

Deck the Hall

From: Christmas At Home

Five carols for upper-voices

SSA a cappella

arr. laura hawley

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Christmas At Home

1. Deck the Hall Old Welsh Air
2. O Christmas Tree trad.
3. The Christmas Waltz Sammy Cahn and Jule Styne
4. Let it snow! Sammy Cahn and Jule Style
5. I wonder as I wander John Jacob Niles

Commissioned by Jackie Hawley for Cantiamo Women's Choir

Duration: 11:00

Deck the Hall duration: 1:45

Deck the hall

Deck the hall with boughs of holly
Fa la la la la la la la la
'Tis the season to be jolly
Fa la la la la la la la la
Fill the mead cup, drain the barrel
Fa la la la la la la la la
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol
Fa la la la la la la la la

Fast away the old year passes
Fa la la la la la la la la
Hail the new, yea lads and lasses!
Fa la la la la la la la la
Laughing quaffing all together
Fa la la la la la la la la
Headless of the wind and weather
Fa la la la la la la la la

See the flowing bowl before us
Fa la la la la la la la la
Strike the harp and join the chorus
Fa la la la la la la la la
Follow me in merry measure
Fa la la la la la la la la
While I sing of beauty's treasure
Fa la la la la la la la la

Composer's notes

This setting of *Deck the Hall* is from a collection of five arrangements called “Christmas at Home” These arrangements began as a Christmas project in December 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, when travel restrictions prevented me from being with family to celebrate the holidays. I decided to write some two-part arrangements for my mother and I to sing together over Zoom. The limited technology prevented us from both singing at the same and having our sound blend together in real time, so we each took turns going on mute, which meant we would also take turns hearing both our parts at once while I muted, I could hear my voice and my mum's voice and it felt like singing a duet.

The collection title, “Christmas at Home,” is based on the idea of carols that go with experiences I and perhaps others have celebrating the season at home. Here are the carols:

1. “Deck the Hall:” The first thing I do each year is decorate my house to get into the festive spirit. This carol was the first arrangement I wrote for my 2020 project, and for this collection, I've kept it in its two-part version in the spirit of how these arrangements all started, including the silly inside-jokes I put in the score for a laugh. My mother and I are both mezzos, so I've adjusted the arrangement to be more suitable for a section of sopranos and altos.
2. “O Christmas Tree:” Decorating the tree is always a special event in my family, and usually happens well after the house decorations go up. My arrangement is inspired by the peaceful and nostalgic feeling associated with gazing at the beautiful tree once the trimming is done.
3. “The Christmas Waltz:” This is a carol that comes up on rotation in our house, and one that is less frequently performed, but so lovely! The images of frosted window panes, candles gleaming inside, candy canes on the tree, and the world falling in love feel very “at home” to me, as does my memory of my mum singing this carol!
4. “Let it snow” is all about staying inside cozy by the fire while feeling completely content about the snow falling outside.
5. “I wonder as I wander:” This final carol is the only sacred selection in the set, but a favourite of mine, and one that for me captures the magically special feeling of winter solstice. The sense of stillness and mystery in this carol really reflects how I often feel while out for wintery neighbourhood and forest walks in the dark snowy evenings.

I welcome choirs to treat these arrangements flexibly as best fits your group. I've endeavoured to keep the scoring as clean as possible, but you may wish to move voices around in different verses to have more singers on the melody line, use small groups, solos, or other arrangements go for it!

1. Deck the hall

Old Welsh Air
arr. laura hawley

The musical score is written for Soprano (S) and Alto (A) voices in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The piece is in common time and features a variety of dynamics including *f*, *mf*, and *mp*. The lyrics are in English and include traditional Christmas carol phrases like 'Deck the hall with boughs of holly' and 'Tis the season to be jolly'. The score includes vocal lines with lyrics and corresponding musical notation with notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

Soprano
f
Deck the hall with boughs of hol - ly, fa la la la la la la la la la la!
f
Deck the hall with boughs of hol - ly, fa la la la la la la la la la!
5
f
'tis the sea - son to be jol - ly, fa la la la la la la la la la la la la la la
f
'Tis the sea - son to be jol - ly, fa la la la la la la la la la!
9
mf *f*
fa la la Drain the bar - rel, fa la la la la la la la la la la la la la la
mf *f*
Fill the mead cup fa la la fa la la fa la la fa la la!
13
mp *f*
la la!
f
Troll the ain - cient Christ - mas car - ol, fa la la la la la la la la la la la la!

17 *mf*

S See the flow - ing bowl be - fore us, fa la la la la la la la la!

A *mf* *egg nog inspired*
Flow - ing bowl, the flow - ing bowl be - fore us fa la wah wah wah

21 *f* *slightly crazed*

S Strike the harp! Join _____ the chor - us! _____

A *f* *a la Phoebe Buffay**
Strike the harp and join the chor - us, fa la la la la la la la la la la la

24 *mf*

S Fa___ la la la la la! Fol - low me in mer - ry mea - sure,

A *mf*
la la la! fol - low fol - low me, fol - low fol - low me, fa la

This section has been left blank intentionally.

*Phoebe Buffay is a character from the popular American 1990s sitcom, "Friends." Her songs often featured enthusiastic passages of "la la la." Videos of her unique vocal stylings can be found online.

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S *f* fa la la la la la la la la! Hail new, ye ah _____

A ah _____ Hail the new, ye lads and las - ses!

39

S _____ fa la la la la la _____ Laugh - ing, quaf - fing all to - ge - ther,

A Fa la la la la la la la la laugh-ing, quaf - ing all to - ge - ther,

43

S fa la la la la la la la la la la la Heed - less of the wind and wea - ther,

A fa la la la la la la la la la la la Heed - less of the wind and wea - ther,

47

S fa la fa la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la!

A fa la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la!

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First snow of the year SATB with piano	Qaujimavunga Kinaummangaarma I know who I am SSA with piano, violin, cello	The people you love SSATB a cappella
Gohyangui bon 2-part/SSA with piano	Remember, woman SSAA a cappella with drum	The sun is mine Unison/2-part/SSA or SAB with piano
In dulci jubilo SATB with piano	Rise up, my love SSAATBB a cappella	Versicles and Responses SSAA a cappella
In Flanders Fields SSAA a cappella	Salutation to the dawn SSSAA with piano	Vivre, Aimer, Partager Live, Love, Share (formerly titled "Alhamdoulillah") 2-part with piano and doumbek

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