Caroling 2021 Songbook

1.	Apple Tree Wassail	1
2.	Arise And Hail The Joyful Day	3
3.	Back Lane	5
4.	The Boar's Head	8
5.	The Boys Carol (Personent Hodie)	9
6.	Chanukah / Solstice	11
7.	Chariots	12
8.	Come, See the Boys Go Round	16
9.	Copper's Christmas Song (The Trees Are All Bare)	18
10.	The Cutty Wren	20
11.	Death Or Glory Wassail	22
12.	Down In Yon Forest	23
13.	Gaudete	25
14.	Gloucestershire Wassail	27
15.	Good King Wenceslaus	29
16.	Gower Wassail	30
17.	The Holly And The Ivy (Karpeles tune)	31
18.	Horsham Tipteerers Carol (Sussex Mummers Carol)	32
19.	Hunting The Cutty Wren (parody)	34
20.	Hunting The Wren	36
21.	I Am Christmas	37
22.	In Praise Of Christmas (To Drive the Cold Winter Away)	39
23.	In The Bleak Midwinter	41
24.	Liverpool	43
25.	Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming	45
26.	Macaronic Carol	47
27.	O Little One Sweet	49
28.	O Little Town of Bethlehem (Forest Green tune)	51
29.	Orientus Partibus	54
30.	Over The Hill Over The Dale	55
31.	Please To See The King (Our King)	57
32.	Rolling Downward (The Angel Song)	58
33.	Rumsey Road Wassail (Old Apple Tree Wassail)	59
34.	Shepherds Arise	60
35.	Sherburne C.M. (While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks)	64
36.	Somerset Wassail	66
37.	Wintertime	68
38	The Wren Song	69

Apple Tree Wassail

trad. English (Devonshire)



A luck charm for the Devon and Somerset cider country. To be sung either at the orchardman's door or in front of his trees. Epiphany (12 days after Christmas) was reckoned a good time for the ceremony. Roy Palmer prints the Apple Tree Wassail in his Everyman's Book of English Country Songs, and quotes the Illustrated London News of January 11, 1851: "On Twelfth Eve, in Devonshire, it is customary for the farmer to leave his warm fireside, accompanied by a band of rustics, with guns, blunderbusses, etc., presenting an appearance which at other times would be somewhat alarming. Thus armed, the band proceed to an adjoining orchard, where is selected one of the most fruitful and aged of the apple trees, grouping round which they stand and offer up their invocations in the following doggerel rhyme: 'Here's to thee/Old apple tree!/ Whence thou mayst bud,/ And whence thou mayst blow,/ And whence thou mayst bear,/ Apples enow:/ Hats full,/ Caps full,/ Bushels,/ bushels, sacks full, And my pockets full, too!/ Huzza! huzza! The cider-jug is then passed around, and with many a hearty shout, the party fire off their guns, charged with powder only, amidst the branches."

Apple Tree Wassail

O lily-white lily, o lily-white pin,
 Please to come down and let us come in!
 O lily-white lily, o lily-white smock,
 Please to come down and pull back the lock!

For it's our wassail jolly wassail!
Joy come to our jolly wassail!
How well they may bloom, how well they may bear,
So we may have apples and cider next year.

2. O master and mistress, o are you within? Please to come down and pull back the pin. Good luck to your house, may riches come soon, So bring us some cider, we'll drink down the moon.

For it's our wassail jolly wassail! Joy come to our jolly wassail! How well they may bloom, how well they may bear, So we may have apples and cider next year.

3. There was an old farmer and he had an old cow, But how to milk her he didn't know how. He put his old cow down in his old barn. And a little more liquor won't do us no harm. Harm me boys harm, harm me boys harm, A little more liquor won't do us no harm.

For it's our wassail jolly wassail! Joy come to our jolly wassail! How well they may bloom, how well they may bear, So we may have apples and cider next year.

4. O the ringles and the jingles and the tenor of the song goes Merrily merrily.O the tenor of the song goes merrily.

Shouted:

Hatfulls, capfulls, three-bushel bagfulls, Little heaps under the stairs. Hip hip hooray!

Arise and Hail the Joyful Day





- 1. Arise and hail the joyful day Of your Redeemer's birth; Lift up your voices to the sky; A Saviour born on earth.
- Behold and hear what news we bring To lost mankind this day; Sweet hallelujah let us sing, And join the heav'nly lay.

