

Jingle Bells

Score

A Uke Big Band Arrangement

James Lord Pierpont (1822–1893)
arranged by Jeff Hanlon

The score is written for three ukuleles (Ukulele 1, Ukulele 2, and Ukulele 3) in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one sharp (F#). Ukulele 1 plays a simple harmonic accompaniment with whole notes. Ukulele 2 plays a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and chords. Ukulele 3 plays a bass line with quarter notes. The lyrics are: "Dash - ing through the snow in a one horse op - en sleigh _____ O'er the fields we go laugh - ing all the way _____".

Ukulele 1

Ukulele 2

Ukulele 3

5

Uk. 1

Dash - ing through the snow in a one horse op - en sleigh _____

Uk. 2

Uk. 3

9

Uk. 1

O'er the fields we go laugh - ing all the way _____

Uk. 2

Uk. 3

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13

Uk. 1

Bells on bob - tail ring mak - ing spi - rits bright what

Uk. 2

Uk. 3

17

Uk. 1

fun it is to laugh and sing a sleigh - ing song to - night! Oh!

Uk. 2

Uk. 3

21

Uk. 1

Jin - gle bells, Jin - gle bells, Jin - gle all the way!

Uk. 2

Uk. 3

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25

Uk. 1

Uk. 2

Uk. 3

Oh, what fun it is to ride a one horse o - pen sleigh. Oh!

29

Uk. 1

Uk. 2

Uk. 3

Jin - gle bells, Jin - gle bells, Jin - gle all the way.

33

Uk. 1

Uk. 2

Uk. 3

Oh, what fun it is to ride a one horse o - pen sleigh.

1.

1.

1.

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37

Uk. 1

Uk. 2

Uk. 3

sleigh

2.

2.

2.

Detailed description: This is a musical score for three ukuleles (Uk. 1, Uk. 2, and Uk. 3) for measures 37 through 40. The music is in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Measure 37 features a whole note chord in Uk. 1 (D4), a quarter note 'sleigh' in Uk. 2 (D4), and a quarter note in Uk. 3 (D4). Measure 38 continues with a whole note chord in Uk. 1 (D4), quarter notes in Uk. 2 (D4, F#4), and quarter notes in Uk. 3 (D4, F#4). Measure 39 has a whole rest in Uk. 1, a quarter note in Uk. 2 (D4), and a quarter note in Uk. 3 (D4). Measure 40 concludes with a whole note chord in Uk. 1 (D4), a quarter note in Uk. 2 (D4), and a quarter note in Uk. 3 (D4). First endings are indicated by a bracket over measures 37-38 and another over measures 39-40, with a '2.' marking the start of the second ending. Accents (>) are placed over the final notes of measures 37, 39, and 40.

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Teaching/Learning Notes (C tuning: g c e a)

Focus on:

- ✓ Note reading
- ✓ Reading rhythms
- ✓ Ensemble skills

Key points:

- ✓ Ukulele 2 and 3 maintain a two-bar rhythmic pattern for most of the verse section. Have each part practice these rhythms by clapping or playing on open strings. Then get the two parts to practice together so they can feel how the rhythms differ in the first bar and how they come together in the second bar. As this becomes secure, have Ukulele 1 players sing the melody while Uke 2 and 3 clap the rhythms.
- ✓ Uke 2 and 3 have chords in the chorus section. Strummed chords are best as they will provide some juice for a favourite part of the song, “Hey!”. If chording proves to be too much, however, have the students divide the notes among them within a part or omit notes in one part if they are covered in the other. Teach the chords with chord charts! I have my students “translate” chord charts into standard notation and vice versa.
- ✓ The Uke 2 part for the chorus is very singable. Demonstrate the part and teach the entire ensemble to sing the words of the chorus to this “new tune”. This will make it easier and more enjoyable for Uke 2 players to learn and to play.
- ✓ Uke 1 carries the melody all the way and so will need to be a strong section! This is especially true for the verse section as Uke 2 crosses the melody to play higher pitches. This will make it more difficult for the melody to be clear to the audience. Also, Uke 1 must play with rhythmic precision and confidence. For every second bar of the verse section Uke 1 provides the downbeat for the off-beat rhythm in the lower parts.