

For Intermediate and Advanced Saxophone (or Oboe) Players

12 Christmas Duets

*Duets on Traditional Christmas Carols
for Intermediate and Advanced Saxophone
(or Oboe) Players*

Arranged by Kenneth Baird

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Twelve Christmas Duets
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Musicians all around the world enjoy playing duets; for performance, for developing sight-reading skills, and often just for fun. However, when it comes to Christmas duets, a majority of those published by major music publishers are arranged for elementary level players. My wife is a flute teacher and I first arranged these duets for her to play with her intermediate and advanced students. They proved to be a delight for them; challenging at times, without being overwhelming; at times, joyful; at times, uplifting; at times, serene. Now, I've adapted these duets so that they may be enjoyed by the saxophone and oboe community.

....Most are also quite suitable for informal performances and church services.

I hope you will find these Christmas Duets to be a delight for you, too.

*"...behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord!"*
Proclaim the Good News!

K.B

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Saxophone (or Oboe) Duet **Away in a Manger**

James Murray
arr. Kenneth Baird

Andante

The musical score is written for two parts, I and II, in 3/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The tempo is marked 'Andante'. The score is divided into five systems, each with a first ending (I) and a second ending (II) staff. The first system starts at measure 1. The second system starts at measure 8. The third system starts at measure 15. The fourth system starts at measure 22. The fifth system starts at measure 28. Dynamics include *mf*, *p*, *f*, and *rit.* (ritardando). The piece concludes with a final *p* dynamic.

Saxophone (or Oboe) Duet

Deck the Halls

arr. Kenneth Baird

Allegro (Opt. Alla Breve)

The musical score is written for two parts, I and II, in 4/4 time. It consists of five systems of staves. The first system starts with a first measure marked with a '1' and a dynamic of *f*. The second system starts with a fifth measure marked with a '5'. The third system starts with a ninth measure marked with a '9' and includes dynamics of *p* and *mf*. The fourth system starts with a thirteenth measure marked with a '13' and includes dynamics of *mf*. The fifth system starts with a sixteenth measure marked with a '16' and includes a dynamic of *f*. The score concludes with a key signature change to two sharps (F# and C#) in the final measure.

Introduction to Variation 1

I 19 *tr.*

II 19 *mp* *f*

Variation 1

I 23 *tr.*

II 23 *f* *tr.* *p* *f*

I 27 *tr.*

II 27 *tr.* *p* *f*

I 31 *pp*

II 31 *pp* *f*

I 35

II 35 *rit.*

Deck the Halls

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Variation 2

A Tempo

I

II

f *tr.*

f

Detailed description: This system contains measures 39 through 42. Part I (top staff) begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including trills and grace notes. Part II (bottom staff) starts with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. It provides a harmonic accompaniment with quarter and eighth notes. Dynamics include a forte (*f*) marking and a trill (*tr.*) in measure 39.

I

II

tr.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 43 through 46. Part I (top staff) continues the melodic line with more complex rhythmic patterns and slurs. Part II (bottom staff) continues the accompaniment. A trill (*tr.*) is marked in measure 43.

I

II

p *cresc.*

p *cresc.*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 47 through 50. Part I (top staff) features a melodic line with slurs and ties. Part II (bottom staff) provides accompaniment with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a crescendo (*cresc.*) marking. A hairpin crescendo symbol is shown below the staff.

I

II

f *tr.*

f

Detailed description: This system contains measures 51 through 52. Part I (top staff) continues the melodic line. Part II (bottom staff) continues the accompaniment with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a trill (*tr.*) in measure 51.

I

II

ff *rall.*

ff *rall.*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 53 through 56. Part I (top staff) concludes the melodic line with a final flourish. Part II (bottom staff) concludes the accompaniment with a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic and a rallentando (*rall.*) marking. Hairpin crescendo and decrescendo symbols are present.

