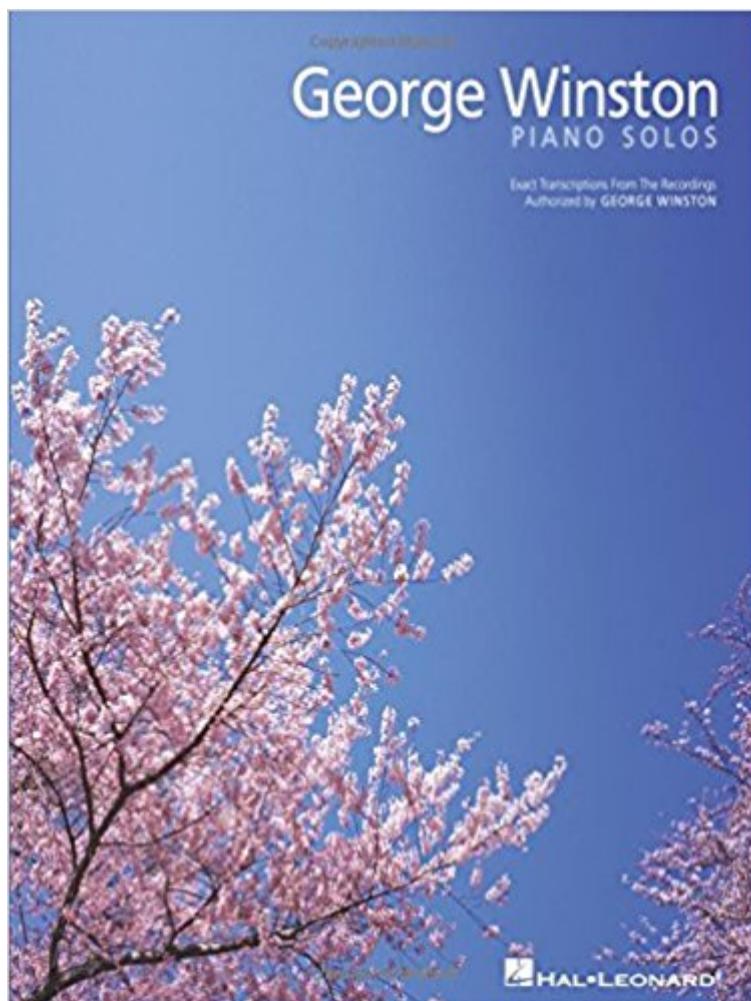


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# George Winston Piano Solos



## Synopsis

(Piano Solo Personality). The All Music Guide says that pianist & composer George Winston is "among the earliest and most successful proponents of contemporary instrumental music." Here is the first songbook ever notating his beloved piano pieces. Winston himself chose the songs & cover art, wrote the preface, and approved every note. Features 20 of his most-requested favorites: The Black Stallion \* Joy \* Longing \* Prelude/Carol of the Bells \* Thanksgiving \* Variations on the Kanon by Pachelbel \* and more. Includes a biography, discography, and discussion of chords. First Fully Authorized Songbook Featuring Winston's Esteemed Compositions & Arrangements!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is an accurate, to-the-note transcription of George's songs. The book is probably for late intermediate to early-advanced players. It's filled with all kinds of songs (all 20 of them): 1. The black stallion (from the 1979 movie w/ Mickey Rooney) 2. The cradle 3. Graduation 4. Joy 5. Loretta and Desiree's bouquet - part 1 6. longing 7. lullaby 8. new hope blues 9. prelude/carol of the bells (I am personally biased to this one...AMAZING) 10. reflection 11. stevenson 12. thanksgiving (also very lovely) 13. thumbelina 14. The twisting of a hay rope 15. (variations on) bamboo 16. variations on the kanon by pachelbel 17. The velveteen rabbit 18. walking in the air 19. building the snowman 20. the snowman's dance. Have fun!

I love George Winston so I was thrilled to find this. It even has an intro with Mr. Winston explaining how he views the music and his recommendations. I'm just picking up the piano again in my adult years so I have to admit that this sheet music is slightly too advanced for me, but it is not written at an advanced level. I would say it's intermediate so I will be ready in a year or two I hope.

I was very glad to see that George Winston finally published some of his arrangements, mainly because I have had the benefit of other transcriptions that have been circulating the Internet for at least 10 years. So, I figured I owed Winston the purchase. I am (just mildly) disappointed in the book, only because Winston says he plays by ear and the music was transcribed by someone else, with Winston reviewing the transcriptions. The Internet transcriptions that were already available for Carol of the Bells and Joy are actually slightly "better" than the ones in the book (especially Joy). I was also hoping for a fingering hint here and there -- there are some difficult parts in Carol of the Bells in which proper finger selection can make the difference between it being playable or not, and the right choice isn't at all obvious. The book only has the notes and chord symbols, which I suppose is fine for the advanced piano player. Still, if you have never had the benefit of seeing any of this music in print and have wanted to play Winston's music, this is a very nice book. There are some pieces in here I've never seen before that I'm sure I will enjoy.

I love George Winston's music and the fact that I gave this book 3 stars has nothing to do with the quality of his compositions. However, while I was learning "Prelude/Carol of the Bells", I noticed some fairly egregious errors in the transcription. It would be one thing if there were some small formatting errors, but I'm talking about blatantly incorrect pitches that don't even fall within the chords indicated above the staff. I have confirmed these errors by comparing the sheet music with the original recordings. A cursory look at some of the other pieces in this collection revealed more small errors. The best thing to do if you want to learn Winston's pieces note-for-note would be to compare these transcriptions against the original recordings. In other words, use this volume as a guide but don't trust it completely.

This album draws from several of Winston's best-known collections: Summer, December, Spring, Montana, etc. An outstanding compilation of his works. Delightful to play and with many audience favorites, including Winston's arrangement of Carol of the Bells.

I love the music -- but the actual physical book is falling apart. I turn a page, and sheets go flying.

The binding glue seems to have simply disintegrated. I'd buy a replacement, but I want assurances that this problem has been fixed.

Very challenging music to play, but rewarding. The moment, the notes are played, the mind wants to hear more. It's going to take me many months to master a single piece, but it will be worth it.

As soon as I figure out how to get a larger hand spread, I will be in business! Lovely pieces, challenging but not ridiculous. No insane keys.

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