Paul Hardy's Xmas Tunebook 2019

Introduction

This tunebook contains Christmas tunes and carols that I play on my English concertina. They should also be playable on fiddle, whistle, flute, dulcimer, etc. The predominant keys used are G, D and C (and Em, Bm, and Am) to suit folk instruments and ease learning.

Most are traditional tunes, mainly from the British Isles, but others are imports from various sources. All tunes are believed free of current copyright (unless noted explicitly), or else appear to have been placed in the public domain as part of the ongoing live folk music tradition. Please let me know if you are the owner of any that are under access restrictions and I'll remove them.

I have tried to choose the simple versions of most tunes, without much decoration and interpretation, so add your own triplets, grace notes and variations. From this 2019 edition, the guitar chords have had a major overhaul and simplification from the earlier editions (thanks to the Brind family). I've also included a small subset of words - just enough to go with the notes written, usually one verse plus a chorus if any. This tunebook is for instrumentalists, not singers!

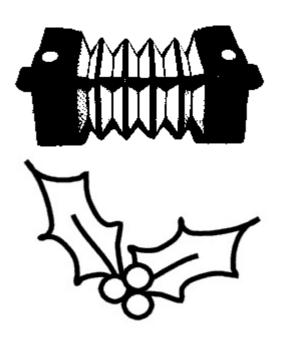
This tunebook has been prepared using the abcm2ps software, with help from abcmus, EasyABC, and ABCexplorer. A big thank you goes to those creative and dedicated people who give their time to create and maintain low-cost or free and open source software for abc music editing and output.

The current version of this tunebook, in ABC and in PDF forms, is downloadable from Paul's web site at http://www.pghardy.net/, along with Paul Hardy's Session Tunebook.

Copyright Paul Hardy (paul@paulhardy.net) 2009-2019.

This work is licenced under a Creative Commons "Attribution Non-Commercial Share Alike" cc by-nc-sa licence. See http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.o/ - Contact Paul Hardy for commercial licensing terms.

Original version of 16 December 2009, this version of 13 November 2019, with minor edits to 18 November 2022.



18 Nov, 2022 A Child this Day is Born



A Child this day is born, A Child of high renown. Most worthy of a scepter, A scepter and a crown. Noëls, noëls, noëls, Noëls sing all we may, Because the King of all kings Was born this blessèd day.



A virgin most pure, as the prophets do tell, Hath brought forth a Baby, as it hath befell, To be our Redeemer from death, hell and sin, Which Adam's transgression has wrappèd us in. And therefore be merry, set sorrow aside; Christ Jesus our Savior was born on this tide.

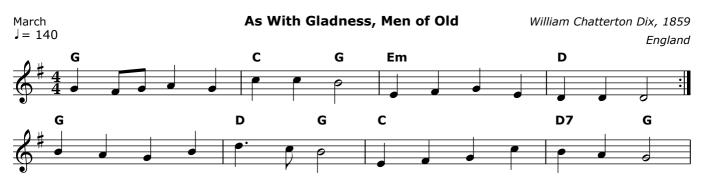


Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond; Four thousand winter, thought he not too long. And all was for an apple, an apple that he took, As clerkès finden written in their book. Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been, Ne had never Our Lady a been heavenly queen. Blessed be the time that apple taken was. Therefore we moun singen Deo gratias!



Angels from the realms of glory Wing your flight o'er all the earth; Ye who sang creation's story; Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Come and worship, Come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King!



As with gladness, men of old; Did the guiding star behold As with joy they hailed its light; Leading onward, beaming bright So, most glorious Lord, may we; Evermore be led to Thee



Away in a manger, No crib for His bed The little Lord Jesus, Laid down His sweet head The stars in the bright sky, Looked down where He lay The little Lord Jesus, Asleep on the hay 18 Nov, 2022 Boar's Head Carol



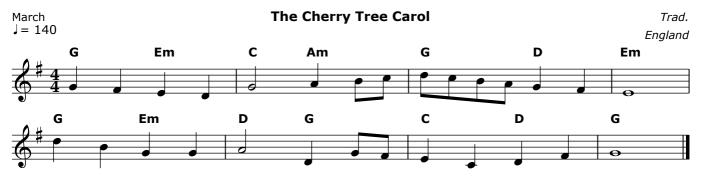
The boar's head in hand bear I Bedecked with bays and rosemary; And I pray you, my masters, be merry, Quot estis in convivio:

Caput apri defero, Reddens laudes Domino. Caput apri defero, Reddens laudes Domino.

