



O Little Town of Bethlehem

Easy Piano Sheet Music

Lewis H. Redner (1868)

Level 2 | Full score, fingering, practice tips

Door 15 of the Free Piano Advent Calendar

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O Little Town of Bethlehem

Key	Time Signature	Tempo	Difficulty	Measures
G major	4/4	Andante, 80 BPM	Beginner - Level 2	16

About This Piece

The tune is ST. LOUIS, written by Lewis H. Redner (d. 1908) in 1868. It was first printed as a leaflet, then in The Church Porch, edited by W. R. Huntington (1874). The words are by Phillips Brooks (d. 1893) and are not printed here. We read the melody from the 1899 edition of The Church Porch (New York: Dutton, No. 48). Two details follow The Church Hymnal edited by C. L. Hutchins (Boston, 1894): the D5 on beat 4 of measure 5, where The Church Porch prints B4, and the dotted half note in measure 12. Our arrangement keeps the source key, G major, and leaves the melody unchanged over a single-note left hand.

Notes and Hand Positions

Fingering Guide

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

Middle finger (3) on B4, index (2) on the black key A#4, ring (4) on C5 and pinky (5) on D5 for the opening turn. The thumb (1) drops to E4 in measure 2 and to D4 in measure 3, with G4 on 3, F#4 on 2 and A4 on 4. In measure 5 the index takes B4 so the pinky reaches E5. Measures 9-12 sit in a five-finger position from thumb on E4 to pinky on B4, and measure 14 jumps from the thumb on E4 to the pinky on E5.

Left Hand: E2, G2, A2, B2, C3, D3 (single notes, half notes or longer)

Pinky (5) on G2 and thumb (1) on D3, with the middle (3) on B2 and the index (2) on C3: one half note or longer at a time. The ring (4) reaches A2 in measure 10, and in measure 11 the pinky stretches down to E2 with the thumb on B2.

Notes Used in This Piece

Right Hand

Note	On the Staff	On the Keyboard	Finger
D4	Just below the treble staff	Between the two black keys	Thumb (1)
E4	Bottom line of treble staff	Right of the two black keys	Thumb (1)
F#4	First space, treble (sharp)	First of the three black keys	Index (2)
G4	Second line of treble staff	Between first two of 3 black keys	Middle (3)
A4	Second space of treble staff	Between last two of 3 black keys	Ring (4)
A#4	Second space, treble (sharp)	Last of the three black keys	Index (2)
B4	Middle line of treble staff	Right of the three black keys	Middle (3)
C5	Third space of treble staff	One octave above middle C	Ring (4)
D5	Fourth line of treble staff	Between the two black keys	Pinky (5)
E5	Fourth space of treble staff	Right of the two black keys	Pinky (5)

Left Hand

Note	On the Staff	On the Keyboard	Finger
E2	1st ledger line below bass staff	Right of the two black keys	Pinky (5)
G2	Bottom line of bass staff	Between first two of 3 black keys	Pinky (5)
A2	First space of bass staff	Between last two of 3 black keys	Ring (4)
B2	Second line of bass staff	Right of the three black keys	Middle (3)
C3	Second space of bass staff	One octave below middle C	Index (2)
D3	Third line of bass staff	Between the two black keys	Thumb (1)

Section A - The A# Turn (Measures 1-8)

The pickup and the first two phrases. Three B4s dip to the black key A#4 and come back, then the line climbs to D5 and drops to E4 and D4 on the thumb. Measure 5 starts the same way but rises to E5. The left hand plays half notes: G2 and D3, B2 and C3, then a whole-bar D3.

Andante (♩ = 80)



O Little Town of Bethlehem - Section A - The A# Turn

How to Practice This Section

Keep the middle finger on B4 and roll the index onto A#4 without lifting the hand. Then loop measures 2-3 at x0.5 until the thumb finds E4 and D4 without looking.

Section B - Middle Line and Cadence (Measures 9-16)

The middle line at *mf* sits in one five-finger position, thumb on E4 to pinky on B4, falling to three F#4s and climbing back. The left hand reaches down to A2 and E2. Measure 13 brings back the A#4 turn at *mp*, measure 14 jumps from E4 to E5, and the piece ends on G4 under a fermata.

Andante (♩ = 80)



O Little Town of Bethlehem - Section B - Middle Line and Cadence

How to Practice This Section

Practice the octave jump in measure 14 alone: thumb on E4, then move the whole hand so the pinky lands on E5. Play it ten times at x0.5 before joining measure 15.

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 measure 1: middle finger (3) on B4, index (2) on the black key A#4 and back, hand still
2. Measures 2-3: pinky (5) on D5, ring (4) on C5, then the thumb drops to E4; measure 3 ends with the thumb on D4
3. Measure 5: start with the index (2) on B4 so the pinky can reach E5 and the ring finger D5
4. Measures 9-12: five-finger position from thumb on E4 to pinky on B4; change to finger 3 on the last B4 of measure 12
5. Measures 14-15: thumb on E4, pinky on E5, then the thumb takes G4 and fingers 3-2 play B4 and A4

Step 2: Left Hand Alone

1. Pinky (5) on G2 and thumb (1) on D3: half notes on beats 1 and 3
2. Measures 2 and 6: middle (3) on B2, index (2) on C3; measures 3 and 7 hold D3 for a whole bar
3. Measures 10-11: ring (4) on A2, then the pinky reaches down to E2 with the thumb on B2
4. Measure 12: finger 3 on G2, then back to the pinky on G2 for measure 13

Step 3: Hands Together

1. Start at x0.5 (40 to the quarter) with the pickup and measures 1-4 only
2. Check that each left-hand note starts exactly with a right-hand note on beat 1 or 3
3. Move to x0.75 (60 to the quarter) when the A#4 turn and the octave jump in measure 14 are clean
4. Target 80 to the quarter: mp, mf for measures 9-12, mp for the last phrase, and a full fermata on G4 and G2



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