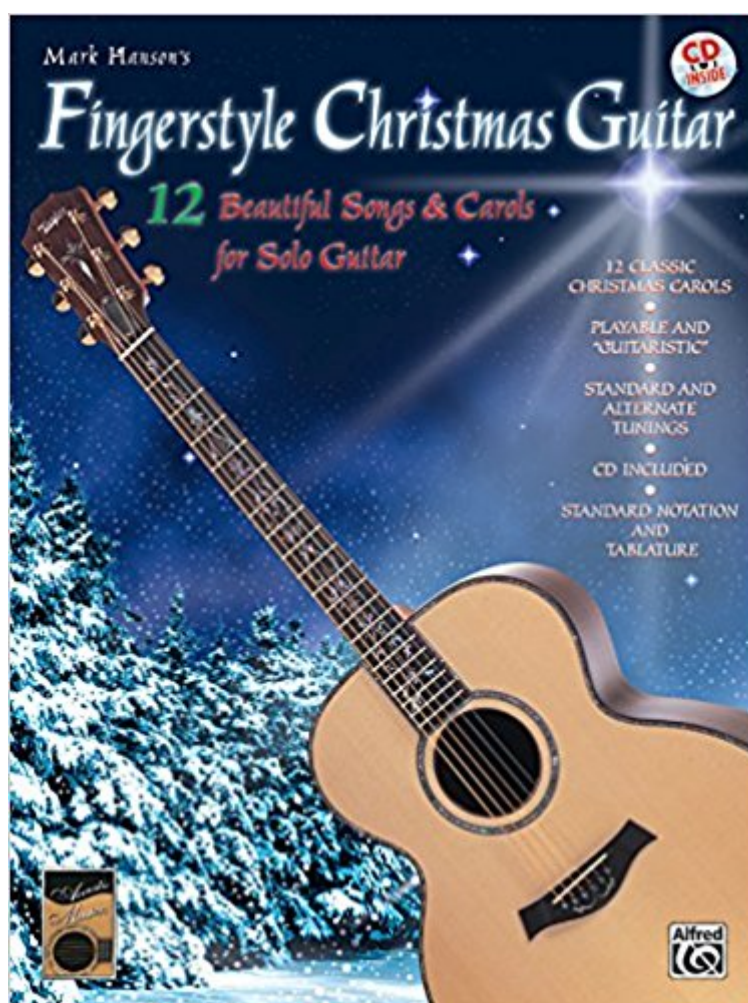


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# Mark Hanson's Fingerstyle Christmas Guitar: (Book & CD) 12 Beautiful Songs & Carols For Solo Guitar



## Synopsis

Twelve classic holiday songs for solo fingerstyle guitar. Includes performance notes, multi-level arrangements in both standard notation and TAB, and CD accompaniment. Titles: The First Noel \* Go Tell It on the Mountain \* In Dulci Jubilo \* Joy to the World \* O Little Town of Bethlehem \* Silent Night \* Winter Wonderland \* and more.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 37 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

When buying a book of arrangements to classic tunes from an artist I never heard of before worries me because I don't have any idea what kind of quality the arrangements are going to be. On such books my biggest question is: Is this book for the performing musician or for the beginner student wanting to learn some simple arrangements? Mark Hanson's Fingerstyle Christmas Guitar book is made for the intermediate/advanced player wanting to learn performance worthy arrangements of Christmas tunes. This book is great for the gigging guitarist who'd like to include some solo guitar versions of Christmas tunes for the holiday season. It's also great for the intermediate/advanced student (which we all are students no matter the ability) to learn some cool techniques: such as playing melody in bass, voice leading, bass lines, some reharmonization (such as Good Christian Men Rejoice having a minor section), use of harmonics and contrapuntal techniques (movement in the inner voices/the tenor and alto voice). The book does have tunes that range from easy to difficult, but it is important to say that the easy arrangements aren't basic/watered down/so-so arrangements. All the tunes are beautifully arranged and performance worthy. The easier tunes are