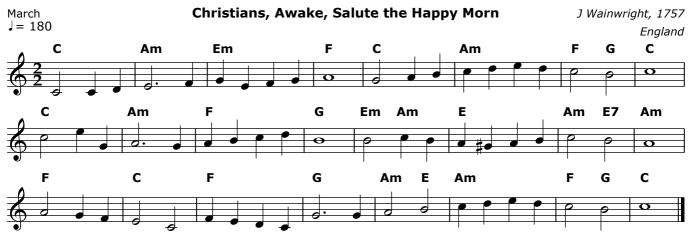


Brightest and best of the sons of the morning, Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid; Star of the East, the horizon adorning, Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

(Bishop Reginald Heber 1783-1826)



Joseph was an old man, and an old man was he, when he wedded Mary in the land of Galilee.

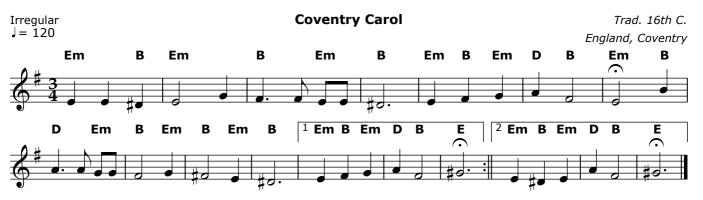


Christians, awake, salute the happy morn Whereon the Saviour of the world was born Rise to adore the mystery of love Which hosts of angels chanted from above With them the joyful tidings first begun Of God incarnate and the Virgin's Son

(John Byron 1745)



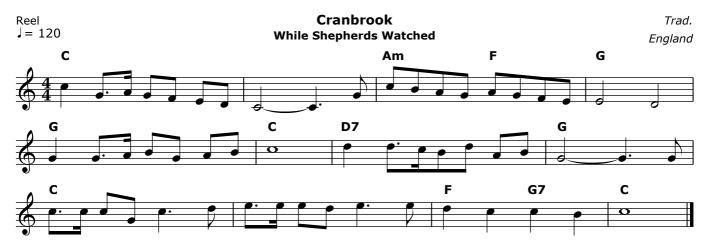
Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat Please put a penny in the old man's hat If you haven't got a penny, a ha'penny will do If you haven't got a ha'penny, then God bless you!



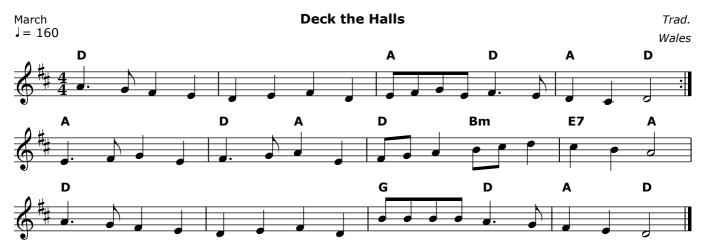
Lully, lullay, Thou little tiny Child, Bye, bye, lully, lullay. Lully, lullay, Thou little tiny Child, Bye, bye, lully, lullay. O sisters too, how may we do, For to preserve this day This poor Youngling for Whom we sing Bye, bye, lully, lullay?

(16C Pageant of the Shearmen & Tailors)

18 Nov, 2022 Cranbrook



While shepherds watched their flocks by night,All seated on the ground, The angel of the Lord came down,The angel of the Lord came down, And glory shone around, And glory shone around.



