

PEPPER CHOPLIN

# *Christmas Gifts from the Piano*

A Delightful Array of Christmas Carols

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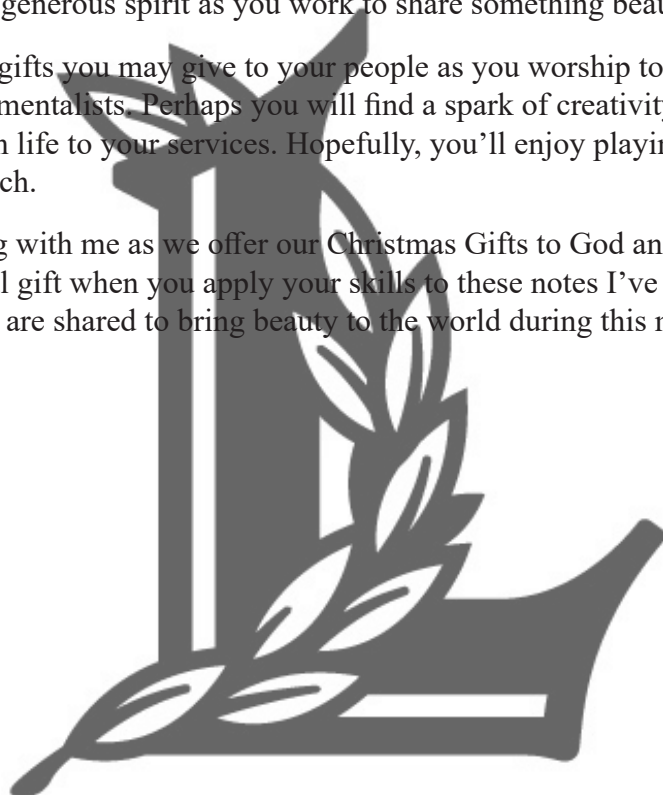
## *Foreword*

Thank you for playing Christmas Gifts from the Piano. I titled this book while thinking of you and all the blessings you bring to your churches. Each week, you take time to prepare and offer your gifts to God and your congregations. I've personally worked with so many of you over the years. Without exception, I've sensed a generous spirit as you work to share something beautiful with your church.

These arrangements are gifts you may give to your people as you worship together. But they are also my gifts to you as instrumentalists. Perhaps you will find a spark of creativity here that will feed and inspire you to bring fresh life to your services. Hopefully, you'll enjoy playing them in your living room as much as in church.

Thank you for partnering with me as we offer our Christmas Gifts to God and our congregations. You give me a wonderful gift when you apply your skills to these notes I've worked so hard to write. Through you, my efforts are shared to bring beauty to the world during this most blessed season.

—Pepper Choplin



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**Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming** – Do you hear the rose blooming in the ascending lines? Allow them to blossom and open up into the melody. The ostinato of the LH should be played smoothly and close to the keys. Let the syncopated figures (ex. m.11) be articulated precisely to help them speak. Enjoy the echoes of m.12-14.

**Silent Night** – I consider the repeating G as a tone of peace and calm. You may think of it as a soft rocking or a reassuring pat on a baby's back. The figure continues until it swells into heartfelt gratitude at m.51. Then the G returns as the music gradually retreats to its whispering completion.

Remember to enjoy your music-making as you offer your *Christmas Gifts from the Piano*.

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STILLE NACHT • MUELLER	

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# Angels We Have Heard on High

Pepper Choplin

Tune: GLORIA

Traditional French Carol

Lively a la Brubeck ♩=132

mf

5

9

f

13

mf

f

Duration: 3:15

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17



21

*f* *mf* *f*



25



29



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33

*f* *mf*



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92

92 93 94 95

96

96 97 98

*f* *mf*

99

99 100 101

*f* *mf*

102

102 103 104

*rit. poco a poco*  
*mp*

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105

105 106 107

*p*

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For my wife, Heather with one of her favorite carols