simply easy because the tune (such as The First Noel) is just a simpler tune and the techniques used aren't as difficult as the harder tunes. The First Noel is a great example of a simple tune that is still greatly arranged. That tune has good voice leading and a nice contrast with the melody in the bass for the 2nd stanza. Easy doesn't equal poor, overly basic arrangement. It simply equals easier to play. Some of these arrangements sound very traditional and others are more modern. The accompanying cd sounds great as well. It's a good quality made cd that can stand by itself. Lastly, some tunes have alternative tunings, such as Angels We Have Heard on High which uses the tuning: DGDF#BD. A handful of tunes are in standard tuning but there are also a handful in other tunings. This book is exactly what I was looking for. It is a great book with high quality performance worthy Christmas arrangements that shouldn't disappoint.

This is a fantastic book for the intermediate guitar player! If you are a classical player and you want to play some Christmas tunes I suggest you go out and buy this book. I initially bought another book by the same author called "Fingerstyle Jazz Images for Christmas." That book was too difficult for me to hit the ground running with, so I went and purchased this book hoping for something a bit less challenging. After all, Christmas carols are for fun, right? This book did not disappoint me. 12 beautifully arranged works that do still provide a challenge but are definitely playable! Go and buy it! Cons? The fingerings aren't always written in. I think the fingerings are on the chords above the notation, but I like having the little 3's, 4's and 1's there so I know the artist's intended fingerings. Also, there is a discrepancy between the tabs and notation in silent night (on a D7 chord and in passing tones on the variation 2nd measure). I will investigate more places, but I've only had so much time to play.

This book is a little odd. The tunes start really basic, then work their way up. The tunes in the back of the book are really nice, and are "gig-ready." My biggest complaint however is that many of the tunes in the middle of the book (which look like good arrangements of good songs) are in weird tunings - and I'm not talking about drop D or even drop D/G...no, these entail tuning multiple strings down. That may be fine for some, but for me when I'm out gigging as a solo player I'm okay with tuning my E string down, or my E and A down (or carrying a second guitar for drop D stuff), but I'm not retuning the whole thing for a song or two (with all the string stretching and stuff). I've also ordered some of Hanson's other stuff. This was my first exposure to him, and from what I've seen here I do like his style. Definitely worth checking out.

I've only worked on 3 of the Christmas Carols, but so far I find the arrangements enjoyable. I've studied classical guitar 4-1/2 years and find the 3 carols I've worked on to be pleasantly challenging. Each song starts with an easy presentation, the second time has more challenging arpeggio flow, the third time has chords of good harmonies. Each section could stand alone, too.

The songs are challenging for an intermediate player with some being quite advanced, but the book starts with the easiest. I'll never play as well as the CD, but it is really good to hear. Sadly, the song tracks have the wrong names in their properties and wmp connection to the internet can wipe out changes that you painstakingly updated. So I give it only 4 stars.

This is 2nd Christmas guitar book I have purchased and it is clearly the better one. The book is divided by degree of playing ability, which eliminates frustration. The "easy songs" like Silent Night don't sound to the ear like a simple song. Hanson does a great job of arrangement, making each song in the book sound rich with multi-string voicings. I also think the Author's notes on how to approach playing each song is fantastic. To me this is a time saver, not having to figure out the most efficient way to play through some challenging measures. Lastly, you get a CD to hear and play along! Get this book!

First of all, if you are looking for easy Christmas music to learn 1-2 weeks before a Christmas program you probably shouldn't get this. This book has great Christmas music for intermediate to advanced level guitarists. Mark Hanson is a great guitarist and writes melodically and harmonically interesting music. I am a classical guitar major and I have been playing for 6 years. This is a must buy for those who are experienced in fingerstyle guitar and it is very challenging and introduces techniques that will really advance your playing. :D

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