



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Easy Piano Sheet Music

15th-c. French chant, adapted by Thomas Helmore

Level 2 | Full score, fingering, practice tips

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O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Key	Time Signature	Tempo	Difficulty	Measures
E minor	4/4 (one 2/4)	Andante, 80 BPM	Beginner - Level 2	19

About This Piece

VENI EMMANUEL comes from a 15th-century French processional chant adapted by Thomas Helmore (died 1890). Our pitches come from his Hymnal Noted, Part II (London: Novello), No. 65, printed in plainsong notation a tone lower; the title page of the copy we read is dated 1856. The note values follow Hymns Ancient & Modern (Novello, 1861), No. 36, music edited by W. H. Monk (died 1889), whose 59 notes all match Helmore's pitches. We halved the values, so half notes become quarter notes, and kept the short 2/4 bar 16 as printed in 1861. The text by J. M. Neale (died 1866) is not printed here.

Notes and Hand Positions

Fingering Guide

Right Hand: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5

Pickup and measures 1-3: thumb on E4, 2 on G4, 3 on A4, 4 on B4, 5 on C5. The hand moves on the long notes: one step down from the end of measure 3, to D4-A4 for measures 6-9, back to the opening shape in measure 9, and up to D5 for the refrain.

Left Hand: E3, G3, A3, B3 (single notes, one or two per measure)

One position for the whole piece: pinky on E3, 3 on G3, 2 on A3, thumb on B3. Silent on the pickup.

Notes Used in This Piece

Right Hand

Note	On the Staff	On the Keyboard	Finger
D4	Space below treble staff	Between C# and D# black keys	Thumb (1)
E4	Bottom line of treble staff	Right of two black keys above C4	Index (2)
F#4	First space, sharp in key sig.	Black key between F4 and G4	Middle (3)
G4	Second line of treble staff	Between F# and G# black keys	Index (2)
A4	Second space of treble staff	Between G# and A# black keys	Middle (3)
B4	Middle line of treble staff	Right of the three black keys	Ring (4)
C5	Third space of treble staff	One octave above middle C	Pinky (5)
D5	Fourth line of treble staff	Between two black keys above C5	Pinky (5)

Left Hand

Note	On the Staff	On the Keyboard	Finger
E3	Third space of bass staff	Right of two black keys below C4	Pinky (5)
G3	Fourth space of bass staff	Between F# and G# black keys	Middle (3)
A3	Top line of bass staff	Between G# and A# black keys	Index (2)
B3	Space above bass staff	White key just left of middle C	Thumb (1)

Section A - The Verse (Pickup and measures 1-12)

The verse, at *mp*, in four phrases. Each phrase ends on a long note: G4 in measure 3, E4 in measure 6, D4 in measure 9 and G4 in measure 12. The pickup E4 takes the thumb, and the hand changes position on each long note.

Andante (♩ = 80)



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel - Section A - The Verse

How to Practice This Section

Play each phrase with the right hand alone and stop on its long note. Use that stop to set the next finger: 4 on A4 at the end of measure 3, 5 on A4 at the end of measure 6, 2 on G4 at the end of measure 9.

Section B - The Refrain (Measures 13-19 (pickup in 12))

The refrain starts forte with D5 on the last beat of measure 12. Long D5 and B4 notes, then A4, C5, B4, A4 lead to the short 2/4 measure 16, G4 and A4 at *mf*. Measures 17-19 repeat measures 4-6 and end on E4 under a fermata.

Andante (♩ = 80)



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel - Section B - The Refrain

How to Practice This Section

Count measure 16 aloud as one, two, and go straight on to measure 17. In measure 14, play the second B4 with finger 4 so the hand is ready for A4, C5, B4, A4.

Full Score

Here is the complete piece with all sections combined.



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Step-by-Step Practice Guide

Step 1: Right Hand Alone

1. Pickup and measures 1-3: E4 on the thumb, G4, B4, B4, B4 on 2-4-4-4, then A4, C5, B4, A4 on 3-5-4-3 and a long G4
2. Measures 4-5: B4, G4, E4, G4 on 5-3-2-3, then A4, F#4, E4, D4 on 4-3-2-1
3. Measures 7-9: A4 on 5, E4, E4 on 2, F#4 on 3, G4 on 4, then down to a held D4 on the thumb
4. Measures 13-16: D5 on 5, B4 on 3 then 4, and A4 on 4 in the 2/4 bar

Step 2: Left Hand Alone

1. Pinky on E3, thumb on B3: the hand stays in this position all the way through
2. Measures 1-3: a whole-note E3, then A3 and E3, then G3 with finger 3
3. Measures 5 and 18: A3 with finger 2, then B3 with the thumb
4. Measure 16: one quarter-note G3, then a rest

Step 3: Hands Together

1. Hands together at about 60 to the quarter, one phrase at a time
2. Section A, stopping on each long note to set the next position
3. Section B, counting the 2/4 measure 16 aloud
4. Target 80 to the quarter: mp in the verse, f for the refrain, mf from measure 16



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