

The NAXOS logo is located in the top left corner. It consists of the word "NAXOS" in a white, bold, sans-serif font, centered within a blue square. Above and below the text are white horizontal lines that resemble the architectural details of a classical building's facade.

NAXOS

The background of the entire image is a night sky filled with stars. A single, very bright star is positioned in the upper center, creating a prominent four-pointed starburst effect. Below the star, the silhouettes of three camels and their riders are visible against the dark horizon. The camels are walking from left to right. The overall scene is serene and evokes the traditional story of the Three Kings following the Star of Bethlehem.

TRANQUILLO
SACRED CHRISTMAS
PIANO BASSO

1. Lyrics of this traditional Basque Christmas carol **Gabriel's message** tell us the story about the archangel Gabriel letting Virgin Mary know that she would give birth to the Son of God. Originally based on a Latin Christmas carol from the 13th or 14th century, it was widely spread in the English speaking world thanks to Sabine *Baring-Gould's* English version of the text.
2. **Maria durch ein Dornwald ging** is originally a German pilgrimage song that has recently become a natural part of the song treasure during Advent, especially in German speaking countries. The composer is unknown. The first printed version dates back to the 1850s, but it has roots that go back to the Middle Ages.
3. **God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen**, here performed as a meditative choral, is a traditional English Christmas carol that can be traced back to the 1650s. However, it was not until John Payne Collier published it in the collection *A Book of Roxburghe Ballads* in 1847 that it became widely known. A sign of its popularity is that in 1910 the composer Gustav Holst incorporated it into his choral fantasy *Christmas Day*.
4. **Mariä Wiegenlied** is a lullaby that describes Mary, the mother of Jesus, rocking her child to sleep. The music is composed by *Max Reger* to the text of the poet *Martin Boelitz*. Reger was a productive composer, but this piece is his most famous work.
5. Originally a traditional Latin Advent and Christmas song, **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** received its English title in 1861 when *John Mason Neale* translated it into English. However, the song has roots that go all the way back to the 700s or 800s when it was sung in the monasteries. It expresses longing and anticipation for Jesus' coming and refers to the prophecy about Emmanuel mentioned in the book of Isaiah.

6. To celebrate the renovation of the church organ in Roquemaure in France, the poet *Placide Cappeau* wrote the Christmas poem *Minuit, chrétiens* in 1843. Four years later, it was set to music by the French composer *Adolphe Adam*. When the American classical music critic *John Sullivan Dwight* translated the song into English in 1855, it was titled **O Holy Night** and it has since then been one of the most beloved Christmas carols worldwide.
7. In 1825, *Franz Schubert* wrote “*Ellen’s Third Song*”, which is part of a collection of seven songs. The song is best known by the name **Ave Maria**, one of the most commonly used Catholic prayers. Many are those who have written music for *Ave Maria*, but the compositions by *Schubert* and *Bach/Gounod* respectively are the two most performed.
8. **Meditation over Bethlehem** is a piano improvisation by *Thomas Gustavsson* inspired by the message of Christmas.

Thomas Gustavsson plays a Steinway upright piano model K from 1918 and Andreas Gustafson plays a Pöhlman Busetto from 1969.

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