

## World Christmas Music Book

I hope you enjoy this collection of Christmas music from different parts of the world! Each arrangement is fairly brief - generally 2 minutes or less - and they are intended to make up a suite. The pieces are from religious traditions of Christmas so would be appropriate for a church or concert setting. As they are probably lesser known, the arranger has included in each score a sampling of the lyrics that might aid in musical interpretation.

*Tutaina* is a villencico, an old form of folk song in Spain and Portugal that is popular now in Latin America around Christmas time. This song is commonly sung by children. The word *Tutaina* is a nonsense word that in context of the song is meant to be something of a tongue twister.

*O, Bento Airoso* is a folk song from northern Portugal.

*Sister Mary Had-a but One Child* is an African American spiritual.

*Entre le Boeuf et L'ane Gris* is a medieval French carol.

*Jul, Jul* is a Swedish Carol composed by Gustave Nordqvist and published in 1921.

*Carol of the Russian Children* is a 16th century Russian song. It will be familiar to many wind players as the opening theme of Alfred Reed's Russian Christmas Music.

*Betehemu* is a Nigerian Christmas song that was brought to the US by the Nigerian drummer Babatunde Olatunji when he attended Morehouse college. Olatunji went on to some fame as a jazz drummer with John Coltrane. The song was arranged for the glee club at Morehouse college by Wendell Whalum and I based my arrangement on that choral setting.

...Steve Butler

# 1. Tutaina

## Latin American Villancico

Traditional • Arranged by Steve Butler

**Allegro** A

The image shows a musical score for a brass ensemble. The top system includes Trombone 1, Trombone 2, Trombone 3, and Bass Trombone. The bottom system includes Tbn. 1, Tbn. 2, Tbn. 3, and B. Tbn. The score is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked 'Allegro'. A first ending bracket labeled 'A' spans the first two measures of the first system. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte) and accents (>). The bottom system begins with a measure number '6' above the first staff.

# 2. O, Bento Airoso, Mystério Divino

O, Gentle Wind, Divine Mystery

Traditional Portugese • Arranged by Steve Butler

**Moderato** (♩ = c. 108)

The musical score is written in 3/4 time and consists of two systems. The first system includes parts for Trombone 1, Trombone 2, Trombone 3, and Bass Trombone. The second system includes parts for Tbn. 1, Tbn. 2, Tbn. 3, and B. Tbn. The score begins with a repeat sign. Dynamics include *mp*, *mf*, *p*, and *mf*. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

# 3. Sister Mary Had-a But One Child

African American Spiritual

Traditional • Arranged by Steve Butler

Moderato

Trombone 1 *mf*

Trombone 2

Trombone 3 *mp*

Bass Trombone *mp*

6

Tbn. 1 *mf*

Tbn. 2 *f* lead

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

Fine

# 4. Entre Le Boeuf et L'ane Gris

## Between the Ox and the Gray Donkey

Traditional French 13th Century • Arranged by Steve Butler

**Moderato** (♩ = c. 108)

The score is written in 4/4 time. The first system includes Trombone 1, 2, 3, and Bass Trombone. Trombone 1, 2, and 3 parts begin with rests for the first two measures, then enter in the third measure with a melodic line starting on G2, marked *mf*. The Bass Trombone part starts in the first measure with a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, also marked *mf*. The second system includes Tbn. 1, 2, 3, and B. Tbn. Tbn. 1, 2, and 3 enter in measure 6 with a melodic line starting on G2, marked *mf*. The B. Tbn. part continues the rhythmic pattern from the first system. The score concludes with a 2/4 time signature change in the final measure.

# 5. Jul, Jul, Stralande Jul

## Christmas, Glorious Christmas (Swedish Christmas Song)

Gustaf Nordqvist (1886-1949) • Arranged by Steve Butler

**Moderato**

Trombone 1  
*mp*

Trombone 2  
*mp*

Trombone 3  
*mp*

Bass Trombone  
*mp*

7

Tbn. 1  
*mf*

Tbn. 2  
*mf*

Tbn. 3  
*mf*

B. Tbn.  
*mf*

# 6. Carol of the Russian Children

## Russian Folk Song

Traditional • Arranged by Steve Butler

The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers measures 1-5. The second system covers measures 6-10. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The first system is marked 'Grave' and the second 'A tempo'. Dynamics include *mp*, *p*, and *mf*. There are also markings for *rit.* and *A tempo*.

**System 1 (Measures 1-5):**

- Trombone 1:** *mp* (measures 1-2), *p* (measures 3-4), *mp* (measure 5)
- Trombone 2:** *mp* (measures 1-2), *p* (measures 3-4), *mp* (measure 5)
- Trombone 3:** *mp* (measures 1-2), *p* (measures 3-4), *mp* (measure 5)
- Bass Trombone:** *mp* (measures 1-2), *p* (measures 3-4), *mp* (measure 5)

**System 2 (Measures 6-10):**

- Tbn. 1:** *mf* (measures 6-10)
- Tbn. 2:** *mf* (measures 6-10)
- Tbn. 3:** *pp* (measure 6), *mp* (measures 7-8), *mf* (measures 9-10)
- B. Tbn.:** *pp* (measure 6), *mp* (measures 7-8), *mf* (measures 9-10)

# 7. Betelehemu

## Bethlehem

Traditional Nigerian Olatunji/Whalum • Arranged by Steve Butler

**Moderato** A

The image shows a musical score for a brass ensemble. The top system includes Trombone 1, Trombone 2, Trombone 3, and Bass Trombone. The bottom system includes Tbn. 1, Tbn. 2, Tbn. 3, and B. Tbn. The score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked 'Moderato'. A first ending bracket labeled 'A' spans the final two measures of the first system. Trombone 1 and 2 play a melodic line starting in the first ending, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. Trombone 3 and Bass Trombone play a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes, marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The bottom system continues the accompaniment for Tbn. 1, 2, 3, and B. Tbn. with various dynamics and articulations.



Trombone 1

# 1. Tutaina

Latin American Villancico

Traditional • Arranged by Steve Butler

Allegro

**A**

*mf*

8

16

Fine

**B**

2

2

D.C. al Fine

25

Tutaina tuturuma  
Tutaina tuturumaina  
Tutaina tuturuma turuma  
Tutaina tuturumaina

Los pastores de Belen  
Vienen adorar el nino  
La virgen y San Jose  
Los reciben con carino

The shepherds of Bethlehem  
Come to adore the Child  
The virgin and St Joseph  
Receive them with affection