Some Cozy Christmas Piano

Phil Larson

ON LINE

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Foreword

More often than I'd like to admit, I have found myself in the middle of the Christmas season completely overwhelmed by all the wrong things. Before I know it, Christmas has become overrun by busy schedules and overcommitments. I find myself overwhelmed by the anxieties of trying to meet unrealistic expectations. This happens when I lose sight of the importance of slowing down and settling in to the here and now. When I become overwhelmed by all the wrong things, I become underwhelmed by any significant meaning that could be found in this significantly meaningful season. I don't feel grounded, settled, or "home." Recognizing this tendency of mine is a good first step towards developing newer, healthier approaches to the season.

For the majority of my most formative years, I was fortunate to call a small, friendly church "home." Sundays were full of laughter and lively conversation. However, I most vividly remember our Christmas Eve services, which were anything but lively. Escaping the deep, dark winters of Minnesota, I would enter the dim and warm candle-lit sanctuary. It was cozy; it was home. There, sprinkled throughout the pews, were the safe faces Lhad grown to trust. There were smiles and nods to welcome all who entered, but no one talked. Shadows from all the candles slowly danced through the room while meaningful music softly played. Since my parents lead the music, we got there early and I was able to slowly settle in. While we waited for the service to start, there was expectancy without urgency. Every Christmas Eve, I was invited to rediscover peace and given the opportunity to settle into the sacredness of that night. I was calm and found meaning. I was overwhelmed by all the right things.

During the Christmas season, remembering what slows my mind and body down is vital to how I engage with it. These are things that help me: slowing down my breathing, recalling memories where I found peace and felt safe, and playing music softly, slowly, and meaningfully. I'm able to refocus my attention on the here and now of the season. It brings me home to myself.

It is my hope that these little arrangements of these big carols bring you home to yourself. Play them in a way that brings you meaning. Take your time; there's no rush. Settle in to this season and allow yourself to become overwhelmed by all the right things.

—Phil Larson

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Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Arranged by **Phil Larson**Tune: MENDELSSOHN
by **Felix Mendelssohn**, 1840





Silent Night! Holy Night!



Duration: 2:10

LAL



O Holy Night

Arranged by **Phil Larson**Tune: CANTIQUE DE NOEL
by **Adolphe C. Adam**, 1847



Duration: 4:00



Carol of the Bells

Arranged by **Phil Larson** Tune: Ukrainian Bell Carol by **Mykola Leontovych**, 1914









Duration: 3:00

Deck the Halls

Arranged by **Phil Larson** Traditional Welsh Carol



Jingle Bells

Arranged by **Phil Larson** by **James L. Pierpont**, 1857



Duration: 4:00





What Child Is This?

Arranged by Phil Larson Tune: GREENSLEEVES

