Christmas Music For Ukulele: Low G

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Ellen S. Whitaker



Popular Christmas Tunes
Easy and Intermediate Arrangements

Tablature and Standard Notation



Press For Peace Music Publications

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Author's email address: whitaker.guitar@gmail.com

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Introduction

This volume contains twenty solos and one duet (Carol of the Bells). All of the arrangements are of popular and widely familiar tunes. Most are Christmas carols, and two are classical pieces that are often associated with the Christmas season (Bach's *Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring* and Beethoven's *Ode to Joy*).

These arrangements will be accessible to most players who have been studying, in earnest, fingerstyle and/or classical ukulele for a year or so. Tablature is provided, in addition to the standard notation, for all the solos.

Most of the arrangements are in a two-voice texture. That is to say that the right hand thumb will be playing a lower line of music (lower voice) while the fingers play a higher voice (usually the melody). Take care to connect the notes of the bottom voice with one another and to connect the notes of the top voice with one another to get the full effect of the multiple voice texture.

The suggested left-hand fingerings are chosen with an effort to balance concerns for comfort, smoothness, cleanness, efficiency and timbre. Before changing any left-hand fingerings, consider how it will affect the smoothness of the individual lines. Sometimes the reason for a certain fingering will only become apparent several beats later. Be certain that you will not be releasing a long note too soon or sacrificing the

convenient use of a guide finger or pivot finger.

Right-hand fingering suggestions take into account timbre and smoothness. Using the thumb, p, in the bottom voice and fingers (i, m, and a) in the top voice(s) creates a distinct difference in the timbre between the voices. This will help your audience follow the individual voices in the pieces and appreciate the interactions between the voices.

Notation Key

Right hand finger indictions: thumb, index, middle and ring fingers p, i, m, a

respectively.

Left hand finger indications - index finger, middle finger, ring finger, and 1, 2, 3, 4

little finger respectively.

Roman numerals with a "C" in front of them indicate a bar chord at the fret CIII, 3/4 CIII

the numeral specifies. When a fraction is added, bar only some of the

strings. In the case of 3/4, you should bar 3 strings only.

Roman numerals without a "C" are position numbers. They do not indicate a II, III, IV

bar, but show which fret your left hand 1st finger should be in alignment

with.

p mp mf f ff Dynamic markings:

p = piano (Italian word for soft or restrained)

mp = mezzo piano (medium soft) mf = mezzo forte (medium strong)

f = forte (strong)

ff = fortissimo (very strong)

Allegro, Allegretto Tempo markings indicating a quick and lively tempo

Am, D, Dm

Chord symbols for an accompanist

Andante Play at a slow tempo.

a tempo Back to the original tempo

Crescendo (get stronger) little by little cresc. poco a poco

Da Capo al Fine. (From the head to the end) Repeat the piece from the D.C. al Fine

beginning, stopping at the spot marked "Fine."

Notation Key (2 of 3)

dim. e rit. Gradually reduce volume and gradually slow down

simultaneously.

dolce

Sweetly

Larghetto

Play quite slowly. Slower than Andante.

Legato

Smoothly

Moderato

Play at a moderate tempo

ponticello

Play the passage with the right hand close enough to the bridge to achieve a brighter timbre.

rit.

Gradually slow down.

Spiritoso

Play with spirit



Circled numbers are string numbers. If a note appears with a circled 3, for example, that note will be played on the third sting in this instance.



A mordent. An ornament indicating to play the written note, hammer onto the note above it and then pull off to the original note. (G#-A-G# in this case) All is done quickly so that, of the three notes sounded, the final note is longer than the first two.



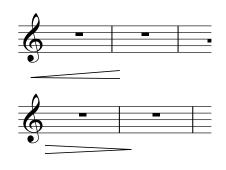
A grace note ornament. Play the smaller ornamental note on the beat, pulling off rather quickly to the ornamented note. The ornamented note arrives just a bit late. If a bass note is present, play the grace note with the bass note on the beat.



Triplet. This is an indicator that three notes of a certain value are occupying the same space that would usually have only two. The division of time is evenly divided by 3 instead of by the usual 2

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Notation Key (3 of 3)



Crescendo. Gradually increase volume.

