



About the Arranger

Like most young players, **Phil Hamm** started performing at church and school. During his high school years he participated in marching and concert bands, orchestra and chorus. In college he studied as a piano major and clarinet minor at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee and Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana. During that time, he also learned to play guitar and saxophone. The ensembles he enjoyed most were marching and concert bands, but especially the Austin Peay State University Jazz Band and Indiana State University Singers. Shortly before graduating with a B.S. degree in Education, Phil started teaching piano and guitar and performing with local dance bands.

Just after college, in 1975, he worked full-time at Paige's Music Store (now J.W. Pepper) in Terre Haute, Indiana. At this time, he met and married Mellanie P. Morgan. After a short while, he left the store and began playing in dance bands. Phil and Mellanie moved to the Houston, Texas area in

1978, where he worked in several bands until they formed their own band and played professionally until 1994. During that time, he co-wrote over 100 songs with C. L. Milburn and then with Buz Hart. They used Phil's home recording studio to demo their originals and occasionally record other local artists. In 1994, they retired from stage and Phil began teaching private piano. Today, Phil and his wife live in Oakland City, Indiana, where he enjoys teaching and working on projects for **Neil A. Kjos Music Company**.

About the Music

In this book, you will find the standard Christmas carols that are familiar to most people. The carols are progressive in difficulty. They may be played as solos, or with the attractive duet accompaniments.

As a boy, Phil sat and listened for years to the pianist at church as he added beautiful chord changes to the hymns. You will find the accompaniments enrich the solo parts with their beautiful soft jazz chords.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM MIDDLE C

Arrangements by Phil Hamm

CONTENTS

Auld Lang Syne	38
Away in a Manger	12
Deck the Halls	30
The First Noel	24
Good King Wenceslas	14
Go Tell It on the Mountain	16
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	28
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear	34
Jingle Bells	10
Jolly Old Saint Nicholas	4
Joy to the World	32
O Christmas Tree	18
O Come, All Ye Faithful	20
O Little Town of Bethlehem	36
Silent Night	22
Up on the Housetop	6
We Three Kings	26
We Wish You a Merry Christmas	8

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