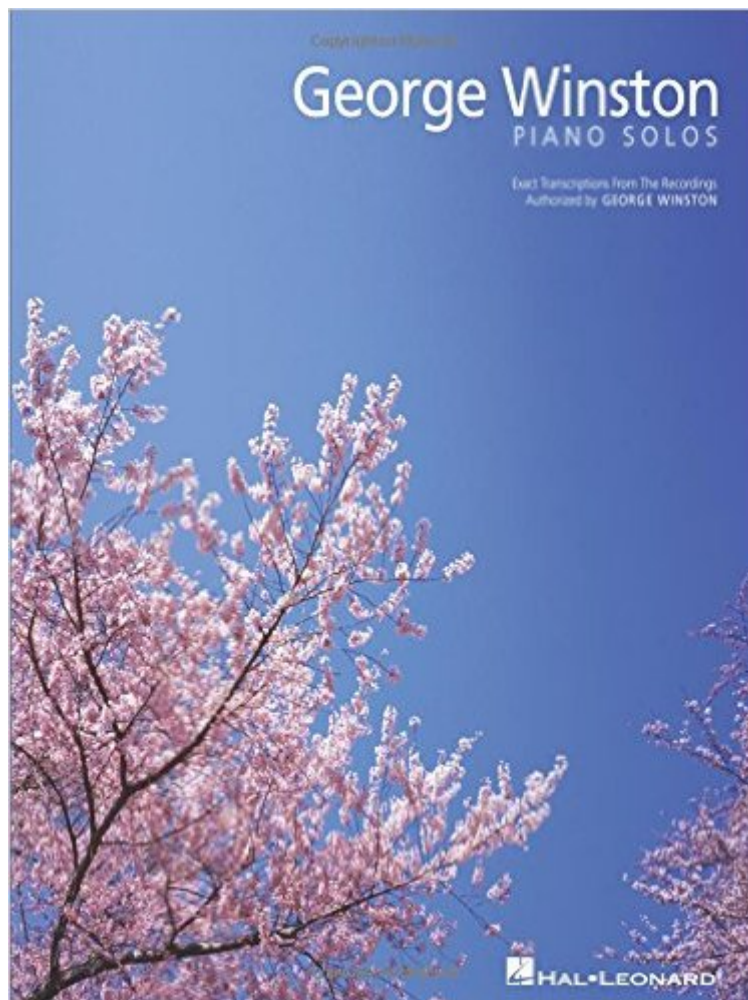


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# George Winston Piano Solos



## 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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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (82 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I have been a pianist for over 25 years and am currently a music educator. I was very excited to see Winston's work transcribed. Especially his work from the December album. Many of these are very accessible for the intermediate pianist with some more challenging sections in Carol of the Bells and Variations on Pachelbel's Canon. There were other great pieces included in this book but every song has it's fair share of errors, many of them just careless mistakes in the transcribing process. If you have a good ear these mistakes are quite obvious. If you don't mind the mistakes, enjoy. If you do, just be prepared to have a pencil ready to make corrections. The majority of the structure is there. I listened to the recordings with the music in front of me and made the corrections as I went along. Overall, I would recommend this book but I hope Winston is bit more discriminating in the future when choosing people to transcribe for him.

Get ready to play like George Winston ... The description does not provide a full list of scores that are included in the book, so here are the rest of them: The Cradle, Graduation, Loreta and Desiree's Bouquet Part 1, Lullaby, New Hopes Blues, Reflection, Stevenson, Thumbelina, The Twisting of the Hay Rope, (Variations on) Bamboo, The Velveteen Rabbit, Walking in the Air, Building the Snowman, and The Snowman's Music Box Dance. In my opinion, the scores seem like they are technically accurate (i.e. unabridged). And it's going to be a wonderful challenge to make them sound artistically accurate.

At last, George Winston publishes his arrangements of Thanksgiving, Carol of the Bells, Pachelbel's Canon, some blues and lots more. You don't have to be a concert pianist to play any of these arrangements. Some of the music is "made" by the pedaling and sustaining of the notes - this is awesome if you ever wondered, "How does he get that sound?" The notation is clear and composed to the CD. This is a wonderful musical buffet of George Winston's styles and sound. Truly enjoyable. I do hope he will publish more.

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.

As an accomplished sight-reader, it's great to have this George Winston collection. However, I have to take off a star for the many errors and illogical settings. It seems apparent to me that the "someone else" who transcribed his performances was an electronic keyboard or computer and Hal Leonard didn't work very hard to improve the computer's setting of the music. Besides just plain

wrong notes, we get impossible ottava markings and weird stuff like two-note arpeggios. Lovely music but I'd rather save my pencil for interpretive markings instead of endless corrections.

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.

As far as contemporary pianists go George Winston in my mind blows the rest away. The creativity of his variations and the amazingness of his original compositions is breathtaking. I have been playing the piano for a few years and I finally got this book. I recommend it to anyone. His music is deceptively simple, allowing even intermediate musicians to use this book and improve through it, but makes you sound like a pro. Check it out. The book includes: Loreta And Desiree's Bouquet-Part 1 Graduation Walking In The Air Lullaby Joy Reflection Thanksgiving Longing Thumbelina Music Box Dance Variations On The Kanon By Pachelbel Prelude/Carol Of The Bells The Velveteen Rabbit The Twisting Of The Hay Rope

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