

Christmas Music Lessons

By Craig Cassils

December music classes can be challenging, especially in the days following your holiday concert. This is a collection of lessons and activities based on nine familiar Christmas carols. Each song is notated for vocals, soprano recorder in two parts, Boomwhackers in two parts, a variety of percussion instruments, and with chords provided for ukulele (or guitar). All parts can be used together and also work in any combination. Each song comes with a vocal track and an orchestrated accompaniment track. A slower accompaniment track is given for Boomwhacker play alongs. Reproducible and Projectable lyrics are included so the songs could be used in a performance or a school holiday sing along. The activities include naming notes, writing notes, recognizing rhythms, creating new melodies, as well as fun games and word puzzles based on the lyrics of the carols and the song information.

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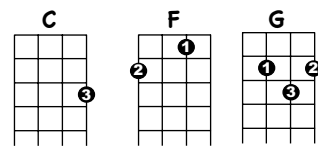
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Themes & Variations

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1. African Noel - Recorder, Ukulele

2 Bar intro



C F G C C F G C

Sing No-el, sing No-el, No-el, No-el. Sing No-el, sing No-el, No-el, No-el.

This system contains two staves of music. The top staff has a treble clef and a common time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes and eighth notes. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment with a similar rhythmic pattern. Chord letters C, F, G, C, C, F, G, C are placed above the first staff.

C F G C C F G C

Sing No-el, sing No-el, No-el, No-el. Sing No-el, sing No-el, No-el, No-el.

This system contains two staves of music, similar to the first system. Chord letters C, F, G, C, C, F, G, C are placed above the first staff.

C

Sing we all No-el. Sing we all No-el. Sing we all No-el. Sing we all No-el.

No-el! No-el! No-el! No-el!

This system contains two staves of music. The top staff has a treble clef and a common time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes and eighth notes. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment with a similar rhythmic pattern. A single chord letter C is placed above the first staff.

C F G C C F G C

Sing No-el, sing No-el, No-el, No-el. Sing No-el, sing No-el, No-el, No-el.

This system contains two staves of music, similar to the first system. Chord letters C, F, G, C, C, F, G, C are placed above the first staff.

Note re vocal version: If you are singing this, it repeats, and add the harmony part on the repeat.

1. African Noel - Boomwhackers

2 Bar intro

Part 1

Sing No - el, sing No - el, No - el, No - el. _____

Part 2

Sing No - el, sing No - el, No - el, No - el. _____

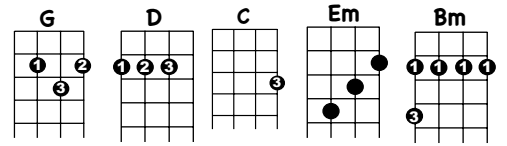
Sing No - el Sing No - el No - el No - el. _____

Sing No - el, sing No - el, No - el, No - el. _____

Sing No - el Sing No - el No - el No - el. _____

Sing No - el, sing No - el, No - el, No - el. _____

2. Jolly Old St. Nicholas - Recorder, Ukulele G



4 Bar intro

G D Emin Bmin

Jol - ly old St. Nich - o - las, lean your ear this way.

C G D

Don't you tell a sin - gle soul, what I'm going to say.

G D Emin Bmin

Christ - mas eve is com - ing soon, now you dear old man.

C G D G

Whis - per what you'll bring to me, tell me if you can.

2. When the clock is striking twelve,
When I'm fast asleep
Down the chimney, broad and black,
With your pack you'll creep
All the stockings you will find
Hanging in a row
Mine will be the shortest one,
You'll be sure to know

3. Bobby wants a pair of skates,
Suzy wants a sled
Nellie wants a picture book,
Yellow, blue, and red
Now I think I'll leave to you
What to give the rest
Choose for me, dear Santa Claus;
You will know the best.

3. Up on the Housetop - Percussion

2 Bar intro

Musical score for the first system, labeled "2 Bar intro". It consists of three staves: Triangle, Jingle Bells, and Tic-Toc Block. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The Triangle part has a whole note in the first bar and a half note in the second bar. The Jingle Bells part has a quarter note in the first bar and a quarter note in the second bar. The Tic-Toc Block part has a quarter note in the first bar and a quarter note in the second bar.

Musical score for the second system, labeled "2 Bar intro". It consists of three staves: Trgl., JB, and TTB. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The Trgl. part has a whole note in the first bar and a half note in the second bar. The JB part has a quarter note in the first bar and a quarter note in the second bar. The TTB part has a quarter note in the first bar and a quarter note in the second bar.