Deck the halls with boughs of holly, Fa la la la la, la la la la, Tis the season to be jolly, Fa la la la la, la la la la, Don we now our gay apparel, Fa la la la la, la la la la, Troll the ancient Yule-tide carol, Fa la la la la, la la la la,



Ding dong! merrily on high In heav'n the bells are ringing: Ding dong! verily the sky Is riv'n with Angel singing. Gloria; Hosanna in excelsis! (George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1924)

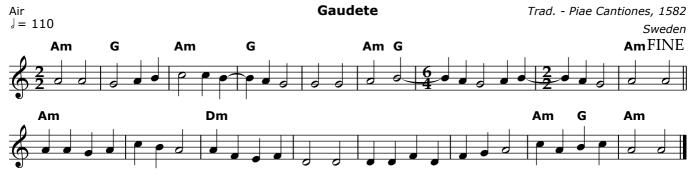
18 Nov, 2022 First Nowell, The



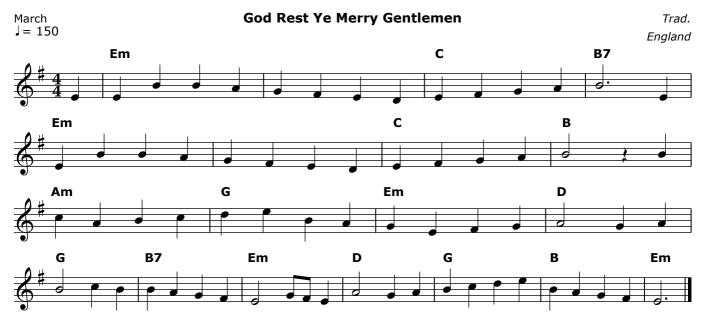
The first nowell the angels did say Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, On a cold winter's night that was so deep; Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, Born is the King of Israel.



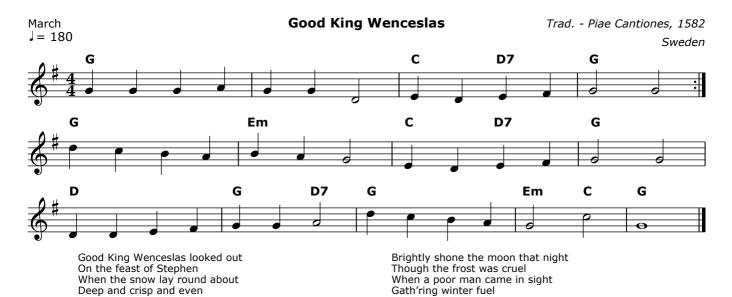
The angel Gabriel from heaven came, His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame; All hail, said he, thou lowly maiden Mary, Most highly favour'd lady, Gloria! Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head To me be as it pleaseth God, she said, My soul shall laud and magnify His holy name. Most highly favour'd lady, Gloria!



Gaudete! Gaudete! Christus est natus ex Maria virgine. Gaudete! Tempus adest gratiae, hoc quod optabamus; Carmina laetitiae devote reddamus.



God rest you merry, gentlemen,Let nothing you dismay, Remember Christ, our Savior, Was born on Christmas Day To save us all from Satan's power When we were gone astray. O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.



(John Mason Neale, 1853, after Czech poem)





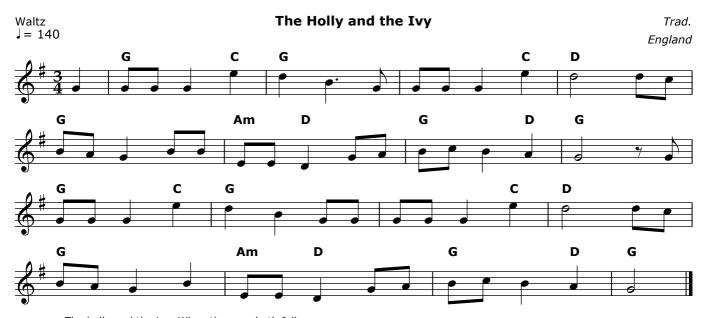
Hark the herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King; Peace on earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled! Joyful all ye nations rise Join the triumph of the skies With the angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem! Hark the herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King! (Charles Wesley 1839)



Here we come a-wassailing; Among the leaves so green; Here we come a-wand'ring; So fair to be seen.

Love and joy come to you, And to you your wassail too; And God bless you and send you A Happy New Year, And God send you a Happy New Year.

18 Nov, 2022 Holly and the Ivy, The



The holly and the ivy, When they are both full grown, Of all the trees that are in the wood, The holly bears the crown: The rising of the sun, And the running of the deer, The playing of the merry organ, Sweet singing in the choir.



