We Three Kings

Easy Piano Sheet Music

John Henry Hopkins Jr. (1863)

Level 2 | Full score, fingering, practice tips

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We Three Kings

Key	Time Signature	Tempo	Difficulty	Measures
E minor / G major	3/4	Moderato, 112 BPM	Beginner - Level 2	32

About This Piece

Words and music are by John Henry Hopkins Jr. (died 1891). The carol is on pages 12-13 of his Carols, Hymns, and Songs (New York: Church Book Depository), titled Three Kings of Orient; the title page has no date, and the copy we read is dated 1863. Our verse is Gaspard's part, which page 12 also gives for verses 2-4, and our chorus is the top voice of the printed chorus. Hopkins wrote in 3/8; we doubled each value for 3/4 and left out his instrumental interlude. Hollis Dann's Christmas Carols and Hymns (1910) has the same pitches in all 32 bars. The words are not printed here.

Notes and Hand Positions

> **Fingering Guide**
>
> Right Hand: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5
> Verse: thumb on E4, 2 on F#4, 3 on G4, 4 on A4, 5 on B4. Measure 9 moves up (G4 on 3, then 1) to G4-D5. Chorus: thumb on D4, 3 on F#4, 4 on G4, 5 on A4, with moves on the repeated G4 in measures 25 and 29.
>
> Left Hand: G2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, G3, A3, B3 (one dotted half per measure)
> Verse: pinky on E3, 4 on F#3, 3 on G3, 2 on A3, thumb on B3. Chorus: pinky on G2, 3 on B2, 2 on C3, thumb on D3. The move comes in measure 16.

Notes Used in This Piece

Right Hand

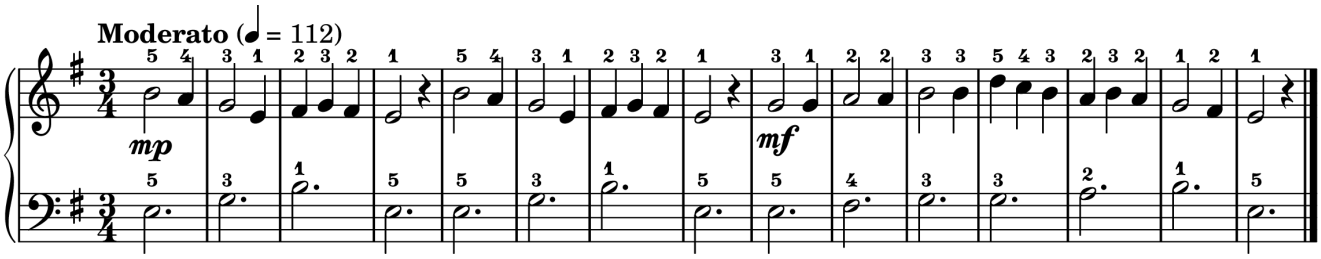
Note	On the Staff	On the Keyboard	Finger
D4	Space below treble staff	Between C# and D# black keys	Thumb (1)
E4	Bottom line of treble staff	Right of two black keys above C4	Thumb (1)
F#4	First space, sharp in key sig.	Black key between F4 and G4	Index (2)
G4	Second line of treble staff	Between F# and G# black keys	Ring (4)
A4	Second space of treble staff	Between G# and A# 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 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)
B2	Second line of bass staff	Octave and a step below middle C	Middle (3)
C3	Second space of bass staff	One octave below middle C	Index (2)
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	Pinky (5)
F#3	Fourth line, sharp in key sig.	Black key between F3 and G3	Ring (4)
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 (Measures 1-15)

The verse, in E minor at mp. B4, A4, G4, E4 and F#4, G4, F#4, E4 make a four-bar phrase that is played twice. At mf in measure 9 the line climbs on repeated notes to D5 in measure 12, then steps back down to E4 in measure 15.

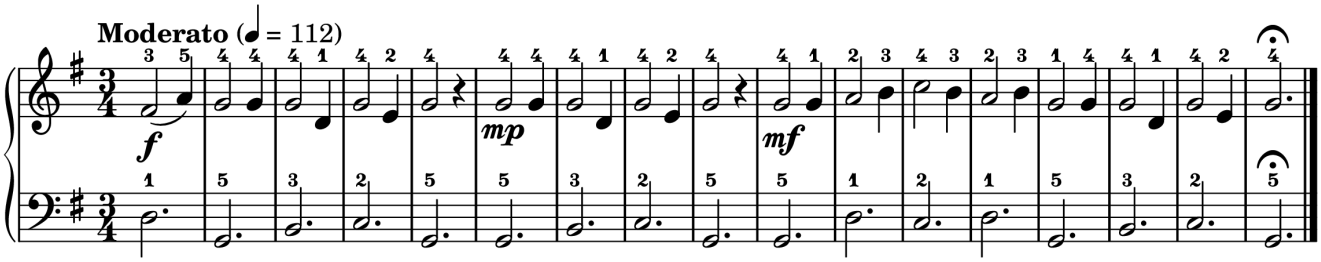


We Three Kings - Section A - The Verse

> **How to Practice This Section**
>
> Play measures 1-4 until fingers 5-4-3-1 and 2-3-2-1 feel settled. In measure 9, play the second G4 with the thumb so the hand sits on G4-D5 up to measure 14.

