

Hi fellow band members,

As Christmas is rapidly approaching and the likelihood of us being able to play music together again has been put on hold, I thought it would be wonderful if we could find a way of “virtually” playing together. With that thought in mind I have created parts and backing tracks for five carols –

Once in Royal David's City  
O Little Town of Bethlehem  
Ding Dong Merrily on High  
O Come all Ye Faithful  
Hark the Herald Angels Sing

All the carols are on <https://dartfordconcertband.co.uk> , on the Christmas Music page. Each carol has it's own page where you can download PDF copies of each part you wish to play. If you play more than one instrument and would like to record all of them that's fine – the more the better! There is also a backing track and a copy of the full score.

Initially it was intended to be audio only, BUT if you wish to video yourself playing, then send that to me as well and I will endeavour to put them all together in a virtual band video as well.

## PREPARATION

- 1) Download (and print if needed) the part(s) you wish to play and record.
- 2) When you first play the backing track and look at your downloaded part you will notice that there is a tuning note.
- 3) Please play and pause the tuning note so that you can be perfectly in tune when you start recording.
- 4) If like me you haven't done enough playing recently then it's probably worth playing through the parts a couple of times to get the timings right and get used to playing with headphones on.

## VITAL RECORDING INFORMATION!

- 1) When recording, **please use headphones! It's vitally important that the recording you send back doesn't have the click or the backing track audible.** You might find it helpful to have one ear with a headphone and one uncovered so it's easier to listen to your instrument. So, listen on one device and record on a second device. Most people tend to use a combination of devices like computer, laptop, iPad, iPhone, or similar. When you have recorded your part(s) then it's worth listening to it before you send it.

- 2) Please start your recording at the very beginning and play the tuning note, even if you don't play for a few bars, as in Once in Royal, this helps line up the parts later on.
- 3) Please record at 44.1MHz. If this means nothing to you, don't worry — it's the default setting anyway! Please also record to a WAV rather than an MP3 if possible as it's higher quality and helps with the mixing. Please also let your recording continue for at least 2 bars (silence) after the final note, as you might in a concert setting.

## WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED

- 1) DEADLINE is 1<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER
- 2) Please label your recording with the name of the carol, and the part you played, and email it to me at david.oldcorn@btinternet.com
- 3) **It would be UNBELIEVABLY HELPFUL if you could send them in as soon as you've recorded them rather than waiting till the last moment.** There is a lot of editing to do and if I can get ahead in any way that would be fantastic.
- 4) The final mixed tracks will be available to listen to or download on the Dartford Concert Band website as soon as they are finished
- 5) I would also like to use the tracks as accompaniment to a virtual "Carols by Candlelight. It would follow the usual format for nine lessons and carols but with six instead. The overall format would be similar to this one I produced for St Nicholas Church, Southfleet  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rsU9F0Lo57o&t=1365s>
- 6) If there are any singers who would like to record tracks for this occasion, then please email me and I will forward the necessary details.

Thanks again to everybody involved in the project. I know this was a lot of information, but it'll all be worth it!

Stay safe, and GOOD LUCK. Please also send me any questions you have about the recording...

Many thanks

Dave Oldcorn