Twas in the moon of wintertime when all the birds had fled That mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead; Before their light the stars grew dim and wondering hunters heard the hymn, Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

(Translation by Jesse Middleton, of Jesous Ahatonia by Saint Jean de Brebeuf, 1643)



Il est né le divin enfant, Jouez hautbois, résonnez musette. Il est né le divin enfant, Chantons tous son avènement. He is born, the holy Child, Play the oboe and bagpipes merrily! He is born, the holy Child, Sing we all of the Savior mild. 18 Nov, 2022 In Dulci Jubilo



In dulci jubilo; Now sing we all with hearts aglow! Our delight and pleasure; Lies in praesepio, Like sunshine is our treasure; Matris in gremio. Alpha es et O! Alpha es et O!

Good Christian men rejoice; With heart and soul and voice! Give ye heed to what we say; News! News! Jesus Christ is born today! Ox and ass before Him bow; And He is in the manger now Christ is born today! Christ is born today!



In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, In the bleak midwinter, long a go.

(Christina Rosetti, 1872)



Infant holy, Infant lowly, For His bed a cattle stall; Oxen lowing, Little knowing, Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging, Angels singing, Nowells ringing, Tidings bringing, Christ the Babe is Lord of all; Christ the Babe is Lord of all.



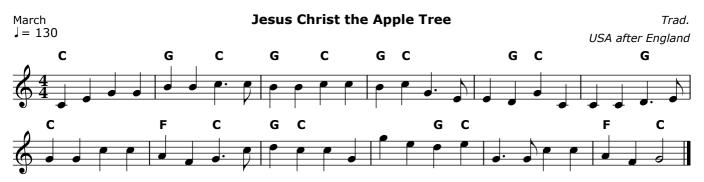
I saw three ships come sailing in On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day; I saw three ships come sailing in On Christmas Day in the morning.



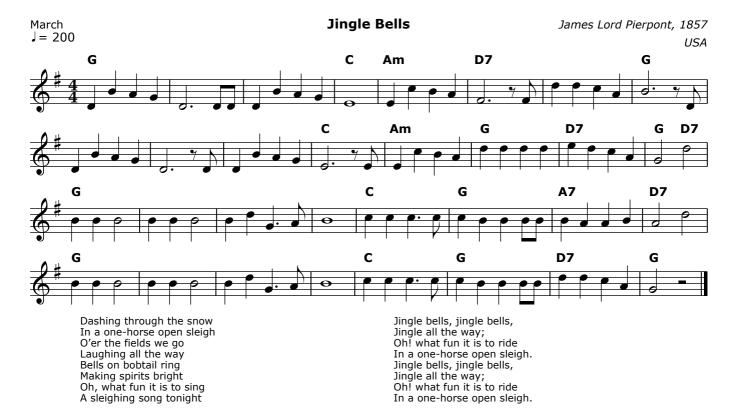
(Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1849)



I wonder as I wander out under the sky, How Jesus the Savior did come for to die. For poor ordinary people like you and like I, I wonder as I wander out under the sky.



The tree of life my soul hath seen, Laden with fruit and always green: The trees of nature fruitless be Compared with Christ the apple tree. 18 Nov, 2022 Jingle Bells





Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare him room, And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.



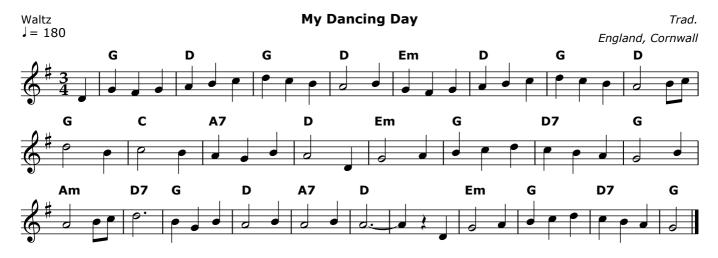
Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, love divine; Love was born at Christmas, Star and angels gave the sign. (Christina Rossetti 1885)

18 Nov, 2022 Mary Had a Baby



Mary had a baby (Aye Lord) Mary had a baby (Oh My Lord) Mary had a baby (Aye Lord)

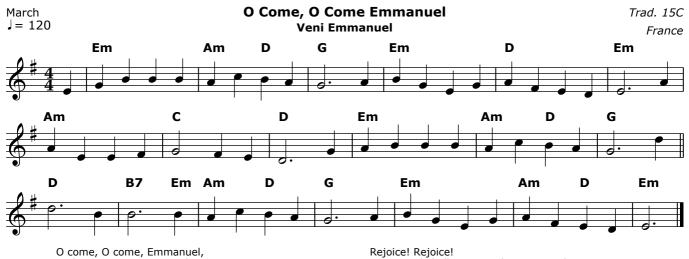
The people keep a-comin' and the train done gone.