- He comes, poor sinners to redeem, Who so affronted God; To heal their souls from death and sin, And save them with his blood.
- 4. Then let us join in choirs above To celebrate His name, In singing of His wonderous love, And spreading forth his fame.

Back Lane

Lyrics: Isaac Watts, Melody: William Womack

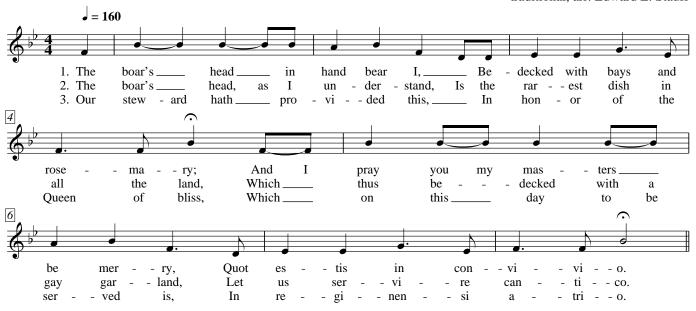


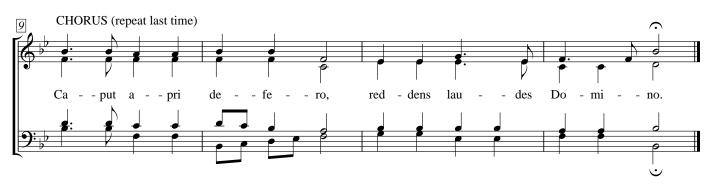




The Boar's Head

traditional, arr. Edward L. Stauff





- 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.
 [So many as are in the feast.]
 Caput apri defero, reddens laudes Domino.
 [The boar's head I bring,
 giving praises to God.]
- The boar's head, as I understand,
 Is the rarest dish in all the land,
 Which thus be decked with a gay garland,
 Let us servire cantico.
 [Let us serve with a song.]
 Caput apri defero, reddens laudes Domino.
- 3. Our steward hath provided this,In honor of the Queen of bliss,Which on this day to be served is,In reginensi atrio.[In the Queen's hall.]Caput apri defero, reddens laudes Domino.

We use the Queen's College, Oxford setting from The Oxford Book of Carols.

The Boys Carol Personent Hodie

14th Century tune (Piae Cantiones, 1582) Translation from Elizabeth Poston's Penguin Book of Christmas Carols

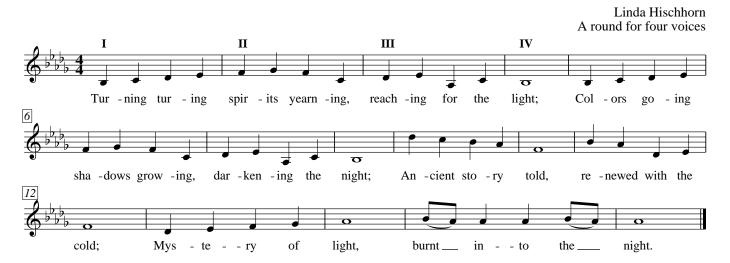


- 1a. Personent hodie, Voces puerulae, Laudantes jocunde, Qui nobis est natus, Summo Deo datus, Et de vir, vir, vir, Et de vir, vir, vir, Et de virginneo Ventre procreatus.
- 1b. Let the boys' cheerful noise,
 Sing today none but joys,
 Praise aloud, clear and proud,
 Praise to him in chorus,
 Giv'n from heaven for us,
 Virgin-born, born, born,
 Virgin-born, born, born,
 Virgin-born on that morn,
 Procreated for us.
- 2. He who rules heaven and earth Lies in stall at his birth, Humble beasts at his feast See the Light eternal Vanquish realms infernal: Satan's done, done, done, Satan's done, done, done, Satan's done, God has won, Victor he, supernal.

- 3. Magi come from afar
 See their sun, tiny one,
 Follow far, little star,
 At the crib adoring,
 Man to God restoring,
 Gold and myrrh, myrrh, myrrh,
 Gold and myrrh, myrrh, myrrh,
 Gold and myrrh offered there,
 Incense for adoring.
- 4. Clerk and boy, join in joy,
 Sing as heaven sings for joy,
 God this day here doth stay,
 Pour we forth the story
 Of his might and glory:
 Ideo, o, o,
 Ideo, o, o,
 Ideo gloria
 In excelsis Deo.

