



Christmas at Sea

(I Saw Three Ships, Sicilian Mariners Hymn)

Arranged by GENE MILFORD

Instrumentation

Full Score	1
Flute 1	4
Flute 2	4
Oboe	2
B \flat Clarinet 1	4
B \flat Clarinet 2	4
B \flat Clarinet 3	4
Bass Clarinet	2
Bassoon	2
Alto Saxophone 1	2
Alto Saxophone 2	2
Tenor Saxophone	2
Baritone Saxophone	2
B \flat Trumpet 1	4
B \flat Trumpet 2	4
B \flat Trumpet 3	4
Horn in F 1	2
Horn in F 2	2
Trombone 1	3
Trombone 2	3
Euphonium	4
Baritone T.C.	2
Tuba	4
String Bass	2
Timpani	2
Mallets	4
Bells, Marimba, Xylophone, Chimes	
Percussion 1	2
Snare Drum, Bass Drum	
Percussion 2	7
Triangle, Ship Bell, Mark Tree, Suspended Cymbal, Crash Cymbals, Gong, Tambourine	

For Preview Only
Excelcia Music Publishing



ABOUT THE ARRANGER



Gene Milford, a native of Canton, Ohio, is a Senior Lecturer in Music at The University of Akron. He holds degrees from Kent State University including a Masters of Arts in Music History and a PhD in Music Education.

A public school, instrumental, music educator with 30 years of experience, his ensembles consistently receive superior ratings at adjudicated events and are performed at state and national professional conferences. Dr. Milford has served as guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator and presented clinic sessions at regional and national conferences. His articles on music education have appeared in *Triad*, *The Instrumentalist*, *Dialogues in Instrumental Music Education*, and *Contributions to Music Education*.

As a composer and arranger, he has received numerous commissions, grants, and awards and has more than 100 published works for band, orchestra, choir, and small ensembles. Many of his compositions appear on state required lists. His professional affiliations include the Ohio Music Education Association, where he has served as a district president and on numerous committees at both the district and state level; American School Band Directors Association (ASBDA), having served as state chair, National Band Association, Phi Beta Mu, Phi Kappa Lambda, and the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), having received the ASCAP Plus Award. He was the 2006 inductee to the Ohio Band Directors Hall of Fame.

CHRISTMAS AT SEA

(*I SAW THREE SHIPS*, *SICILIAN MARINERS HYMN*)

Christmas is celebrated around the world in many different situations; two nautical-related holiday songs are set as a tribute to those who are at sea.

Robert Louis Stevenson's 1888 poem *Christmas at Sea* recounts a storm-tossed ship off the Scottish coast, and a young sailor longing for the comfort of Christmas at the family fireside as they sail out to sea.

The melodies included are the English carol *I Saw Three Ships* with two variants of the English carol tune, the more familiar melody in M.11-40 and a second at M.46-85.

The earliest printed version dates to the 17th century. It is particularly popular in the south of England and the Appalachian area of the U.S. Numerous variants have been collected, and there are various interpretations of the lyrics.

The melody is known variously as *Sicilian Mariners' Hymn*, *O Santissima* ("O Most Holy"), and in English, *O, How Joyfully*. Both Haydn and Beethoven made choral settings of the melody. The designation *Sicilian Mariners' Hymn* comes from the practice of Sicilian sailors singing the melody in the evening while praying for a safe voyage.

Note: If a ship's bell is not available, playing B-flat and A-flat simultaneously on Orchestra Bells or Vibraphone could substitute, or a B-flat handbell.



excelciamusic.com/gene-milford



[excelciamusicpublishing](https://www.youtube.com/excelciamusicpublishing)

Recordings are available on all major streaming services.