Tomorrow shall be my dancing day: I would my true love did so chance; To see the legend of my play, To call my true love to my dance Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love; This have I done for my true love.



O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem. Come and behold Him, born the King of angels; Oh come let us adore Him; Oh come let us adore Him Oh come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.



And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

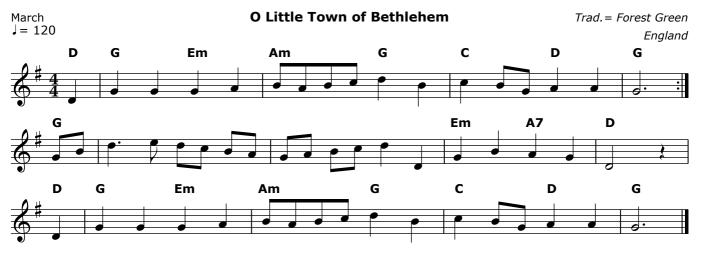
(Trans. John Neale of 12C Veni, veni, Emmanuel)



O Holy night, the stars are brightly shining. It is the night of our dear savior's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining, Til he appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. Fall on your knees. Oh, hear the angels voices. Oh, night divine. Oh, night when Christ was born. Oh, night. Oh, holy night. Oh, night divine.

(Translation by by John Dwight, of Minuit Chrétien by Placide Cappeau, 1847)

18 Nov, 2022 O Little Town of Bethlehem

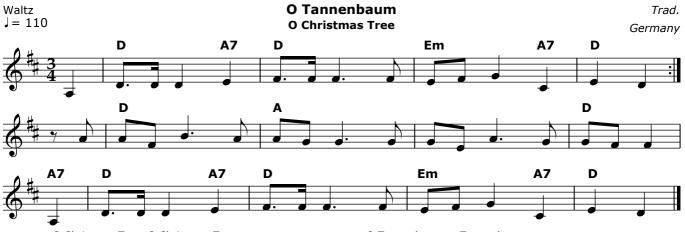


O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting Light; The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to-night.

(Phillips Brooks, 1903)



Once in royal Davids city, Stood a lowly cattle shed, Where a mother laid her Baby, In a manger for His bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little Child. (Cecil Frances Humphreys Alexander, 1848)



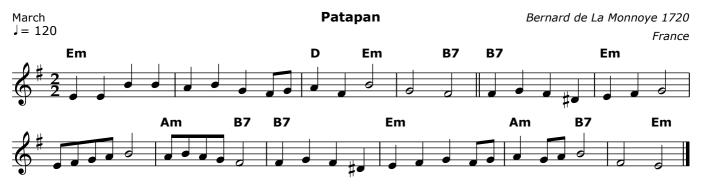
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree, Your branches green delight us. (x2) They're green when summer days are bright; They're green when winter snow is white. O, Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree, Your branches green delight us! O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum, Wie treu sind deine Blätter! Du grünst nicht nur zur Sommerzeit, Nein, auch im Winter, wenn es schneit. O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum, Wie treu sind deine Blätter! 18 Nov, 2022 Past Three O'Clock



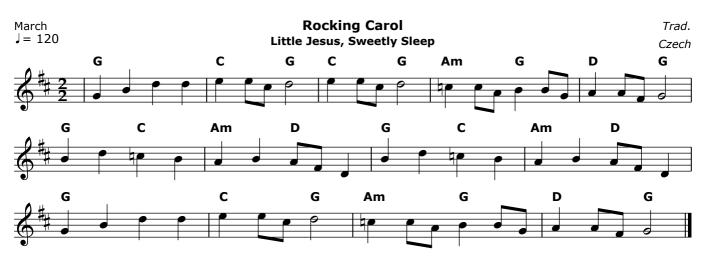
Past three a clock, And a cold frosty morning, Past three a clock; Good morrow, masters all!