Deck the Halls

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Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Saxophone (or Oboe) Duet

Arr. Kenneth Baird

Moderato

The musical score is written for two parts, I and II, in 4/4 time. It consists of five systems of staves. The first system starts with a dynamic of *f* for both parts, which changes to *mf* in the second measure. The second system continues with *f* and *mf* dynamics. The third system begins at measure 10 with a dynamic of *f* and includes accents (>) over several notes. The fourth system starts at measure 15. The fifth system begins at measure 20 and ends with a dynamic of *p* (piano) in the final measure, which also features a key signature change to two sharps (F# and C#).

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Twelve Christmas Duets for Saxophones (or Oboes)

24

I

II

f *p*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 24 through 27. Both parts, I and II, play a rhythmic melody in a 7/8 time signature. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). Dynamics are marked as *f* (forte) for measures 24-25 and *p* (piano) for measures 26-27.

28

I

II

f *p* *f*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 28 through 31. The melody continues with similar rhythmic patterns. Dynamics are marked as *f* for measures 28-29, *p* for measure 30, and *f* for measure 31.

32

I

II

tr *tr*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 32 through 34. The melody features trills, indicated by the *tr* marking above notes in measures 32, 33, and 34.

35

I

II

Detailed description: This system contains measures 35 through 38. The melody continues with a consistent rhythmic pattern.

39

I

II

rit. *rit.*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 39 through 42. The melody concludes with a ritardando, indicated by the *rit.* marking in measures 41 and 42.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Joy to the World!

Saxophone (or Oboe) Duet

arr. Kenneth Baird

Allegro

The musical score is written for two parts, I and II, in treble clef. It begins in 5/4 time and changes to 4/4 time at measure 4. The first system (measures 1-4) features a melody with dynamics *p*, *cresc.*, and *f*. The second system (measures 5-8) continues the melody, ending with *pp* dynamics. The third system (measures 9-13) changes to 4/4 time and includes *cresc.* and *f* dynamics. The fourth system (measures 14-17) concludes with *p* dynamics and includes a 2/4 time signature change at measure 16.

Twelve Christmas Duets for Saxophones

20

I

II

ff

ff

26

I

II

mf

mf

32

I

II

f

p

f

p

f

p

37

I

II

f

f

Joy to the World!

10

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Saxophone (or Oboe) Duet

Triumphantly! (Moderato) (Adeste Fideles)

Arr. Kenneth Baird

The musical score is arranged in two staves, I and II, in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The piece is in a moderate tempo and features various dynamic markings and articulations. The score is divided into systems, with measure numbers 7, 13, 18, and 24 indicating the start of new sections. The first system (measures 1-6) begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The second system (measures 7-12) features piano (*p*) and mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamics. The third system (measures 13-17) includes forte (*f*) and piano (*p*) dynamics. The fourth system (measures 18-23) features piano (*p*), mezzo-piano (*mp*), and forte (*f*) dynamics. The fifth system (measures 24-28) is marked **Maestoso** and includes fortissimo (*ff*) dynamics, as well as *rit.* (ritardando) and *rall.* (rallentando) markings. The score concludes with a final measure in the fifth system.

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O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Saxophone (or Oboe) Duet

Medieval Church Melody
Arr. Kenneth Baird

Rubato e legato

The musical score is arranged in four systems, each with two staves labeled I and II. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The score includes various dynamics such as *p*, *mf*, *mp*, *f*, *pp*, and *rit.* (ritardando). The first system starts with a *p* dynamic and includes a *Rubato e legato* instruction. The second system begins at measure 4. The third system begins at measure 7. The fourth system begins at measure 10 and concludes with a *pp* dynamic and a *rit.* marking.

