

A TRUE CHRISTMAS

Words by Mack Wolfson

Music by Claude T. Smith



**CLAUDE T. SMITH
PUBLICATIONS, INC.**

Claude T. Smith Publications, Inc.

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ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Claude T. Smith was born in Monroe City, Missouri on March 14, 1932. He began his undergraduate degree at Central Methodist College in Fayette, Missouri, eventually enlisting in 1952 and serving in the 371st U.S. Army Band during the Korean War. After his service, he completed his Bachelor of Music Education degree at the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

Smith composed over 200 works for band, orchestra, choir, solos, small ensembles as well as three method books for band and orchestra. His compositions have been commissioned and performed by leading musical organizations throughout the world including the U.S. Air Force Band, the “President’s Own” U.S. Marine Band, the U.S. Navy Band, and the U.S. Army Field Band. His solos were written for noted artists such as “Doc” Severinsen, Dale Underwood, Brian Bowman, Warren Covington, Gary Foster, Rich Matteson, and Steve Seward.

Sacred choral music was a deep passion of Smith as he directed church choirs for five years in Cozad (NE), 10 years in Chillicothe (MO), and 10 years in Raytown (MO). Many of his choral anthems were written for his church choirs and for Missouri and Nebraska All-State Choirs, Bands, and Orchestras.

Smith was active as a clinician and guest conductor throughout the United States, Australia, Canada, and Europe. He received many awards for his contributions to music education and for his work in composition including numerous ASCAP Composers Award. Following his death, he was awarded the National Band Association Academy of Wind and Percussion Arts (AWAPA) Award (1987), honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Central Methodist College (1988), Missouri Bandmasters Association Hall of Fame (1988), Kappa Kappa Psi Distinguished Service to Music Medal (1988), Missouri Music Educators Association Hall of Fame (1992), and named School Director of the Year from the Christian Instrumental Directors Association (1994).

Smith was a member of the Music Educators National Conference (now NAfME), Missouri Bandmasters Association, National Band Association, American Bandmasters Association, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and served as past president of the Missouri Music Educators Association.

Claude T. Smith passed away on December 13, 1987 in Kansas City, Missouri having completed a Christmas concert at church with his choir and orchestra. His wife, Maureen Faye Smith and his daughter, Pam Smith Kelly, along with Pam’s husband, Jim, founded Claude T. Smith Publications, Inc. in 1993. C.L. Barnhouse Co. became the exclusive distributor for his instrumental works in 2016 with Claude T. Smith Publications, publishing his choral works, biography and recordings. Claude T. Smith Publications is dedicated to keeping the music of Claude T. Smith and many composers and arrangers available and in the hearts of musicians worldwide.

PROGRAM NOTES

A TRUE CHRISTMAS is a medium/easy holiday anthem which takes an introspective approach to the **TRUE** meaning of Christmas. Using reflective text, true soul-searching for love is found in our emotions, self-worth and respect for all mankind. Written for the United States Army Chorus, Mack Wolfson (lyrics) collaborated with Claude T. Smith, who composed the music.



A TRUE CHRISTMAS

SATB, Accompanied

Words by Mack Wolfson, ASCAP
Music by Claude T. Smith, ASCAP

Andante, molto rubato

Piano introduction in B-flat major, 4/4 time. The right hand features a melody of eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. A *rit.* (ritardando) marking is present in the second measure of the right hand.

First system of the vocal and piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a measure rest, followed by the lyrics "Christ - mas lights on a Christ - mas tree do not a true Christ - mas". The piano accompaniment consists of two staves. The right hand has a melody with some ties, and the left hand has a bass line. Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *a tempo*. A measure rest is indicated by a '3' in a box.

Second system of the vocal and piano accompaniment. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "make. It's the spir - it of Christ - mas in one's own heart and the". The piano accompaniment continues with two staves. The right hand includes a triplet of eighth notes. Dynamics include *rit.*, *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *a tempo*. A measure rest is indicated by a '3' in a box.

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9 *rit.* *p* **11** *a tempo*

right - eous road he'll take. He need not be a

rit. *p* *a tempo*

12 *rit.* *mp*

wealth - y man the wealth must be in his thought. If he

mp *rit.* *mp*

15 *a tempo*

of - fers the gift of love to you, that's great - er than pres - ents

a tempo

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18 *rit.* *mf* **19** *piu mosso*

bought. It's wrong to meas - ure a man's suc - cess by

rit. *mf* *piu mosso*

21 *rit.* *ten.* *piu mosso*

how much — treas - ure he might pos - sess. He needs no for - tune to

ten. *rit.* *ten.* *piu mosso*

24 *rit.* *ten.* *p*

prove his worth, his great - est for - tune is peace on earth. — And if

ten. *p*

rit. *ten.* *p*

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27 Tempo I

he re - spects his fel - low man, he's blessed by the Lord a -

Tempo I

30 *rit.* *a tempo* *rit.* *ten.*

bove. So re - mem - ber how it all be - gan; *ten.*

rit. *a tempo* *rit.* *ten.*

33 3 3 3 35 Andante

Christ - mas be - gan with love. Christ - mas lights on a

mf *mf*

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36

Christ - mas tree do not a true Christ - mas make. It's the

39

spir - it of Christ - mas in one's own heart and the right - eous road he'll

42 *rit.*

take. He need not be a wealth - y man, the

43 *a tempo*

rit. *a tempo*

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45

wealth must be in his thought. If he of - fers the gift of

48

love to you, that's great - er than pres - ents bought. It's

rit.

51 *piu mosso*

wrong to meas - ure a man's suc - cess by how much treas - ure he might pos - sess. He

piu mosso

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55 *rit.* *ten.* *f*

needs no for - tune to prove his worth, his great - est for - tune is

rit. *cresc.* *ten.* *f*

58 *ten.* *mp* **59 Andante, rubato**

peace on earth. And if he re - spects his fel - low man, he's

ten. *mp* *dim.* *ten.* *mp*

61 *rit.* *a tempo*

blessed by the Lord a - bove. So re - mem - ber how it

rit. *a tempo*

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64 *rit.* *p* *molto rubato*

all — be — gan; Christ — mas be — gan with love.

rit. dim. *p* *molto rubato*

67 *p* *molto rit.* *dim.* *pp*

Christ — mas be — gan with love.

p *molto rit.* *dim.* *pp*