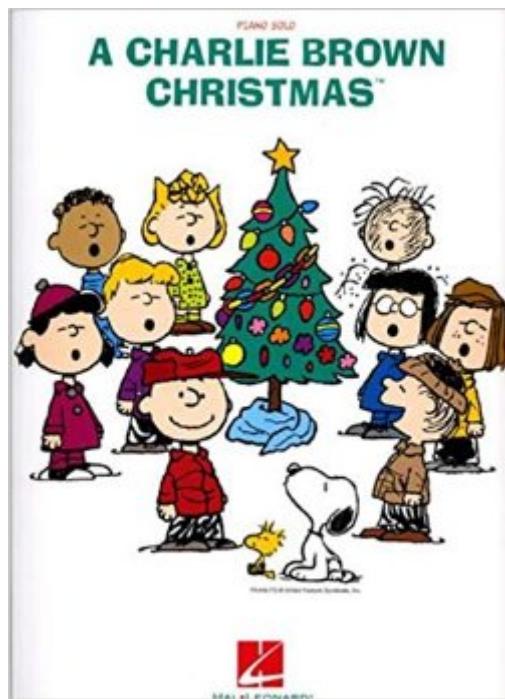


The book was found

A Charlie Brown Christmas



Synopsis

(Piano Solo Songbook). This deluxe collection features arrangements of all ten Vince Guaraldi arrangements from this annually anticipated holiday classic: Christmas Is Coming * The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire) * Christmas Time Is Here * Fur Elise * Hark, The Herald Angels Sing * Linus and Lucy * My Little Drum * O Tannenbaum * Skating * What Child Is This. It also includes a stunning color section featuring Peanuts illustrations!

Book Information

Paperback: 40 pages

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Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.1 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (111 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #21,612 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #80 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Songbooks > Piano #125 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Instruments > Piano #166 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres

Customer Reviews

There are several reasons I love this book. For one, the songs are very familiar and are pleasing to play. These are instrumental works so you get to play it the way it is performed, instead of incorporating the melody into the right-hand piano parts. The chord progressions are very interesting (flat 9th chords, flat 5th, etc.) especially the way they are voiced. You can see an example at the sheet music plus web site. There is another version of this book with parts that are easier to play. I have only seen one sample page from that book (Linus and Lucy) and in the other book it is played in C major and doesn't have the left-hand rhythmic anticipations (first note begins an eighth note early) while this book has the song in E-flat, which is a little harder to play but sounds richer. I have a QRS player piano roll of Linus and Lucy and I noticed that it matches the Christmas CD better. The song on the CD goes through the main part of the song three times with two swinging (hard to play) refrains. The two refrains are a little different, with the second one being more dissonant than the first. The book documents only the second. The bass line for the refrains are simple walking quarter notes while the piano roll has a rag-time style alternating eighth note bass

notes and chords. This is fine by me because this is plenty hard to play as it is (triplets over quarter notes, etc.). At any rate, check out the sample at Sheet Music Plus to see if the difficulty matches your ability. If so, this is a great purchase.

I got this book as a present one year and was absolutely amazed. I've always loved the Charlie Brown Christmas Special and came to appreciate the music more and more as I grew up. Reading through the book, I discovered that the authors had done a painstaking job of transcribing Vince Guaraldi's performance nearly note-for-note. When you first start playing "The Christmas Song" for example, you hear those flat-9 chords Vince loved to play and think to yourself, "Yeah, that's the real deal." Even the improvised solos are transcribed wonderfully. This is NOT a book for the faint of heart. If you are unfamiliar with playing jazz piano, you may quickly get overwhelmed. However, what better way to learn some advanced chord voicings than to play it exactly the way the arranger did? The songs are beautiful and incredibly fun to play, but without at least an intermediate piano skill level, you may get frustrated.

There are a few different versions of this songbook, and unfortunately the reviews seem to be confusing as some people said it was very easy while others said it is extremely difficult. Some reviews are even for the soundtrack CD! How do you know which one you're getting, when all the reviews are lumped together??? I wanted to make sure I was getting a version for my child was neither too easy nor too difficult. I did a little research on Sheet Music Plus. Just make sure to check the ISBN number on the version you are ordering off . Here are the descriptions: ISBN 0634029827 Piano/Keyboard - SMP Primer Level (Early Elementary) Very beginning music. Five-finger positions with no chords and almost no hand position movement. This book has duet part for the teacher. ISBN 0634029800 Piano/Keyboard - SMP Level 4 (Intermediate) Introduction of 4-note chords and sixteenth notes. Hand movement covering 2 to 3 octaves. ISBN 0634029797 Piano/Keyboard - SMP Level 7 (Late Intermediate) 4 to 5-note chords in both hands and scales in octaves in both hands.

If you are looking for a Piano Solo book with arrangements by Vince Guaraldi for Charlie Brown Christmas music, This Is It! All of the songs from the CD "A Charlie Brown Christmas" appear in this book. Do Not be fooled by the word "arrangement", if you happen to be looking for the original music. All of this music sounds almost exactly like the CD (and movie for that matter) even to the point of being written in the same key (F Major, G Major, Ab Major sometimes). Excellent Buy! Level

Rate:Late Intermediate-Early Advanced

I can't speak for the other songs in this book, but if your goal is to play 'Linus and Lucy' note-for-note, the sheet music in this book omits the first jazz solo. The full song with both solos is in this book: The Vince Guaraldi Collection: Piano (Artist Transcriptions). Other than that, the transcription on the song is accurate and the formatting is easy to read.

Here is all the wonderful Vince Guaraldi music from the famous Peanuts Christmas special, "A Charlie Brown Christmas". You don't get the improvisations, or of course, the trio accompaniment. But the piano part sounds wonderful, and with some practice, sounds so much like the music from the show that it is very rewarding to play. As far as I know, every number is included, especially the famous "Linus and Lucy". What a blast to play! The format is good, large pages, clean, dark printing, easy to read. This is not easy piano by any means. Everybody's grading system varies, but my estimate is that these pieces are firmly in the intermediate level, with some pieces possibly early advanced. If you play at that level, and love the music from that heart-warming show, you will not regret your purchase. I don't think you have to be an expert in jazz at all to play this music, as the pieces are so familiar you probably will find you fairly quickly pick up the feel for how to make it sound good. Definitely recommended.

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