

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS CAROL  
ARR. BY GREG BARTHOLOMEW

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Good King  
Wenceslas

**for Brass Quintet**

BURKE & BAGLEY

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# Good King Wenceslas

*an arrangement for Brass Quintet  
of the traditional holiday carol*

Duration: approximately 2 minutes

*Good King Wenceslas* is a popular Christmas carol that tells a story of a king going on a journey in braving harsh winter weather to give alms to a poor peasant on the Feast of Stephen (December 26, the day after Christmas). During the journey, his page is about to give up the struggle against the cold weather, but is enabled to continue by following the king's footprints, step for step, through the deep snow. The legend is based on the life of the historical Saint Wenceslaus I, Duke of Bohemia or Svatý Václav in Czech (907–935).

The “Wenceslas” lyrics were written in 1853 by English hymnwriter John Mason Neale in collaboration with his music editor Thomas Helmore. Neale's lyrics were set to the melody of a 13th-century spring carol *Tempus adest florum* (“The time is near for flowering”) first published in the 1582 Finnish song collection *Piae Cantiones*.

If you give a public performance of this work, please send a PDF of the concert program to [office@burkeandbagley.com](mailto:office@burkeandbagley.com)

**BURKE & BAGLEY**

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# Good King Wenceslas

Traditional, arr. Greg Bartholomew

**Sprightly** ♩ = 100

1st Trumpet in B♭ *mf*

2nd Trumpet in B♭ *mf*

Horn in F *mf*

Trombone *mf*

Tuba *mf*

The first system of the score consists of five staves. The top staff is for the 1st Trumpet in B♭, the second for the 2nd Trumpet in B♭, the third for the Horn in F, the fourth for the Trombone, and the fifth for the Tuba. All parts are marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). The music is in 4/4 time and begins with a sprightly tempo of 100 beats per minute. The notation includes various rhythmic values such as quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and dynamic markings.

The second system of the score continues the music from the first system. It consists of five staves for the same instruments: 1st Trumpet in B♭, 2nd Trumpet in B♭, Horn in F, Trombone, and Tuba. The notation continues with similar rhythmic patterns and includes some dynamic markings like *mf* and *f* (forte) in the later measures. The system concludes with a final cadence.

# Good King Wenceslas

18 **A**

*mp*

*mp*

26

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

35 **B**

*p*

*p*

*p*