

JAZZ LINES PUBLICATIONS

Presents

I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

RECORDED BY BING CROSBY

ARRANGED BY JOHN SCOTT TROTTER

PREPARED FOR PUBLICATION BY DYLAN CANTERBURY, ROB DUBOFF AND JEFFREY SULTANOF

FULL SCORE

JLP-6079

BY WALTER KENT, KIM GANNON, AND BUCK RAM

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A NOT-FOR-PROFIT JAZZ RESEARCH ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO PRESERVING AND PROMOTING AMERICA'S MUSICAL HERITAGE.



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I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS (1943)

Background:

One of America's most endearing entertainers, Bing Crosby was one of the first people to attain massive crossover success as a popular figure, having equally successful careers in music and film. Born in Tacoma, Washington in 1903, Crosby became the first vocalist to achieve star billing with a big band after joining the Paul Whiteman Orchestra in 1926. More success came as the featured star of The Rhythm Boys after leaving Whiteman.

The 1930s continued to see not only a continued string of musical successes, but also Crosby's break into film. Starring in several short comedies during this time, often pairing up with comedian Bob Hope. His career as an actor reached its peak in 1944, when he won the Academy Award for Best Actor for his performance in *Going My Way*. Crosby would branch out in several different directions in the 1950s. He became a regular sight on TV, as well as becoming actively involved in the world of sports, owning several thoroughbred race horses as well as being partial owner of the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball team. He passed away in 1977.

John Scott Trotter was born in Charlotte, North Carolina, in 1908. At the age of seven, using his sister's piano lesson books and the family piano, he taught himself to play the instrument. His parents then sent him for formal music lessons. He attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to study architecture. However, he and Hal Kemp, a childhood friend and fellow student at UNC, started a college band in 1925. Together they had musically entertained folks at home and once the Hal Kemp Orchestra began receiving recording contracts and international bookings, they traded their college education for music careers. In 1933, Kemp and Trotter made music history when the orchestra played at the Black Hawk Restaurant in Chicago for a national radio audience. The orchestra sound heard that night was largely the results of Trotter's music arranging and thereafter became known as 'The Hal Kemp Style.'

Trotter teamed with Crosby in 1937 after they worked together in the motion picture *Pennies from Heaven* in 1936. Already an original in popular music, Crosby wanted a new music arranger and looked to Trotter to help enhance the Crosby style. They combined their talents for the next 17 years, Trotter most frequently directing and arranging Crosby's music for radio, motion picture, and his Decca recordings. One of their most successful collaborations was Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*, from the motion picture *Holiday Inn*. Trotter was also the music arranger and director in 1946 for the screenplay of *Abie's Irish Rose*, music arranger and conductor for *Kiss the Boys Goodbye* in 1941, *Rhythm on the River* in 1940, and orchestrator for *Dr. Rhythm* in 1938, appearing as himself in the film with Bing Crosby.

When Crosby ended his Kraft Music Hall radio show in 1954, Trotter moved to television as the music director for *The George Gobel Show*. This association lasted for six years. In 1961 he was the composer for the pilot of the television drama *Ben Casey*, and from 1964 to 1965, he and Crosby were again together on the television sitcom, *The Bing Crosby Show*. In 1966, Trotter began arranging music scores for the Bill Melendez, Sopwith Productions, Inc., animated cartoons for television, most notably the Charlie Brown-Peanuts and Babar the Elephant specials.

Trotter was known for his talent arranging classical music. He appeared as conductor in many national public events, including Ronald Reagan's inaugural as Governor of California, patriotic shows during World War II and afterwards, television specials, and arranged music scores for Hollywood Academy Award shows. Trotter received an Oscar in 1971 for *A Boy Named Charlie Brown*, and in 1974, he received a Hall of Fame award for his participation as conductor of the 1942 Decca recording of Bing Crosby's *White Christmas*. He was actively involved in fund raising events for many charitable causes in California ranging from historic preservation to music education. Trotter died in 1975 in Los Angeles, California.

The Music:

There are few voices in the history of modern popular music more suited to perform Christmas songs than the rich, resonant baritone of Bing Crosby. Naturally, his 1943 interpretation of *I'll Be Home for Christmas* does a wonderful job of capturing the wistful melancholy of the lyrics and melody, and John Scott Trotter's arrangement only enhances this mood.