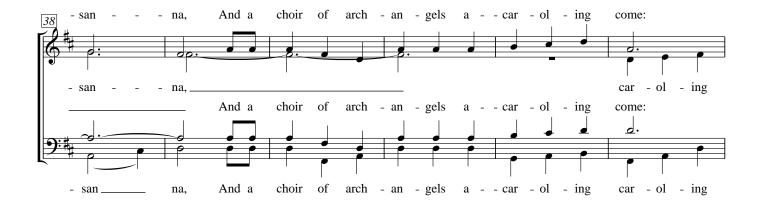
Piae Cantiones, a book of Latin carols compiled in Finland in 1582, gives us The Boys' Carol, with a translation of the original text from Elizabeth Poston's Penguin Book of Christmas Carols. [Notes from Nowell Sing We Clear.]

Chanukah / Solstice

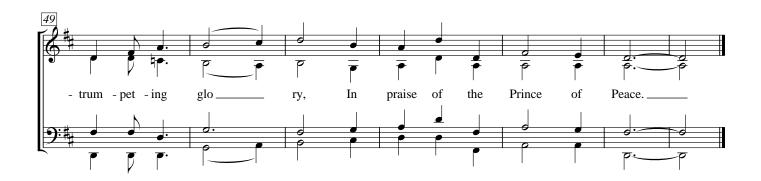












1. O Shepherd O shepherd come leave off your piping Come listen come learn come hear what I say For now is the time that has long been forespoken For now is the time there'll be new tunes to play For soon there comes one who brings a new music Of sweetness and clarity none can compare So open your heart for heavenly harmony Here on this hill will be filling the air

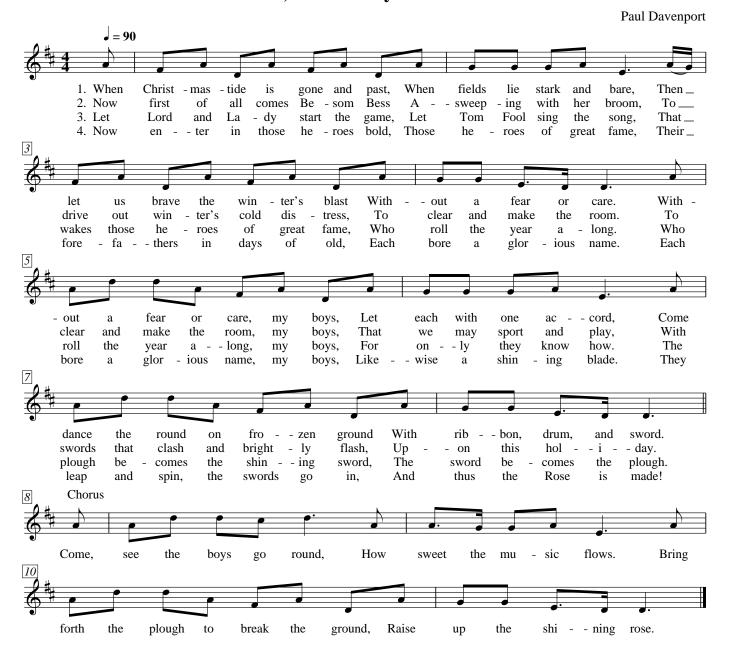
CHORUS

With chariots of cherubim chanting And seraphim singing hosanna And a choir of archangels a-caroling come Hallelujah Hallelu All the angels a-trumpeting glory In praise of the Prince of Peace

- 2. See on yon stable the starlight is shimmering
 And glimmering and glistening and glowing with glee
 In Bethlehem blest this baby of bliss will be
 Born here before you as bold as can be
 And you'll be the first to hear the new symphony
 Songs full of gladness and glory and light
 So learn your tunes well and play your pipes proudly
 For the Prince of Paradise plays here tonight
- 3. Bring your sheep bleating to this happy meeting
 To hear how the lamb with the lion shall lie
 It's mooing and braying you'll hear the song saying
 The humble and lowly will be the most high
 Let the horn of the herdsman be heard up in heaven
 For the gates are flung open for all who come near
 And the simplest of souls shall sing to infinity
 Lift up and listen and you shall hear
- 4. The warmonger's charger will thunder for freedom
 The gun-maker's furnace will dwindle and die
 And muskets and sabers and swords shall be sundered
 Surrendered to the sound that is sweeping the sky
 And the shoes of the mighty shall dance to new measures
 And the jackboots of generals shall jangle no more
 As sister and brother and father and mother
 Agree with each other the end to all war
- 5. As a candle can conquer the demons of darkness
 As a flame can keep frost from the deepest of cold
 So a song can give hope in the depths of all danger
 And a line of pure melody soar in your soul
 So sing your songs well and sing your songs sweetly
 And swear that your singing it never shall cease
 So the clatter of battle and drums of disaster
 Be drowned in the sound of the pipes of peace