Decrescendo. Gradually decrease volume.



Strum down. Strum up. (Respectively)



First ending and second ending. Play the music under the line marked "1" only the first time through the passage. Skip the first ending the second time the passage is played, and go to the second ending.



A dash in front of a left hand finger number indicates a guide finger. The finger has already been on the same string and will lightly glide to the note with the dashed finger number beside it.



Portamento. The finger slides audibly (and quickly) along the same string from the first note to the second note. Resist the temptation to leave the first note early. The second note should be articulated with the right hand after arriving there with the left.



Artificial harmonic. While holding down an F with the left hand at the first fret of the second string, execute the harmonic with the right hand marking the node at the 13th fret with the i finger while plucking with the a finger.



Arpeggio. Instead of articulating all of the notes of the chord simultaneously, stagger them ("roll" the chord) by plucking the notes one at a time in rapid succession beginning with the 4th string.

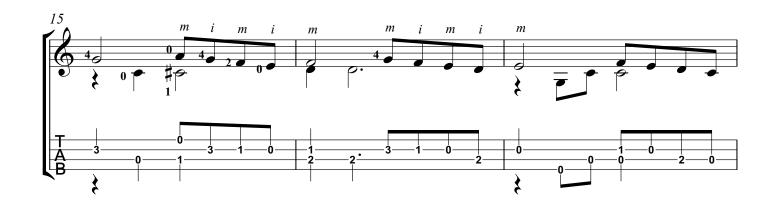


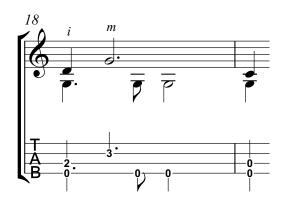
Angels We Have Heard On High

Arranged for Solo Ukulele by Ellen S. Whitaker

Traditional French

Low G This Arrangement Copyright © 1990, 2002, 2022 by Ellen S. Whitaker. All Rights Reserved.









James Murray (1841-1905)

Low G

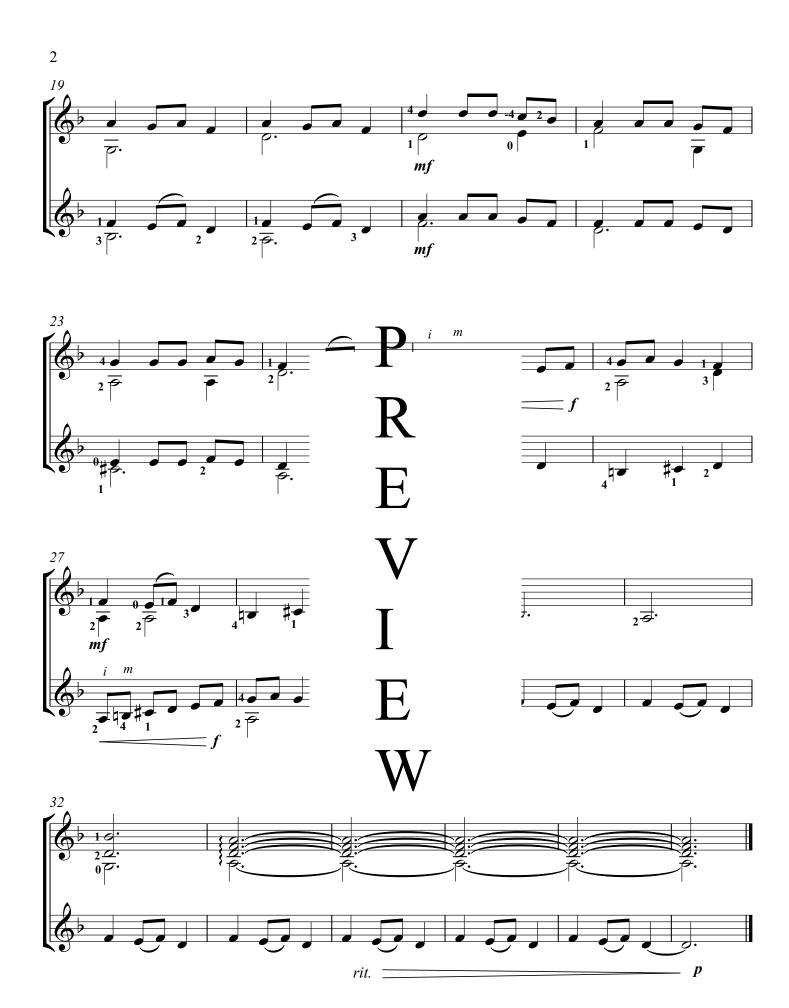


Carol of the Bells (Duet, Full Score)