Musical score for the third system, labeled "2 Bar intro". It consists of three staves: Trgl., JB, and TTB. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The Trgl. part has a whole note in the first bar and a half note in the second bar. The JB part has a quarter note in the first bar and a quarter note in the second bar. The TTB part has a quarter note in the first bar and a quarter note in the second bar.

4. Joy to the World - Activities

Rearrange these groups (measures) of rhythms in the space below.



Unscramble these words.

1. ORDLW _____
2. DOLR _____
3. ETRAH _____
4. VECEERI _____
5. NGKI _____
6. RHETA _____
7. EARPPRE _____
8. ORMO _____
9. EAVHNE _____
10. TUENAR _____
11. INSG _____

1. world
2. Lord
3. earth
4. receive
5. King
6. earth
7. prepare
8. room
9. heaven
10. nature
11. sing

5. Jingle Bells - Activities

Sort these 8 phrases into the right order for Jingle Bells. Write the number in the box to show the correct order.
Hint: start with the rhythm for "Dashing through the snow..." as number 1.

| ♪ ♪ ♪. ♪ | ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ | ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ | ♪

| ♪ ♪ ♪. ♪ | ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ | ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ | ♪ ♪

| ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ | ♪. ♪ ♪ | ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ | ♪ ♪

| ♪ ♪ ♪ | ♪ ♪ ♪ | ♪ ♪ ♪. ♪ | ♪

| ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ | ♪ | ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ | ♪

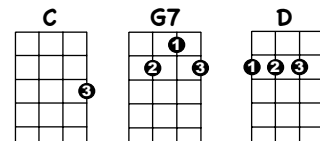
| ♪ ♪ ♪. ♪ | ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ | ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ | ♪

| ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ | ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ | ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ | ♪ ♪

| ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ | ♪ | ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ | ♪

6. Christmas Chopsticks - Recorder, Ukulele

4 Bar intro



G7 C G7

'Twas thenight be-fore Christ-mas, and all through the house, not a crea-ture was

C G7 C

stir-ring, not e-ven a mouse. All the stock-ings were hung by the chim-ney with

G7 C G7

care, in the hopes that St. Nich-o-las soon would be there. He's bring-ing

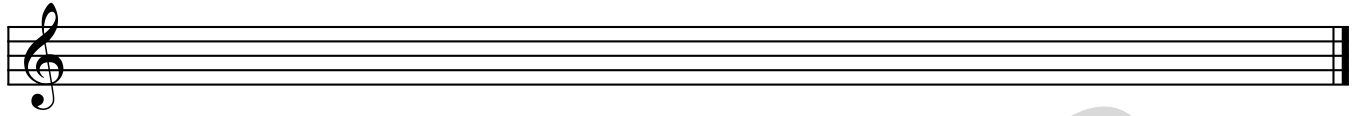
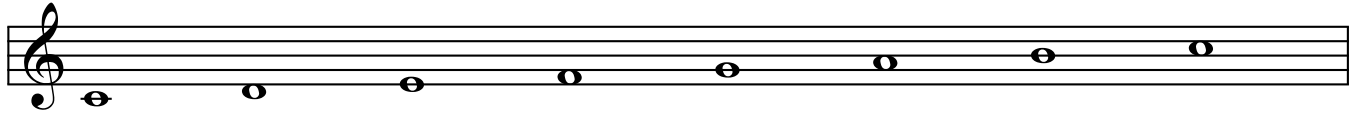
C G7 C

lots of toys _____ for girls _____ and boys. _____

The musical score consists of four systems of two staves each. Each system includes a vocal line and a guitar accompaniment line. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. Chord symbols (G7, C) are placed above the guitar staff at the beginning of each system. The final system includes blank lines for the lyrics "lots of toys _____ for girls _____ and boys. _____".

6. Christmas Chopsticks - Activities

Chopsticks is based on the C scale. First name the notes in the scale, then write them on the staff.