Born is a Baby, Gentle as may be, Son of the eternal, Father supernal. Past three a clock, And a cold frosty morning, Past three a clock; Good morrow, masters all!

(George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1924)

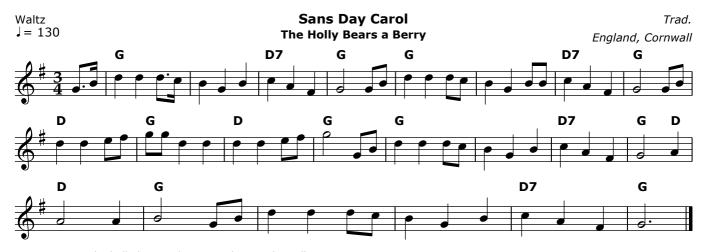


Willie, bring your little drum; Robin, bring your flute and come; And be merry while you play, Tu-re-lu, Pat-a-pat-a-pan, Come be merry while you play, On this joyous Holiday! Guillaume, prends ton tambourin, Toi, prends ta flûte, Robin; Au son de ces instruments, Turelurelu, patapatapan, Au son de ces instruments, Je dirai Noël gaîment.



Little Jesus, sweetly sleep, do not stir; We will lend a coat of fur. We will rock you, rock you, rock you; We will rock you, rock you, rock you. See the fur to keep you warm; Snugly round your tiny form

18 Nov, 2022 Sans Day Carol

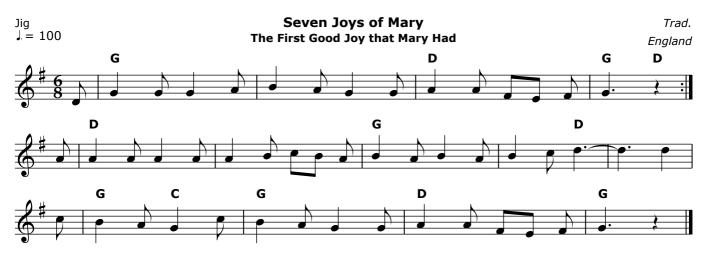


Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk, And Mary bore Jesus, who was wrapped up in silk: And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be, And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly! Holly! Holly! And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly!



See amid the winter snow, Born for us on earth below; See the tender lamb appears, Promis'd from eternal years. Hail, thou ever blessed morn; Hail, redemption's happy dawn; Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.

(Edward Caswall, 1871)



The first good joy that Mary had, It was the joy of one, To see her ownsome Jesus Christ when he was first her son, When he was first her son, good man, and blessed may he be. O Father, Son and Holy Ghost, through all eternity.

18 Nov, 2022 Silent Night



Silent night, holy night All is calm, all is bright Round yon Virgin Mother and Child Holy Infant so tender and mild Sleep in heavenly peace Sleep in heavenly peace (Josef Mohr, 1818, Trans by John Young, 1819)



On Christmas night all Christians sing, To hear the news the angels bring, On Christmas night all Christians sing, To hear the news the angels bring, News of great joy news of great mirth, News of our Redeemer's birth



While shepherds watched their flocks by night, All seated on the ground, The angel of the Lord came down, And glory shone around, And glory shone around.

Sweet bells, sweet chiming Christmas bells, Sweet bells, sweet chiming Christmas bells, They lead us on our heav'nly way, sweet chiming bells. They lead us on our heav'nly way, sweet chiming bells.

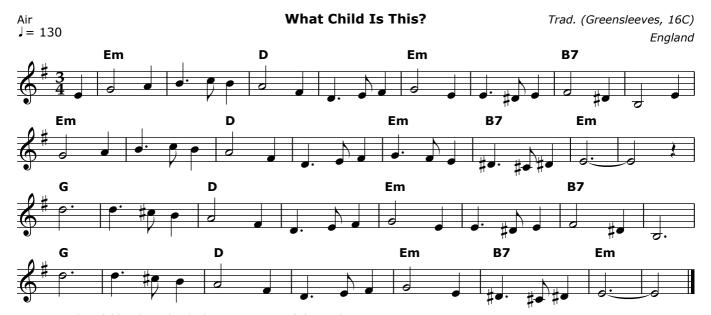




We wish you a merry Christmas, we wish you a merry Christmas, We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year! Glad tidings we bring, to you and your kin, We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!