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Saxophone (or Oboe) Duet

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam (1803-1856)

Arr. Kenneth Baird

Andante

I

II

7

14

20

26

f

mf

mf

mf

mf

mp

con moto

con moto

mp

mf

a tempo

a tempo

mf

mf

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Twelve Christmas Duets for Saxophones (or Oboes)

The musical score is arranged in five systems, each with two staves labeled I and II. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

System 1 (Measures 32-38): Both staves begin with a half note G#4. The I staff has a slur over measures 32-38. The II staff has a slur over measures 32-38. Dynamics include *cresc.* and *f*.

System 2 (Measures 39-44): The I staff has a slur over measures 39-44. The II staff has a slur over measures 39-44. Dynamics include *p* and *cresc.*.

System 3 (Measures 45-49): The I staff has a slur over measures 45-49. The II staff has a slur over measures 45-49. Dynamics include *mf* and *f*.

System 4 (Measures 50-55): The I staff has a slur over measures 50-55. The II staff has a slur over measures 50-55. Dynamics include *rit.*, *a tempo*, *f*, and *ff*. There is a fermata over the final note of the I staff.

System 5 (Measures 56-60): The I staff has a slur over measures 56-60. The II staff has a slur over measures 56-60. Dynamics include *mf*, *dim.*, *rubato*, and *p*. There is a fermata over the final note of the I staff.

O Holy Night

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Saxophone (or Oboe) Duet

Arr. Kenneth Baird

Andante

The musical score is arranged in four systems, each with two staves labeled I and II. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked **Andante**. The score includes various dynamics and articulations:

- System 1: Staff I starts with a *p* dynamic and a *dolce* marking. Staff II starts with a *p* dynamic.
- System 2: Both staves have a *p* dynamic. The music features slurs and accents.
- System 3: Both staves have a *cresc.* (crescendo) marking. Staff I includes a *f* (forte) dynamic, and Staff II includes a *f* dynamic and a triplet of eighth notes. The system concludes with a *p* (piano) dynamic.
- System 4: Both staves conclude with a *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic. Staff II includes a triplet of eighth notes.

Twelve Christmas Duets for Saxophones (or Oboes)

I 18

II 18

I 22

II 22

I 26

II 26

I 30

II 30

I 34

II 34

Saxophone (or Oboe) Duet

Silent Night

Melody by Joseph Mohr
arr. Kenneth Baird

Andante

The musical score is arranged in five systems, each with two staves labeled I and II. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked 'Andante'. The score includes various dynamics such as *mf*, *f*, and *p*, along with articulation marks like accents and slurs. Measure numbers 1, 7, 13, 19, and 24 are indicated at the start of their respective systems. The piece concludes with a final chord in the key of G major.

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I 29

mf

II 29

I 34

II 34

I 39

mf

II 39

I 44

II 44

I 49

p

rit.

II 49

p

rit.

Saxophone (or Oboe) Duet

The Wassail Song

arr. Kenneth Baird

Moderato

The musical score is written for two parts, I and II, in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The tempo is marked 'Moderato'. The score consists of five systems of two staves each. The first system starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 6/8 time signature. The dynamics are marked *mf*. The second system continues in 6/8 time, with dynamics increasing to *f* and includes fingerings such as '2' and '5'. The third system changes to a 2/4 time signature, with dynamics marked *f*. The fourth system continues in 2/4 time. The fifth system concludes with a *rit.* (ritardando) marking in both parts.

A Tempo

I
II

21

mf

mf

Detailed description: This system contains measures 21 through 24. It features two staves, I and II, in a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 2/4 time signature. Both parts begin with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The music consists of eighth and quarter notes with various articulations like slurs and accents.

I
II

25

f

f

Detailed description: This system contains measures 25 through 28. It features two staves, I and II, in the same key signature and time signature. The dynamic marking changes to *f* in measure 28. The music continues with eighth and quarter notes, including slurs and accents. A fermata is placed over the final notes of both parts in measure 28.

I
II

29

Detailed description: This system contains measures 29 through 32. It features two staves, I and II, in the same key signature. The time signature changes to 2/4 at the beginning of measure 29. The music consists of eighth and quarter notes with slurs and accents.