Notes to the Conductor:

On the original recording, the melody is performed twice by Crosby. The first time consists of a slow, freely phrased interpretation with lush string textures providing the harmonic base and some light guitar fills functioning as some additional framing. A short ensemble figure sets up the tempo before Crosby sings the melody again, this time with background figures weaving in and out across the entire ensemble. The final portion sees a return to the slow rubato of the beginning, so be sure that your ensemble is paying attention to how your vocalist is phrasing.

Not present on the original recording is an instrumental chorus that is sandwiched between Crosby's two melody statements. Likely cut for time purposes, we have opted to include this section to allow your ensemble a chance to shine. The instrumental section is not overly complex, but does a nice job of passing the baton around between the sections to give everyone a bit of spotlight. Things begin with a clarinet solo, followed by the strings, then back to another clarinet solo, with the full (but not necessarily loud) brass bringing the segment to a close. Crosby performed this arrangement on the radio multiple times in 1943 and 1944 (including on November 20, 1944 on the *Frank Sinatra In Person Radio Show*, sponsored by Vimms Vitamins). For these radio performances an alternate ending was composed. This publication includes both endings so you have a choice in how you want to end the arrangement. Also note that although Trotter composed the *arco* bass part through measure 18 it was not copied into the original part and was not played in the 1943 recording. We have included this section and it may be played at the discretion of the conductor. But, if it is not to be played, the bassist will enter on beat 3 in measure 18 where the bass goes to *pizz*.

This publication was based on John Scott Trotter's pencil score and the original set of parts used for the 1943 recording and subsequent radio performances.

Doug DuBoff, Dylan Canterbury, and Rob DuBoff

- August 2022

I'LL BE HOME FOR X'MAS

COASBY - TROTTER

1

Oct 1-1943
Recording Version
BING CROSBY

I'll be home for Christ-mas

Ruvato

#410

Handwritten musical score for various instruments including Saxophones, Trumpets, Trombones, Guitar, Piano, Bass, Drum, and Violins. The score includes notes, rests, and dynamic markings such as *p*, *pp*, *f*, and *mf*. A section is marked with a circled 'A' and a circled '2'. The word 'Ruvato' is written in several places. The score is written in ink on aged paper.

JOHN S. TROTTER

Above is the first page of John Scott Trotter's score for *I'll Be Home for Christmas* recorded by Bing Crosby in 1943 and performed on the radio that same year and in 1944.

#410

I TRUMPET - HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Cup

HAT

HAT

HAT

Open

Segue

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83

Above is the original trumpet I part as used for the 1943 recording and subsequent radio performances.

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SCORE

RUBATO, SLOWLY

3

Vocal
I'll be home for Christ - mas. You can plan on me.

Woodwind 1: Clarinet
Woodwind 2: Clarinet
Woodwind 3: Clarinet
Woodwind 4: Clarinet
Woodwind 5: Bass Clarinet (Opt.)

Trumpet 1
Trumpet 2
Trumpet 3
Trumpet 4 (Opt.)
Trombone 1
Trombone 2
Trombone 3

Violin I
Violin II
Violin III
Violin IV
Viola
Cello

Harp (Opt.)
E: F#G: A:
D: C: B:

Guitar
solo fills around vocal
G⁶ G⁷ Am⁷ D⁷ Dm⁷ D⁷ G⁶ Bm^{7(b9)} E⁷ Am⁷ Bm^{7(b9)} Am⁷/C

Piano

Acoustic Bass
Arco opt. tacet to pizz. in bar 18.

Drum Set
Brushes

2 3 4 5 6

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Vox. Please have snow, and mis - - - tle - toe, and pre - sents on the tree.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vln. III

Vln. IV

Vla.

Vc. div.

Hp.

Gtr. C⁶ D¹³ G⁶ Bm⁷/F[#] Em⁷ A¹³ Am⁷ D^{9sus} D¹³

Bs.

7 8 9 10

(11)

Vox. Christ - mas Eve will find me where the love - - - light gleams.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vln. III

Vln. IV

Vla.

Vc. unis.

Hp.

Gtr. G⁶ G⁷ Am⁷ D⁷ Dm⁷ D⁷ G⁶ Bm⁷(b⁹) E⁷ Am⁷

Bs.

11 12 13 14