# The Friendly Beasts

Pepper Choplin

Tune: ORIENTUS PATRIBUS  
12th century French Melody

Relaxed and intimate ♩ = 88

5

9 *Jesus, our brother, kind and good, was humbly born in a stable rude...*

13

*mp*

Duration: 3:20

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17

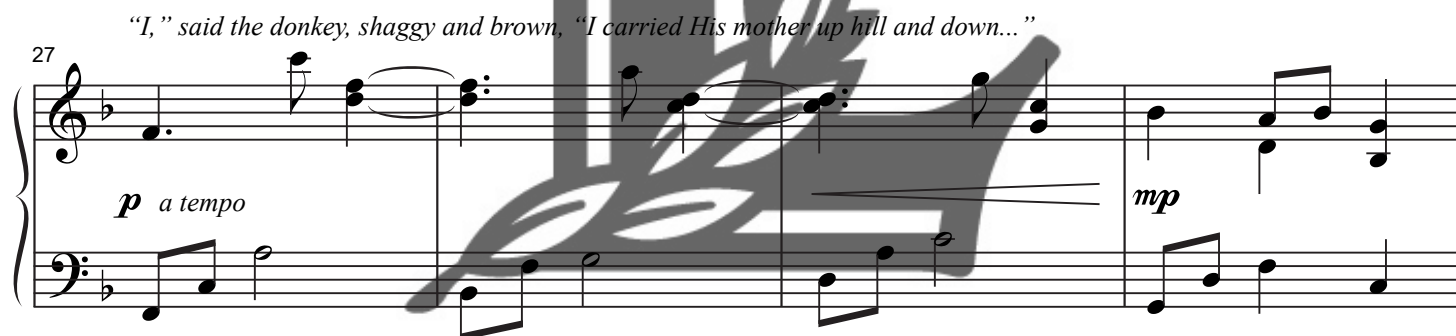


22



27

*"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown, "I carried His mother up hill and down..."*



31



35



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*Dedicated to my loyal and supportive husband, Ron  
In celebration of our 45 years of marriage  
By Mary Porter Brown*

# I Saw Three Ships

*"And all the bells on earth shall ring,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day."*

**Pepper Choplin**

Tune: I SAW THREE SHIPS  
Traditional English Carol

With Celtic energy ♩. = 88



Duration: 2:50

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21

*f*

26

31

*mp*

36

*mf*

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41

*mp*

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*Dedicated to our loving mother, Patricia Yvonne Christopher  
from her children, Sharon, Roberta, Robert and Michael*

## It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

*"The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing."*

**Pepper Choplin**

Tune: CAROL

by Richard S. Willis (1819–1900)

Very freely ♩ = 63

*p*

*rit.*

*a tempo*  
*mp*

*cresc.*

*mf*

*poco rit.*

Duration: 3:15

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54

*moving forward*

*mf*

57

*cresc.*

*f* *rit.* *dim.*

60

*mp*

Tempo I ♩ = 63

64

*p* *rit.* *pp*

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*Dedicated with joy and thanksgiving to all who minister through music*

*At Seaside United Methodist Church, Sunset Beach, NC*

*Kathryn Parker, Minister of Music*

# Joy to the World

*When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. (Matthew 2:10)*

**Pepper Choplin**

Tune: ANTIOCH

by G.F. Handel (1685–1759)

With vigorous joy ♩ = 80

mf

4

f

mf

8

f

12

mf

Duration: 2:35

In honor of our wonderful mother and grandmother, Helen K. Roland  
 Celebrating her legacy of love as a pianist and lifelong choir member  
 As we sing, play, and teach music.

## Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

*This Flower, whose fragrance tender  
 With sweetness fills the air,  
 Dispels with glorious splendor  
 The darkness everywhere;*

**Pepper Choplin**

Tune: ES IST EIN ROS'

Traditional German Carol, 15th c.

With a smooth rhythm ♩ = 92

*p*  
*with pedal*

*mp*

*mf*

*mp* *p* *mf*

Duration: 3:15

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As before ♩ = 92

77



81

8va -

*p*



84

(8va) -

*rit. poco a poco*



87

*slowly*

*r.h.*

*pp*



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In memory of Dorothy Jane "Janie" Bostick and her service as  
Pianist at First Baptist Church, Wilson and Music Chair at Barton College  
With gratitude by members of her church family

## Silent Night with Away in a Manger

Pepper Choplin

Tunes: STILLE NACHT,

by Franz Grüber (1787–1863) and

MUELLER, by James R. Murray (1841–1905)

Gently ♩=74

pp

p

6

mp

11

poco accel.

a tempo

16

mp

p

Duration: 3:40