I
II

33

Detailed description: This system contains measures 33 through 36. It features two staves, I and II, in the same key signature and time signature. The music consists of eighth and quarter notes with slurs and accents.

I
II

37

rit.

rit.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 37 through 40. It features two staves, I and II, in the same key signature and time signature. The dynamic marking is *rit.* (ritardando). The music consists of eighth and quarter notes with slurs and accents. A fermata is placed over the final notes of both parts in measure 40.

Wassail Song

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We Wish You a Merry Christmas

Saxophone (or Oboe) Duet

Arr. Kenneth Baird

Allegro

The musical score is arranged in four systems, each with two staves labeled I and II. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 3/4. The first system starts with a dynamic of *f* for both parts, which changes to *mf* in the second measure. The second system begins at measure 7. The third system begins at measure 14, with the first part marked *legato* and *p*. The fourth system begins at measure 21, with the first part marked *marcato* and *f*, and the second part marked *legato* and *p*. The score concludes with a final measure in the fourth system.

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

29

I *cresc.* *f*

II *cresc.* *f* *marcato*

35

I *p* *mf*

II *p* *mf*

41

I *f*

II *f*

46

I

II

52

I *rit.* **Tempo I** Basic Ending Opt. Ending Δ

II *rit.* **Tempo I** Basic Ending Opt. Ending Δ

3

Saxophone (or Oboe) Duet

What Child is This?

Arr. Kenneth Baird

$\text{♩} = 108 - 168$

dolce
mp *mf* *rit.* *mp* *a tempo*

dolce
mf *rit.* *mp*

mf *mf*

f *p* *f* *p*

f *rit.* *a tempo* *mf* *a tempo* *mf*

f *rit.* *mf*

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Twelve Christmas Duets for Saxophones (or Oboes)

24

Part I: Treble clef, 3/4 time. Measures 24-26. Melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, slurs, and accents.

Part II: Treble clef, 3/4 time. Measures 24-26. Bass line with eighth and sixteenth notes, slurs, and accents.

27

Part I: Treble clef, 3/4 time. Measures 27-29. Melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, slurs, and accents.

Part II: Treble clef, 3/4 time. Measures 27-29. Bass line with eighth and sixteenth notes, slurs, and accents.

30

Part I: Treble clef, 3/4 time. Measures 30-33. Melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, slurs, and accents. Measure 31 has a dynamic marking of *f*.

Part II: Treble clef, 3/4 time. Measures 30-33. Bass line with eighth and sixteenth notes, slurs, and accents.

34

Part I: Treble clef, 3/4 time. Measures 34-37. Melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, slurs, and accents. Measure 35 has a dynamic marking of *ff*.

Part II: Treble clef, 3/4 time. Measures 34-37. Bass line with eighth and sixteenth notes, slurs, and accents. Measure 35 has a dynamic marking of *ff*.

38

Part I: Treble clef, 3/4 time. Measures 38-40. Melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, slurs, and accents. Measure 39 has a dynamic marking of *p*. Measure 40 has a dynamic marking of *pp*.

Part II: Treble clef, 3/4 time. Measures 38-40. Bass line with eighth and sixteenth notes, slurs, and accents. Measure 39 has a dynamic marking of *p*. Measure 40 has a dynamic marking of *pp*.

Kenneth Baird has taught instrumental music on virtually every level, from elementary school through university. A graduate of the University of Tulsa and Southern Oregon State University, he served as a public school band and orchestra director for 28 years and was the Wind Ensemble and Orchestra Director at Oral Roberts University for 5 and 3 years respectively. He recently returned to Tulsa Public Schools to serve as an elementary instrumental music specialist. Kenneth Baird is a composer of numerous original works for string orchestra, solo instruments, and chamber ensembles. Many of these compositions may be obtained through www.kennethbairdmusic.net.