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# **Christmas Carols For Ukulele Orchestra: 12 Classic Carols For Three Or More Ukuleles : Orchestral-style Parts Featuring Tablature & Standard Notation ... Lyrics (Ukulele Orchestra Series) (Volume 1)**





## Synopsis

Christmas Carols for Ukulele Orchestra : 12 Classic Carols for Three or More Ukuleles

Orchestral-style Parts featuring Tablature & Standard Notation Rhythm Parts with Strumming

Indications & Lyrics Author's note: I was inspired to create this book by a number of things; my love for the ukulele, the ukulele ensemble I lead in the heart of the Wasatch mountains (UFO HUM: Ukes for Others Happy Ukulele Movement), my experience as a composer and arranger, and not least, some great arrangements for ukulele ensemble that I've seen others do. As I've used some of the arrangements made by others with my UFO HUM group, I've compiled a wish list of things I'd like to see in a book of this kind. For instance, tablature parts for those playing strictly instrumentals (we spend a lot of time in rehearsal just figuring out the best fingerings), a rhythm part that includes strum suggestions with the chords, and lyrics for those of us in the group who like to sing as well as play. This book meets these qualifications for the most part. Carol of the Bells and Deck the Hall omit the lyrics for purely instrumental versions of these standbys. Deck the Hall and We Three Kings also omit a rhythm part with chords for reasons of complexity. All in all, I hope you enjoy my take, influenced largely by my college studies in 16th and 18th century counterpoint as a composition student, to be a lot of fun for you and your ukulele orchestra or ensemble! Merry Christmas! M. Ryan Taylor Contents Note: This book is arranged ALPHABETICALLY, with the condensed orchestral-style score first, followed by the lyric/rhythm part, and then followed by the three tablature parts. I felt pagination would not be helpful for an ensemble, as each part is clearly marked and measure numbers are included throughout. Away in a Manger Carol of the Bells Deck the Hall God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen Good King Wenceslas Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Jingle Bells Joy to the World Silent Night We Three Kings We Wish You a Merry Christmas! What Child is This? Performance Notes While all the arrangements can be performed as written in the score and parts, I'm including some variations that you might consider based on the preferences of your ensemble. First of all, the "Rhythm Ukulele" part (which contains the lyrics and vocal melody) can be omitted on all the arrangements if you only have three players. Alternately, the "Ukulele 1" part usually sticks to the melody and can be omitted any time you'd like to sing the melody instead from the "Rhythm Ukulele" part. Where and when you use the vocal lines are up to you, including the possibility of audience participation on one or more of the verses. Other suggestions are specific to the individual carols are included in the book. About the Author M. Ryan Taylor plays ukulele, tuba, piano and other things. He is the director of UFO HUM (Ukes for Others : Happy Ukulele Movement), a ukulele orchestra nestled in the heart of the Wasatch mountains. He graduated from college with degrees in vocal performance and musical composition and loves all

kinds of music, from folk to classical, from jazz to pop. He is now the author of five books for ukulele, including this title, Christmas on 34th Street, The Two Chord Christmas Songbook, The Haunted Ukulele, and Two Chord Camp Songs for Ukulele (all available on ). Visit the author's website for more ukulele fun: [UkulelePlay.com](http://UkulelePlay.com)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Good orchestrations for ukulele are reasonably rare. This book (all 164 pages of it!) allows anyone with half an ear, and some skill on the ukulele, to learn how to arrange a bunch of ukuleles on well known Christmas carols. As is usual with an arrangement for multiple instruments, a good teacher / conductor / leader is required to help bring it together. This book provides the leader with an important and useful resource, in a good sized font which is ideal for those older eyes that tend to enjoy these sorts of arrangements. It's so great to have a resource that aims to get us beyond the ol' hum n strum. Thanks Ryan! Mark ([www.ukestra.com](http://www.ukestra.com) - Newcastle, Australia)

This is a good book for intermediate and advanced players who play with two or more people. If you read tab or notes the basic melody is usually uke 1 so beginning players can use the book also. You need to know or look up chords such as F add 9, Bb6, C5, and G+. The whole orchestration with all three parts is in notes and tab together (requiring some good eye sight to read) as well as each part printed in larger print individually. Jingle Bells requires skill in multiple hammer-ons and pull-offs.

Some of the more complex songs do not have chords listed and others change chords multiple times in a measure. None of this should be difficult for the advanced player and is reachable with practice for intermediate players. One song with tab can be played as an intermediate solo. I wish there had been more of that for those of us who play well with others but also play alone. I'd recommend this for intermediate to advanced uke players.

Another great uke book from M. Ryan Taylor! These are the classic, "classy" Christmas songs that are going to sound great on multiple ukes. This will provide a really unique experience for listeners, who have probably never heard anything quite like it. The inclusion of performance notes at the beginning are really helpful. I'm not a longtime uke player so some of the songs in this book are an ambitious project for me, but I can already play the rhythm uke parts on most of the tunes. Also, my playing gets vastly better when practicing with others regularly. My two best uke playing buddies are definitely going to get a copy of this for Christmas this year, so that the three of us can be ready to amaze our friends next year!

A real labour of love, this tome gives good interpretations of well-loved carols for uke ensembles. Really helpful to have the score for people like me who struggle to read tablature, and great to have the tab for people who don't read music. This book shows clearly how to intertwine the melodies as well as encouraging ukulele players to experiment with different harmonies. A lovely festive book.

This unique orchestral arrangement of familiar songs for a popular instrument requires a group of enthusiastic players with skill and appreciation to match M. Ryan Taylor's love for this music. With exceptional clarity each part of the arrangements for a trio of ukuleles is presented separately and together in TAB and staff notation. This is an upgrade from the "strum and hum" arrangements that are played in many groups of ukulele players. What a marvelous opportunity to practice intermediate and advanced picking and chording and group performance skills! I recommend this book to the leaders of groups of ukulele players who are enthusiastic about performing as an orchestra.

Many Christmas carols are extremely simple, which makes them great for beginners, but boring for more advanced players, especially if they're shy about singing (and many of my students are!). With this book of arrangements, Taylor has given us a bevy of orchestral arrangements, which more advanced groups of players will find challenging and satisfying. Recommended for teachers or

leaders of clubs/circles with players who are comfortable with fingerpicking and tablature, and who will be patient in practicing and learning individual parts.

This is a great book for someone who wants to play something for Christmas other than the old "way" most ukulele players play a Carol. This would not be for a beginning player. You would need someone in the group of 3 more more players to have some musical knowledge. I like the way the pages are set out. They are easy to see a read which part you are playing. The pages for a rhythm uke are easy to see and figure out. Good book and I'm glad to have it my collection.

A great book for uke clubs and groups. Most uke song books are written for the single player. This book adds another dimension and is formatted in such a way that the songs are able to be easily followed. I highly recommend this book.

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