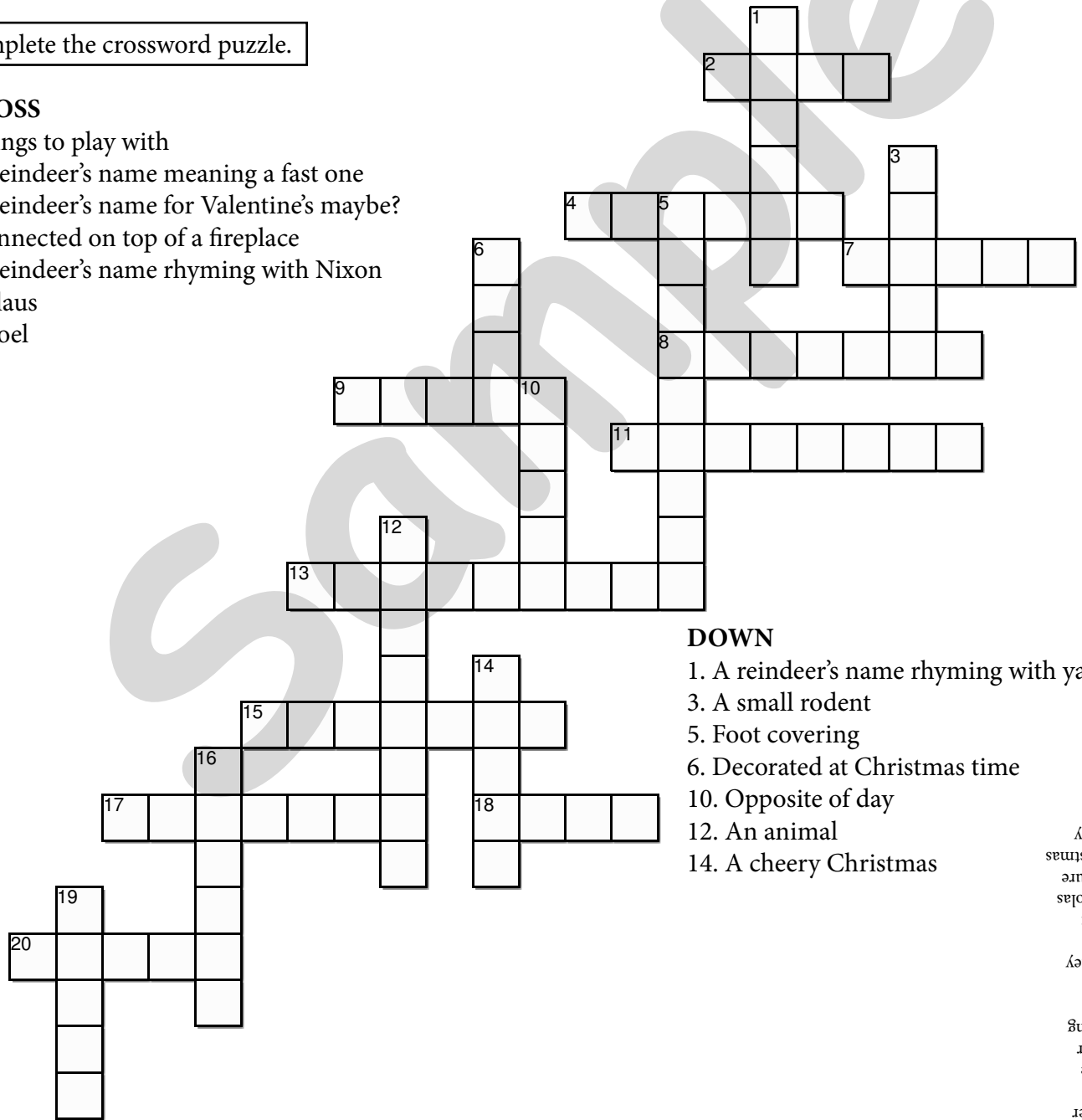


C D E F G A B C

Complete the crossword puzzle.

ACROSS

- 2. Things to play with
- 4. A reindeer's name meaning a fast one
- 7. A reindeer's name for Valentine's maybe?
- 8. Connected on top of a fireplace
- 9. A reindeer's name rhyming with Nixon
- 11. Claus
- 13. Noel



DOWN

- 1. A reindeer's name rhyming with yawner
- 3. A small rodent
- 5. Foot covering
- 6. Decorated at Christmas time
- 10. Opposite of day
- 12. An animal
- 14. A cheery Christmas