Christmas at Sea

(I Saw Three Ships, Sicilian Mariners Hymn)

GENE MILFORD
(ASCAP)

Moderato ♩ = c. 76

Fl. 1 only

4

Flute 1, 2

Oboe

B♭ Clarinet 1

B♭ Clarinet 2, 3

Bass Clarinet

Bassoon

Alto Saxophone 1, 2

Tenor Saxophone

Baritone Saxophone

Moderato ♩ = c. 76

B♭ Trumpet 1

B♭ Trumpet 2, 3

Horn in F 1, 2

Trombone 1, 2

Euphonium

Tuba

Timpani (F: B♭: E♭)

Mallets (Bells, Marimba, Xylophone, Chimes)

Percussion 1 (Snare Drum, Bass Drum)

Percussion 2 (Triangle, Ship Bell, Mark Tree, Suspended Cymbal, Crash Cymbals, Gong, Tambourine)

1 2 3 4

For Preview Only
Excelcia Music Publishing

Christmas at Sea - Full Score

Allegretto ♩ = 100

Fl. 1, 2 + Fl. 2 a2 mp f mp a2

Ob. mp f

B♭ Cl. 1 f

B♭ Cl. 2, 3 f

B. Cl. f

Bsn. f

A. Sax. 1, 2 a2 f

T. Sax. f

B. Sax. f

B♭ Tpt. 1 f

B♭ Tpt. 2, 3 f

Hn. 1, 2 sub. p

Tbn. 1, 2 sub. p

Euph. sub. p

Tuba sub. p

Timp. p f

Mal. p

Perc. 1 pp f

Perc. 2 Suspended Cymbal Tri. p

Crash Cymbals Gong Tambourine

Allegretto ♩ = 100

Excelcia Music Publishing

11

Fl. 1, 2

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2, 3

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax. 1, 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

11

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2, 3

Hn. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mal.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Snare Drum: snares off near rim

normal

ppp

pp

Sus. Cym.: stick on dome

pp

poco rit.

Fl. 1, 2

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2, 3

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax. 1, 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

p

poco rit.

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2, 3

Hn. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2

Euph.

Tuba

p

pp

p

Timp.

Mal.

Perc. 1

Cr. Cym.

Sus. Cym.

pp

p

46 *a tempo*

Fl. 1, 2

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2, 3

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax. 1, 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

46 *a tempo*

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2, 3

Hn. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mal. Marimba

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 Tri. Tamb.

mp

Fl. 1, 2

Ob.

B \flat Cl. 1

B \flat Cl. 2, 3

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax. 1, 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B \flat Tpt. 1

B \flat Tpt. 2, 3

Hn. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mal.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

69 Allegretto ♩=100

Fl. 1, 2

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2, 3

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax. 1, 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

69 Allegretto ♩=100
Tutti

B♭ Tpt. 1
pp
+ Tpt. 3 a2

B♭ Tpt. 2, 3
pp
+ Hn. 2 a2

Hn. 1, 2
pp
+ Tbn. 2 a2

Tbn. 1, 2
pp

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mal.
Chimes
pp

Marimba
p

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Fl. 1, 2 *mp* *mf*³

Ob. *mp*

B \flat Cl. 1 *mp* *mf*

B \flat Cl. 2, 3 + Cl. 3 *mp* *mf*

B. Cl. *mf*

Bsn. *mf*

A. Sax. 1, 2 *mf*³ + A. Sax. 2

T. Sax. *mf*

B. Sax. *mf*

B \flat Tpt. 1 *mf*

B \flat Tpt. 2, 3 *mf*

Hn. 1, 2 *mf*

Tbn. 1, 2 *mf*

Euph. *mf*

Tuba *mf*

Timp.

Mal. Chimes *mf*

Perc. 1 *mf*

Perc. 2 Sus. Cym. *mf*

p *mf*

poco rit.

94 *a tempo*

Fl. 1, 2

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2, 3

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax. 1, 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2, 3

Hn. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mal. Chimes: l.v.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 Cr. Cym.

92 93 94 95 96

Fl. 1, 2

Ob.

B \flat Cl. 1

B \flat Cl. 2, 3

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax. 1, 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B \flat Tpt. 1

B \flat Tpt. 2, 3

Hn. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mal.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Cue: B. Cl.

pp

pp

pp

pp

Solo
mp

p

Tbn. 1 only
p

p

p

ppp

Snare off
pp

Sus. Cym.: stick
p

Tutti

Fl. 1, 2 *pp*

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1 Cue: Hn. *pp*

B♭ Cl. 2, 3 Cue: Tbn. *pp* a2

B. Cl. *pp*

Bsn.

A. Sax. 1, 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2, 3

Hn. 1, 2 *pp* + Tbn. 2 a2

Tbn. 1, 2 *pp*

Euph. Solo *p*

Tuba One player *pp*

Timp.

Mal. Bells: rubber mallets *pp*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 *pp* Ship Bell *p* *pp*