We three kings of Orient are Bearing gifts we traverse afar. Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star. O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect Light. 18 Nov, 2022 What Child Is This?



What child is this, who, laid to rest; On Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet; While shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the king; Whom shepherds guard and angels sing; Haste, haste to bring Him laud; The babe, the son of Mary!

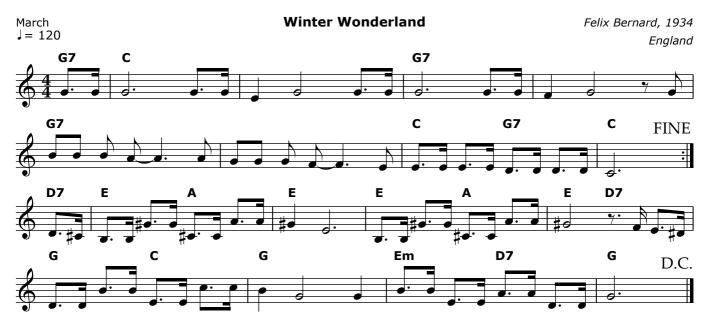
(William Chatterton Dix, 1865)



While shepherds watched their flocks by night, All seated on the ground, The angel of the Lord came down, And glory shone around.

(Nahum Tate, 1700)

18 Nov, 2022 Winter Wonderland



Sleigh bells ring, are you listening, In the lane, snow is glistening A beautiful sight, We're happy tonight. Walking in a winter wonderland.

Gone away is the bluebird, Here to stay is a new bird He sings a love song, As we go along, Walking in a winter wonderland. In the meadow we can build a snowman, Then pretend that he is Parson Brown He'll say: Are you married? We'll say: No man, But you can do the job when you're in town.

(Richard B. Smith 1934).



Girls and boys, leave your toys. Make no noise, Kneel at His crib and worship Him. At Thy shrine, Child divine, we are Thine, Our Saviour's here. "Hallelujah!" the church bells ring, "Hallelujah!" the angels sing, "Hallelujah!" from everything. All must draw near.

Index of Titles

A Child this Day is Born	2
A Virgin Most Pure	2
Adeste Fideles	14
Angels from the Realms of Glory	
As With Gladness, Men of Old	3
Away in a Manger	3
Boar's Head Carol	4
Brightest and Best	4 15
The Cherry Tree Carol	4
Christians, Awake, Salute the Happy Morn	
Christmas is Coming	5
Coventry Carol	5
Cranbrook	6
Deck the Halls Ding Dong Merrily on High	6
First Noel	7
First Noel	7
Gabriel's Message	7
Garton	13
Gaudete	7
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen	8
Good Christian Men Rejoice	11
Good King Wenceslas	8
Hark The Herald Angels Sing	9
He Is Born, the Holy Child	10
The Holly and the Ivy	10
Huron Carol	10
I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In	11
I Wonder as I Wander	12
Il Est Né le Divin Enfant	10 11
In the Bleak Midwinter	11
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly	11
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear	. 12
Jesus Christ the Apple Tree	12
Jingle Bells	13 13
Little Jesus, Sweetly Sleep	17
London Waits	17
Love Came Down at Christmas	13
Mary Had a Baby	14
Morning Star	4 14
O Christmas Tree	16
O Christmas Tree	14
O Come, O Come Emmanuel	15
O Holy Night	15
O Little Town of Bethlehem	16 16
On Christmas Night, All Christians Sing	19
On Christmas Night, All Christians Sing	16
Past Inree O'Clock	1/
Patapan	17
Sans Day Carol	17 18
Sans Day Carol	18
Seven Joys of Mary	18
Silent Night	19
Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!	19
Silent Night	19 19
The Angel Gabriel from Heaven came	7
The First Good Joy that Mary Had	18
The Holly Bears a Berry	18
The Twelve Days of Christmas	20
Une Jeune Pucelle	10 15
Veni Emmanuel	20
We Wish You A Merry Christmas	20
What Child Is This?	21
	6

While Shephe	rds W	/atc	chec	tT t	neir	Floo	cks								21
Winter Wonde	erland	l													22
Zither Carol															22
Zlobie Lezy															11