



O Holy Night

Easy Piano Sheet Music

Adolphe Adam (1847)

Level 3 | Full score, fingering, practice tips

Door 21 of the Free Piano Advent Calendar

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O Holy Night

Key	Time Signature	Tempo	Difficulty	Measures
C major	4/4	Andante maest., 58 BPM	Beginner - Level 3	26

About This Piece

Adolphe Adam, who died in 1856, wrote the music in 1847 as *Cantique de Noël*. The French text is by Placide Cappeau (died 1877) and the English text by John S. Dwight (died 1893); the words are not printed here. Our score follows the voice line of an undated 19th-century Paris edition from Léon Grus (*Noël, Cantique*, 6th edition, voice and piano), in its own key of C major. Two grace notes and the turn in measure 25 are left out. The high note some singers add is a performance tradition and is not in the Grus print, so our score leaves it out. The left hand is a single-note bass.

Notes and Hand Positions

Fingering Guide

Right Hand: C4, D4, E4, F4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5

Small positions marked in the score. Thumb on E4, then on F4 (3 on A4, 5 on C5) for the opening; C position from measure 3 (5 on G4, thumb on middle C). In the refrain the thumb sits on A4 or G4, with 4 on D5 and 5 on E5.

Left Hand: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3 (single notes, half and whole notes)

Pinky on C3 and thumb on G3 to start, index on F3. The pinky takes G2 and B2 as the harmony moves, A2 opens the refrain, the thumb takes E3 and F3 in the refrain, and the last C3 is played with the ring finger.

Notes Used in This Piece

Right Hand

Note	On the Staff	On the Keyboard	Finger
C4	Ledger line below treble staff	Middle C	Thumb (1)
D4	Just below the treble staff	Between two black keys above C4	Index (2)
E4	Bottom line of treble staff	Right of the two black keys	Thumb (1)
F4	First space of treble staff	Left of the three black keys	Thumb (1)
F#4	First space, sharp sign	Black key between F4 and G4	Index (2)
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	Ring (4)
E5	Fourth space of treble staff	Right of two black keys above C5	Pinky (5)

Left Hand

Note	On the Staff	On the Keyboard	Finger
G2	Bottom line of bass staff	Octave and a fourth below middle C	Pinky (5)
A2	First space of bass staff	Octave and a third below middle C	Ring (4)
B2	Second line of bass staff	Octave and a step below middle C	Pinky (5)
C3	Second space of bass staff	One octave below middle C	Pinky (5)
D3	Third line of bass staff	Between two black keys below C4	Thumb (1)
E3	Third space of bass staff	Right of two black keys below C4	Middle (3)
F3	Fourth line of bass staff	Left of three black keys below C4	Index (2)
G3	Fourth space of bass staff	A fourth below middle C	Thumb (1)

Section A - The Verse (Measures 1-14)

A quiet verse in dotted rhythm. A sixteenth E4 starts the melody after two rests, the line rises to a half-note C5 in measure 3 and falls back to middle C in measure 5. The second phrase brings the only sharp, F#4, in measure 8. From measure 11 the music turns pianissimo with G4, A4, D4, G4 in quarters, twice.

Andante maestoso (♩ = 58)



O Holy Night - Section A - The Verse

How to Practice This Section

Clap and count the first five bars before playing them: 1-e-and-a on each beat, so every sixteenth falls in its place. Then play the right hand at half speed, watching the finger number at each position change.

Section B - The Refrain (Measures 15-26)

The refrain is louder and moves in long tied notes: C5 held for three beats, B4, then D5 and a half-note E5 in measure 19. Measures 23-24 are fortissimo and reach E5 again. The piece closes C5, B4, C5, D5 on a whole-note C5 with a fermata, over a left hand that ends on C3.

Andante maestoso (♩ = 58)



O Holy Night - Section B - The Refrain

How to Practice This Section

Count the ties out loud and do not cut the long notes short. Each sixteenth pickup before a long note is light. Keep the biggest sound for measures 23-24, then let the last C5 ring for its full four beats and more.

Full Score

Here is the complete piece with all sections combined.

Andante maestoso (♩ = 58)



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Step-by-Step Practice Guide

Step 1: Right Hand Alone

- Measures 1-2: thumb on the sixteenth E4, index on G4, then thumb on F4 and middle finger on A4
- Measures 3-5: pinky on C5, then reset to C position, pinky on G4 down to the thumb on middle C
- Measures 8-10: F#4 and E4 with fingers 2 and 1, then B4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4 and a half-note E4 on the thumb
- Refrain: thumb on A4 with the ring finger on D5, and the pinky on E5 in measures 19 and 24
- Play the whole melody at x0.5 with every tie held, then at x0.75

Step 2: Left Hand Alone

1. Measures 1-2: pinky on C3, thumb on G3, then pinky C3 and index F3
2. Measures 3-5: E3 with finger 3 down to G2 with the pinky, then C3 with finger 4
3. Refrain: whole notes on A2, E3 and F3, so count all four beats
4. Last bar: C3 with the ring finger, held under the fermata

Step 3: Hands Together

1. Start at about 44 to the quarter, left hand on beats 1 and 3, right-hand sixteenths placed between
2. Verse hands together in two parts, measures 1-5 and 6-10, then the quiet measures 11-14
3. Refrain hands together, counting the ties aloud
4. Target 58 to the quarter: p in the verse, f at measure 15, ff at measure 23



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