div.

tr

4 2 4

16 17 18 19 5

Vlns. 1 (tr) *mf*

Vlns. 2 *mf* *f*

Vla. *mf*

Cello *f*

Str. Bass arco *mf*

Bells

Pno. *mf*

20 21 22 23 24

Vlns. 1 *f*

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Bells *f*

Pno.

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for 'Christmas of Kings', identified by the code SO506F. The score is arranged for a string quartet (Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass), Bells, and Piano. The music is in 3/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers measures 16 through 19, with a measure rest of 5 measures indicated above measure 19. The second system covers measures 20 through 24. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *f* (forte). Performance instructions include *arco* for the string bass and a trill (*tr*) for the first violin in measure 16. The score concludes with repeat signs at the end of measures 24 and 25.

a little slower

25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Vlns. 1 *mp* *mf*

Vlns. 2 *mp* *mf*

Vla. *mp* *f espress.*

Cello *mp* *mf*

Str. Bass *mp* *mf*

Bells *mp*

Pno. *mp* *f espress.*

32 33 34 35 36 37 38 Joyfully 39

Vlns. 1 *mf* *f*

Vlns. 2 *mf* *f*

Vla. *mf* *f*

Cello *f*

Str. Bass *f*

Bells *f*

Pno. *mf* *f*

38 Joyfully

46 Lively (♩ = 125)⁷

40 41 42 43 44 45

1 Vlns. *mp*

2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Bells

46 Lively (♩ = 125)

1st Vln. solo cue *mp*

47 48 49 50 tutti 51 52

1 Vlns. *mp* *mf*

2 *mp* *mf*

Vla. *mp*

Cello *mp* *mf*

Str. Bass *mf*

Bells *mf*

Pno. *mp* *mf*

viola solo cue

cello solo cue

Play

53 54 55 56 57 58 2

Vlins. 1 *mp leggiero*

Vlins. 2

Vla. *tutti* *mf* *mp*

Cello *mp*

Str. Bass *mp*

Bells

Pno. *mp*

58

59 60 61 62 63

Vlins. 1 *mf* *div.*

Vlins. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Cello *mf*

Str. Bass *mf*

Bells

Pno. *mf*

poco rall. . . . 66 A tempo (♩ = 125)

Musical score for measures 64-68. The score includes staves for Vlns. 1 & 2, Vla., Cello, Str. Bass, Bells, and Pno. The tempo is marked 'poco rall.' and 'A tempo (♩ = 125)'. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The score features various dynamics including *f* and *ff*. A large 'SAMPLE' watermark is overlaid on the page.

poco rall. . . . 66 A tempo (♩ = 125)

molto rit. . . . 70 Majestically

Musical score for measures 69-74. The score includes staves for Vlns. 1 & 2, Vla., Cello, Str. Bass, Bells, and Pno. The tempo is marked 'molto rit.' and 'Majestically'. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The score features various dynamics including *ff*. A large 'SAMPLE' watermark is overlaid on the page.

molto rit. . . . 70 Majestically

75 76 77

Vlins. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Bells

Pno.

78 79 80

molto rit.

div.

pizz.

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SO506F - Christmas of Kings