

## The Composition

Over the years, "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen," with its simple, plaintive melody and joyous words, has become a holiday favorite the world over. Although this traditional English carol is often said to be in a minor key, it is actually in the Aeolian mode, (also known as "natural" minor), which is different from the more common harmonic form of minor in that the Aeolian mode's leading tone is a whole step from the tonic. The encouraging words of this carol are an inspiration to people everywhere:

*God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay,  
Remember Christ our Saviour Was born on Christmas Day;  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r When we were gone astray  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

## The Arranger

**Chuck Elledge** began his professional career at the age of ten with the Easy Rider Dixieland Band. By his teens he was composing and arranging for the band. He continued to compose and arrange music throughout high school, graduating with honors and establishing himself as a professional composer and performer. In 1984, Mr. Elledge received his Bachelor of Music degree in Theory and Composition from the University of Minnesota where he studied with Dr. Frank Bencriscutto and Dr. Dominic Argento.

Mr. Elledge currently holds the position of Staff Writer at the Neil A. Kjos Music Company where he composes and arranges exclusively for young string and wind instrumentalists. He collaborated with Bruce Pearson on the BEST IN CLASS PERFORMANCE SELECTIONS and A BEST IN CLASS CHRISTMAS for concert band and was a contributing editor to ENCORE. He has been involved in the production of ALL FOR STRINGS by Robert Frost and Gerald Anderson and is collaborating with James "Red" McLeod in developing the Strolling Strings curriculum.

## Instrumentation List (Set C)

- 8 - 1st Violin
- 8 - 2nd Violin
- 5 - 3rd Violin (Viola T.C.)
- 5 - Viola
- 5 - Cello
- 5 - String Bass
- 1 - Piano (Optional)
- 1 - Full Conductor Score

# GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN

Full Conductor Score

Approx. time-2:15

Old English Carol  
arr. by Chuck Elledge

1 Andante sostenuto\* (♩ = 78-86)

Musical score for measures 1-4. The score includes parts for Violins (1 and 2), Viola, Cello, String Bass, and Piano (Optional). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Andante sostenuto\*' with a metronome marking of quarter note = 78-86. Dynamics include *mf* and *p*. A large 'SAMPLE' watermark is overlaid on the score.

Musical score for measures 5-8. The score includes parts for Violins (1 and 2), Viola, Cello, String Bass, and Piano (Optional). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Dynamics include *p* and *mf*. A large 'SAMPLE' watermark is overlaid on the score.

\* Play slowly with a smooth, sustained tone, giving each note its full value.

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9 10 11 12

Vlns. 1 *p* *f*

Vlns. 2 *p* *f*

Vla. *p* *f*

Cello *p* *f*

Str. Bass *p* *f*

Piano (Opt.) *p* *f*

13 14 15 16

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Piano (Opt.)

17 18 19 20

Vlns. 1 *ff* *mf* *f*

Vlns. 2 *ff* *mf* *f*

Vla. *ff* *mf* *f*

Cello *ff* *mf* *f*

Str. Bass *ff* *mf* *f*

Piano (Opt.) *ff* *mf* *f*

21 22 23 24 25

Vlns. 1 *ff* *p*

Vlns. 2 *ff* *p*

Vla. *ff* *p* *pp*

Cello *ff* *p* *pp*

Str. Bass *ff* *pizz.* *p*

Piano (Opt.) *ff* *p*



36 37 38 39 40

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Piano (Opt.)

41 42 43 44 45

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Piano (Opt.)

*ff* *mf* *p* *rit.* *P* *pp*

*ff* *mf* *p* *rit.* *P* *pp*

*ff* *mf* *rit.* *pp*

*ff* *mf* *rit.* *pp*

*ff* *p* *mf* *rit.* *pp*

*ff* *mf* *rit.* *pp*

SAMPLE

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