Section B - The Chorus (Measures 16-32)

The chorus, in G major. It opens forte with a slurred F#4 to A4, then G4 alternates with D4 and E4. Measures 21-24 repeat 17-20 at mp, and measures 25-29 rise to C5 at mf. A held G4 under a fermata ends the piece.

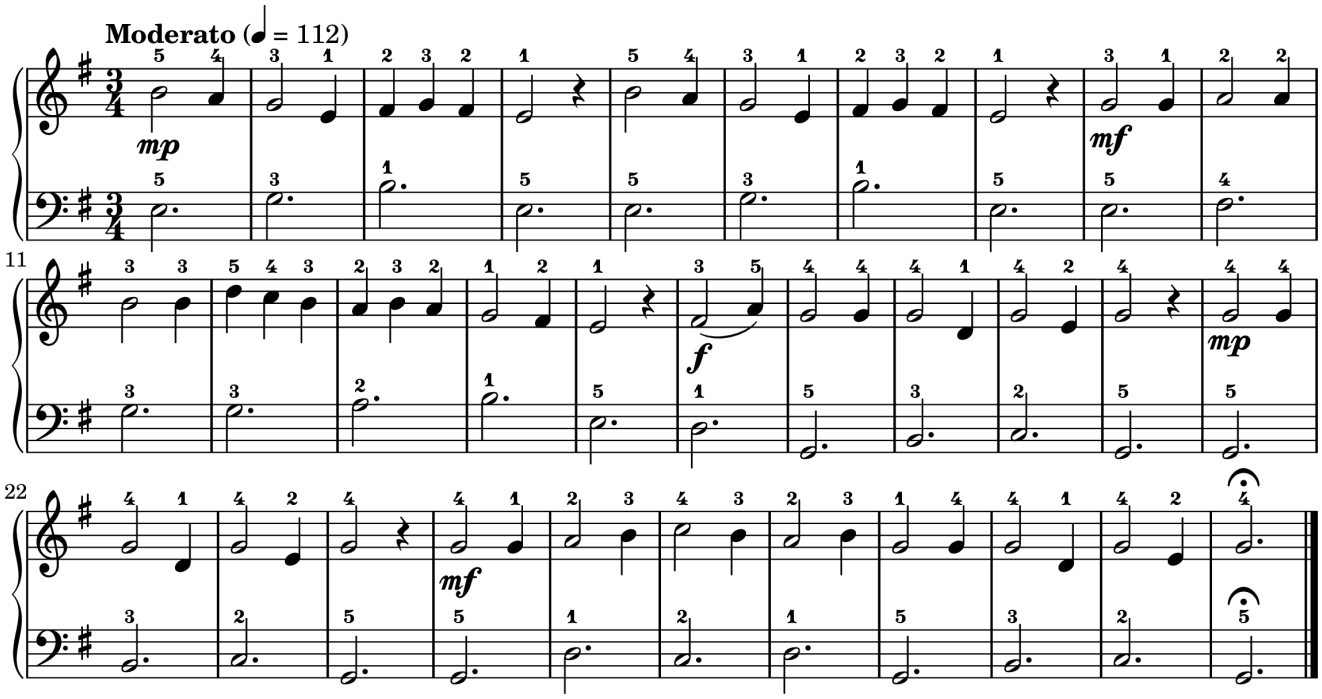


We Three Kings - Section B - The Chorus

> **How to Practice This Section**
>
> Loop measures 25-29 at x0.75. Play the second G4 of measure 25 with the thumb, and the second G4 of measure 29 with finger 4, ready for the last three bars.

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. Thumb on E4, pinky on B4, then measures 1-4: B4, A4, G4, E4 on 5-4-3-1 and F#4, G4, F#4, E4 on 2-3-2-1
2. Measures 9-13: G4 on 3 then 1, A4 on 2, B4 on 3, then D5, C5, B4 on 5-4-3
3. Measures 14-15: after the half-note G4, move the hand down for F#4 (2) and E4 (1)
4. Chorus: F#4 on 3 and A4 on 5, then G4 on 4 with D4 on 1 and E4 on 2

Step 2: Left Hand Alone

1. Verse: pinky on E3, then G3 with 3 and B3 with the thumb, one dotted half per bar
2. Measures 9-14: E3, F#3, G3, G3, A3, B3 on 5-4-3-3-2-1
3. Measure 16: thumb on D3, so the pinky is ready for G2 in measure 17
4. Chorus: G2, B2, C3 and D3 on 5-3-2-1

Step 3: Hands Together

1. Hands together at about 80 to the quarter, counting three beats per bar
2. Section A, with extra loops on the finger change in measure 9
3. Section B, moving the left hand down during measure 16

4. Target 112 to the quarter: mp then mf in the verse; f, mp and mf in the chorus



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