Harmony setting transcribed from "Nowell Sing We Clear: Songs & Carols for Midwinter & Christmastide"

Come, See the Boys Go Round



Written in 2012 by Yorkshire songwriter, Paul Davenport, to describe the longsword dance performance of the Goathland Plough Stots. The Plough Stots are one of the remaining traditional longsword teams in England. The Stots were originally more of a mumming group who went around with a plough on Plough Monday soliciting money for Epiphany candles for the church and for seeds for crops. According to an article (reproduced on their website), written in the 1920s by Frank Dowson to describe the team's revival in 1922:

They shouted and sang as they went on their rounds, and gradually a sort of rude pageant or play came into being. In time a "Lord" and "Lady" or "Gentleman" and "Lady" appeared at the head of the company, with collectors (known locally as "Toms"), and an old couple, "Isaac" and "Betty" ("T'awd man", and "T'awd woman") brought up the rear. It is not known when teams of Sword Dancers joined the Plough Stot companies, but such would almost naturally follow in the course of time. The Sword Dancers had quite distinct origin however, and such ritual dances have been in existence from time immemorial. ... Most villages or districts in North Yorkshire formerly had Sword Dance teams accompanying the Stots or the Mummers. These teams have all died out in course of time with the exception of those of Goathland and Sleights, and the last named company has not gone out in recent years.

The dances are described in Ivor Allsop's "Longsword Dances from Traditional and Manuscript Sources". Goathland, or at least its train station, is also famous as the movie set for Hogsmeade in "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone".

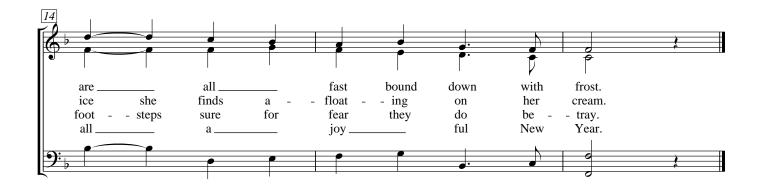
- 1. When Christmastide is gone and past
 When fields lie stark and bare
 Then let us brave the winter's blast
 Without a fear or care
 Without a fear or care my boys
 Let each with one accord
 Now dance the round on frozen ground
 With ribbons, drum and sword
- 2. Now first of all comes Besom Bess
 A-sweeping with her broom
 To drive out winter's cold distress
 To clear and make the room
 To clear and make the room my boys
 That we may sport and play
 With swords that clash and brightly flash
 Upon this holiday
- 3. Let Lord and Lady start the game
 Let Tom Fool sing the song
 That wakes those heroes of great fame
 Who roll the year along
 Who roll the year along my boys
 For only they know how
 The plough becomes the shining sword
 The sword becomes the plough
- 4. Now enter in those heroes bold,
 Those heroes of great fame
 Their forefathers in days of old
 Each bore a glorious name
 Each bore a glorious name my boys
 Likewise a shining blade
 They leap and spin, the swords go in
 And thus the Rose is made!

Chorus
Come, see the boys go round
How sweet the music flows
Bring forth the plough to break the ground
Raise up the shining Rose

The song begins and ends with the chorus, repeated twice. Otherwise, the chorus is sung once between each verse.

Copper's Christmas Song The Trees Are All Bare





The trees all are bare, not a leaf to be seen, And the meadows their beauty have lost. Now winter has come and 'tis cold for man and beast, And the streams they are, And the streams they are all fast bound down with frost.

'Twas down in the farmyard where the oxen feed on straw, They send forth their breath like the steam. Sweet Betsy the milkmaid now quickly she must go, For flakes of ice she finds, For flakes of ice she finds a-floating on her cream.

'Tis now all the small birds to the barn-door fly for food And gently they rest on the spray. A-down the plantation the hares do search for food, And lift up their footsteps sure, And lift up their footsteps sure for fear they do betray.

Now Christmas is come and our song is almost done For we soon shall have the turn of the year. So fill up your glasses and let your health go round, For we wish you all, For we wish you all a joyful New Year.