Arranged for Two Low G Ukuleles by Ellen S. Whitaker

Ukranian Christmas Carol by Mykola Lyontovych (1914)





Coventry Carol

Arranged for Solo Ukulele by Ellen S. Whitaker

16th Century English Tune



God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Arranged for Solo Ukulele by Ellen S. Whitaker

English Traditional

Low G



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Good King Wenceslas

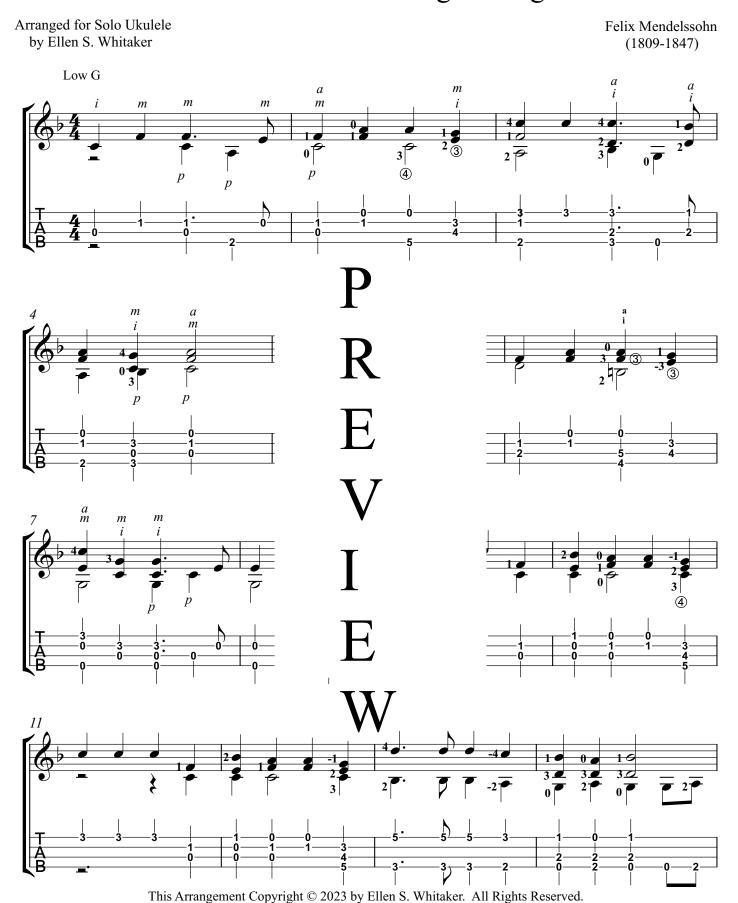
Arranged for Solo Ukulele by Ellen S. Whitaker

Traditional (13th century tune)



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Hark! The Herald Angels Sing





The Holly and the Ivy

Arranged for Solo Ukulele **English Traditional** by Ellen S. Whitaker (18th Century) Low G mThis Arrangement Copyright © 2023 by Ellen S. Whitaker. All Rights Reserved.

I Saw Three Ships

Arranged for Solo Ukulele by Ellen S. Whitaker

English Traditional (17th Century)



In The Bleak Midwinter

Arranged for Solo Ukulele by Ellen S. Whitaker

English Hymn



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Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (Jesu bleibet meine Freude from Cantata No. 147)

Arranged for Solo Ukulele by Ellen S. Whitaker

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Low G similesimile

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Jingle Bells

Arranged for Solo Ukulele by Ellen S. Whitaker

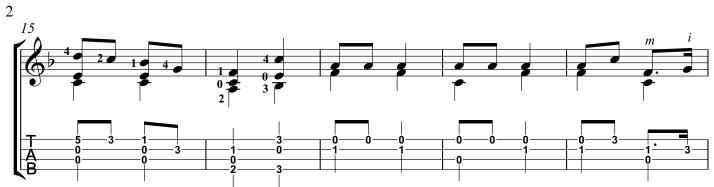
J. Pierpont (1822-1893)

Low G





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The Little Drummer Boy

Arranged for Solo Ukulele by Ellen S. Whitaker

Katherine Kennicott Davis (1892-1980)





O Christmas Tree

Arranged for Solo Ukulele by Ellen S. Whitaker

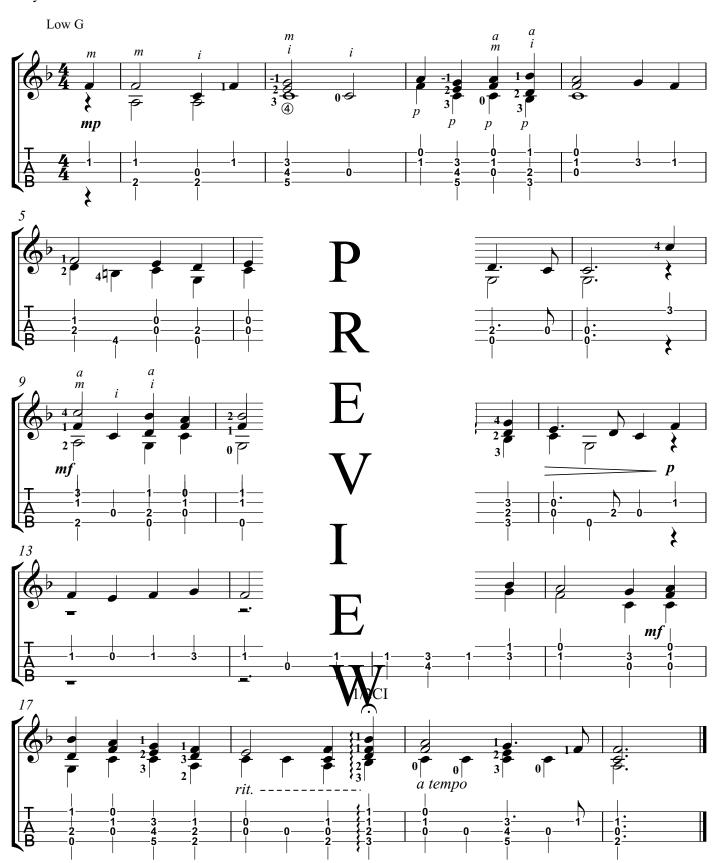
German Traditional



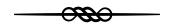
O Come All Ye Faithful

Traditional (18th Century)

Arranged for Solo Ukulele by Ellen S. Whitaker



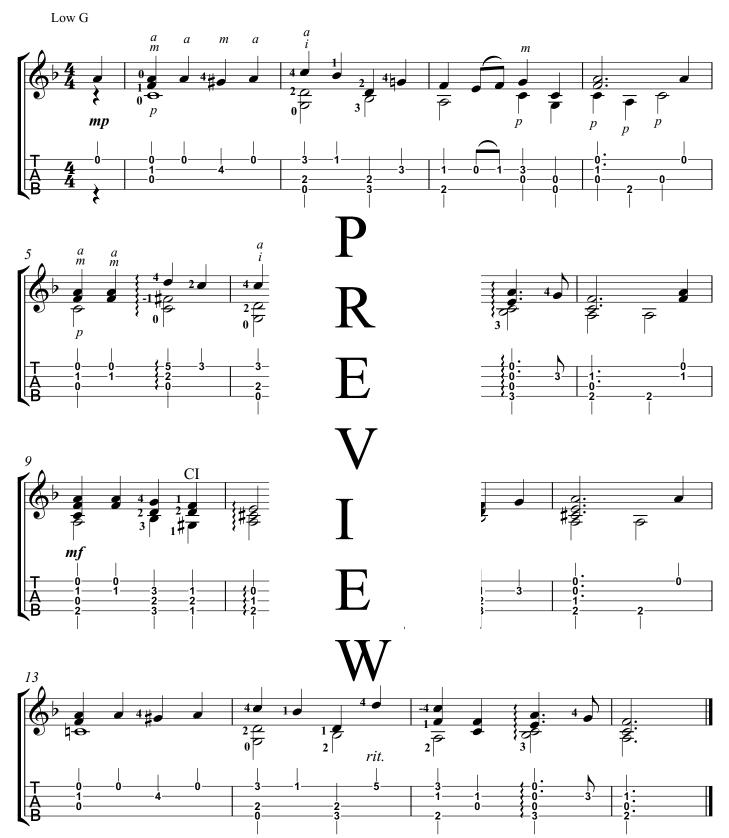
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O Little Town of Bethlehem

Arranged for Solo Ukulele by Ellen S. Whitaker

Traditional



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Low G







Silent Night

Arranged for Solo Ukulele by Ellen S. Whitaker

Franz Grüber (1787-1863)

Low G





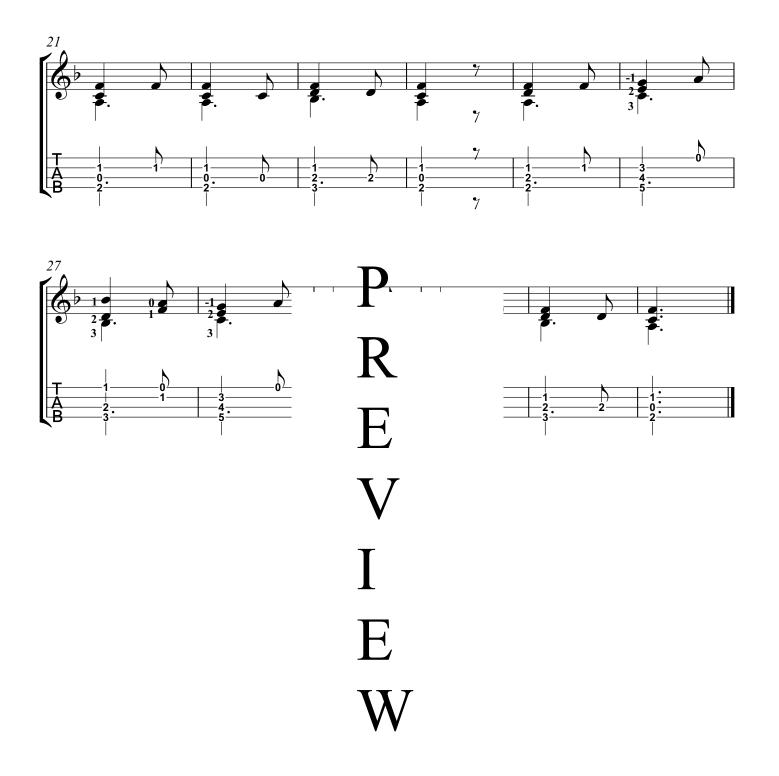
We Three Kings

Arranged for Solo Ukulele by Ellen S. Whitaker

John Henry Hopkins (1820-1892)

Low G





We Wish You A Merry Christmas

Arranged for Solo Ukulele by Ellen S. Whitaker

English Traditional





What Child is This? (Greensleeves tune)

Arranged for Solo Ukulele by Ellen S. Whitaker

Anonymous (16th century)





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About the Arranger

Ellen Whitaker is a guitar teacher, ukulele teacher, arranger and composer. She began teaching herself to play the guitar at nine years of age and studied classical guitar from the age of 12 with various teachers.

She began her formal study of music theory at City College of San Francisco, and went on to earn a BA in Music from Mills College and an MA in Music Theory from the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Whitaker has been teaching guitar since 1981 and ukulele since 2015. While at UCSB, she taught undergraduate classes in music fundamentals, advanced theory and composition.

Other publications by Whitaker include:

- Jewish Traditions for Classical and Fingerstyle Guitar,
- Music for Classical and Fingerstyle Ukulele Low G,
- Music for Baritone Ukulele: Classical and Fingerstyle, and
- Christmas Music for Baritone Ukulele

In addition, she has written original repertoire pieces and studies (for both guitar and ukulele), as well as original pieces for various chamber ensembles.

Whitaker's home and studio are located in Durham, NC where she teaches individual lessons in guitar, ukulele and music theory.