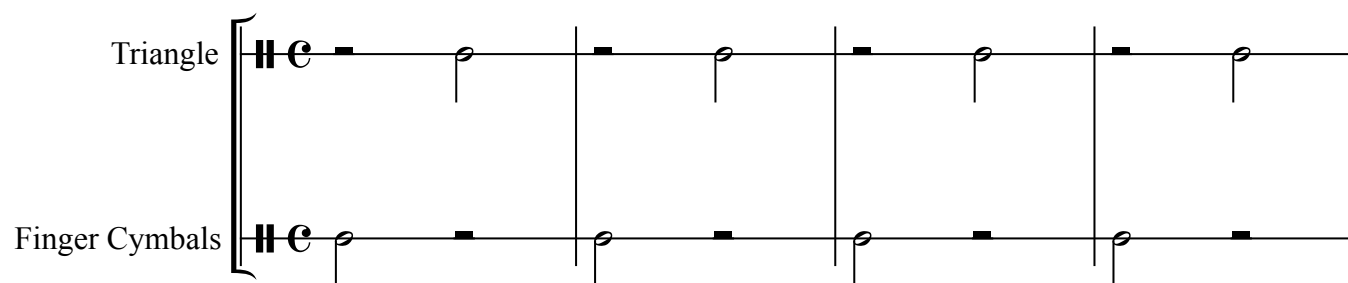
- 1. Donner
- 2. toys
- 3. mouse
- 4. Dasher
- 5. stocking
- 6. tree
- 7. Cupid
- 8. chimney
- 9. Vixen
- 10. night
- 11. Nicholas
- 12. creature
- 13. Christmas
- 14. Merry

7. D'où viens-tu bergère? - Percussion

2 Bar intro

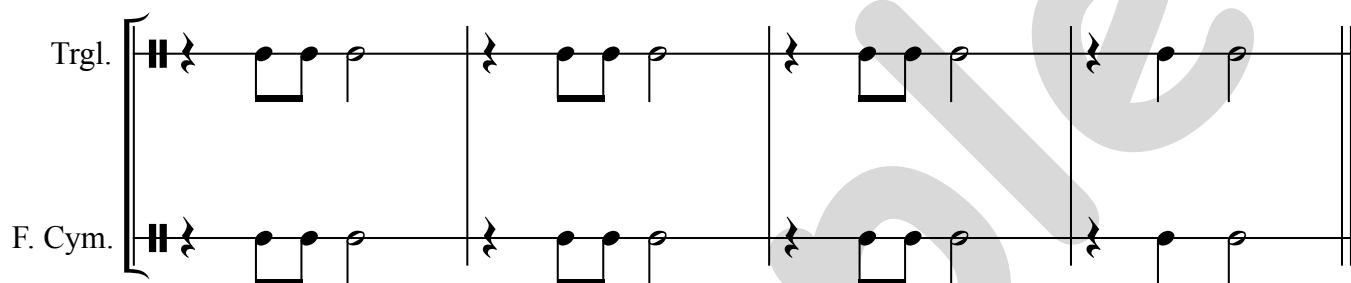
Triangle

Finger Cymbals



Trgl.

F. Cym.



1. African Noel - Lyrics

Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel.
Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel.
Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel.
Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel.
Sing we all Noel.
Sing we all Noel.
Sing we all Noel.
Sing we all Noel.
Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel.
Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel. 2x

2. Jolly Old Saint Nicholas

Jolly old Saint Nicholas,
Lean your ear this way!
Don't you tell a single soul
What I'm going to say:
Christmas Eve is coming soon;
Now, you dear old man
Whisper what you'll bring to me;
Tell me if you can.

When the clock is striking twelve,
When I'm fast asleep
Down the chimney, broad and black,
With your pack you'll creep
All the stockings you will find
Hanging in a row
Mine will be the shortest one,
You'll be sure to know

Bobby wants a pair of skates,
Suzy wants a sled
Nellie wants a picture book,
Yellow, blue, and red
Now I think I'll leave to you
What to give the rest
Choose for me, dear Santa Claus;
You will know the best.

3. Up on the Housetop

Up on the housetop reindeer pause,
Out jumps Good Old Santa Claus
Down through the chimney with lots of toys
All for the little ones, Christmas joys
Ho, ho ho! Who wouldn't go?
Ho, ho ho! Who wouldn't go?
Up on the housetop, click, click, click,
Down through the chimney with old Saint Nick

First comes the stocking of little Nell
Oh, dear Santa fill it well
Give her a dolly that laughs and cries
One that will open and shut its eyes
Oh, ho, ho! Who wouldn't go?
Oh, ho, ho! Who wouldn't go?
Up on the housetop, click, click, click,
Down through the chimney with old Saint Nick

4. Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come.
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy