

Christmas Excursions

A Suite for Piano & Organ by
Joel Raney

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Foreword

Christmas is a time when everyone wants to hear the hymns and carols they love, but it can also be a time when musicians grow weary of the “same old thing.” Well, here’s something to freshen up the familiar; a colorful, entertaining take on several beloved carols, set for organ and piano in a four movement suite, guaranteed to bring a Christmas smile to the listener’s face. Each movement is arranged in a distinctive contemporary style and is 2-1/2 to 4 minutes in length, making it possible to use them individually as preludes, offertories or postludes. When performed in its entirety, the work is about 12 minutes long, and takes us on a delightful, somewhat surprising journey through the many moods of Christmas.

The first movement, *Prophecy in Blue*, is slow and jazzy, and is followed by a playful medley, aptly named *A Merry Tango*. *The Gospel of Peace* treats several ballads in a soulful, gospel style, and the final movement, *An Angelic Celebration*, is a driving, festive toccata.

For my organist and pianist friends, I hope you find this as enjoyable to perform as it was to write. Merry Christmas!

- Joel Raney

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Commissioned by Suzanne Zahniser of Mercer Island Presbyterian Church, Mercer Island, Washington,
in honor of her parents, Nellie and Robert Miller of Arborlawn United Methodist Church, Fort Worth, Texas

1. Prophecy in Blue

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Arranged by
JOEL RANEY

VENI EMMANUEL
French Melody, 15th c.

Easy swing (♩ = c. 96)

Piano Cues

mp

Organ

Easy swing (♩ = c. 96)

4

I. Solo Reed

mp

II. 8' Strings & Flutes

Ped. Sub Bass

This musical score is for the organ piece 'Prophecy in Blue'. It is written for three staves: a grand staff (treble and bass clef) and a separate bass staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 8, 12, and 16 indicated at the start of their respective systems. The notation includes various chords, arpeggios, and melodic lines. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' in the first system. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) appears in the third system. A repeat sign with a first ending bracket is present in the fourth system, with a second ending marked 'II.' following it. The piece concludes with a final chord in the fourth system.

Musical score for "Prophecy in Blue - Organ". The score is written for three staves (Treble, Bass, and a lower Bass staff) in a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 20, 24, and 28 indicated.

The score features various musical notations, including chords, single notes, and triplets. The first system (measures 1-4) shows a *mf* dynamic. The second system (measures 5-8) includes a first ending bracket labeled "I." and a *mf* dynamic. The third system (measures 9-12) includes a *mp* (mezzo-piano) dynamic and a triplet. The fourth system (measures 13-16) includes a *mp* dynamic and a triplet. The fifth system (measures 17-20) includes a *f* (forte) dynamic and a triplet. The sixth system (measures 21-24) includes a *f* dynamic and a triplet. The seventh system (measures 25-28) includes a *f* dynamic and a triplet. The eighth system (measures 29-32) includes a *f* dynamic and a triplet.

The score concludes with the instruction "I. add 4' Flute" and "II. 8' & 4' Flutes".