Roud Index 1170. Unknown outside of Sussex, although it appears to derive from 'Winter', a poem written by Thomas Brerewood of Horton, Cheshire (d. 1748). The few known traditional singers it was collected from include the the Downs shepherd, Michael Blann from Upper Beeding, whose MS songbook is in the Sussex Library; George Townshend of Lewes, Sussex who was recorded in the 1960s, a version of which is transcribed in Ken Stubbs book, "The Life of a Man"; and lastly by the Copper Family, who recorded it on their 1971 Leader Records 4-LP box set, "A Song for Every Season". This version is from Bob Copper's book of the same name, with the harmony parts based on Graham Pratt's setting in his book "Winter Songs in Harmony, Book Two: Carollers From Hell".

The Cutty Wren

Collected from an Adderbury shepherd by A.L. Lloyd -set to a version of the tune, "Green Bushes"



Oh where are you going, said Milder to Moulder. Oh we may not tell you, said Festel to Fose. We're off to the woods, said John the Red Nose. We're off to the woods, said John the Red Nose.

And what will you do there, said Milder to Moulder. Oh we may not tell you, said Festel to Fose. We'll hunt the Cutty wren, said John the Red Nose. We'll hunt the Cutty wren, said John the Red Nose.

And how will you shoot her, said Milder to Moulder. Oh we may not tell you, said Festel to Fose. With bows and with arrows, said John the Red Nose. With bows and with arrows, said John the Red Nose.

Oh that will not do, said Milder to Moulder. Oh what will you do then, said Festel to Fose Big guns and big cannon, said John the Red Nose. Big guns and big cannon, said John the Red Nose.

And how will you carry her, said Milder to Moulder Oh we may not tell you, said Festel to Fose On four strong men's shoulders, said John the Red Nose. On four strong men's shoulders, said John the Red Nose.

But that will not do, said Milder to Moulder Oh what will do then, said Festel to Fose In a big horse and wagon, said John the Red Nose. In a big horse and wagon, said John the Red Nose.

And how will you cut her up, said Milder to Moulder Oh we may not tell you, said Festel to Fose. With knives and with forks, said John the Red Nose. With knives and with forks, said John the Red Nose.

But that will not do, said Milder to Moulder Oh what will you do then, said Festel to Fose Hatchets and cleavers, said John the Red Nose. Hatchets and cleavers, said John the Red Nose.

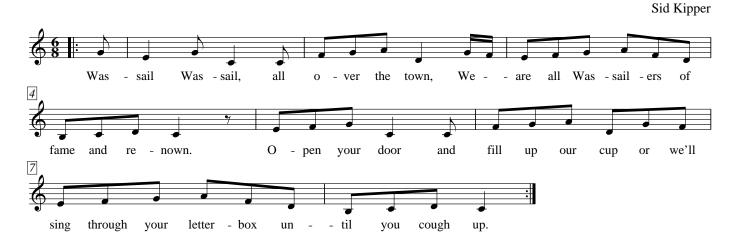
Oh how will you cook her, said Milder to Moulder Oh we may not tell you, said Festel to Fose. In pots and in pans, said John the Red Nose In pots and in pans, said John the Red Nose Oh but that will not do, said Milder to Moulder Oh what will you do then, said Festel to Fose In a bloody great brass cauldron, said John the Red Nose. In a bloody great brass cauldron, said John the Red Nose.

Oh who'll get the spare ribs, said Milder to Moulder Oh we may not tell you, said Festel to Fose. We'll give 'em all to the poor, said John the Red Nose. We'll give 'em all to the poor, said John the Red Nose.

The well-known Cutty Wren or Hunting the Wren is often thought of as an amiable nursery piece, yet when it was recorded from an old shepherd of Adderbury West, near Banbury, he banged the floor with his stick on the accented notes and stamped violently at the end of the verses, saying that to stamp was the right way and reminded of old times. What memories of ancient defiance are preserved in this kind of performance it would be hard to say, but we know that the wren-hunting song was attached to a pagan midwinter ritual of the kind that Church and authority fulminated vainly against - particularly in the rebellious period at the end of the Middle Ages when adherence to the forms of the Old Religion was taken to be evidence of subversion, and its partisans were violently persecuted in consequence. (Lloyd, England 90f)

Tune is a version of "Green Bushes" from Sharp's book, "English Folk Songs".

Death or Glory Wassail

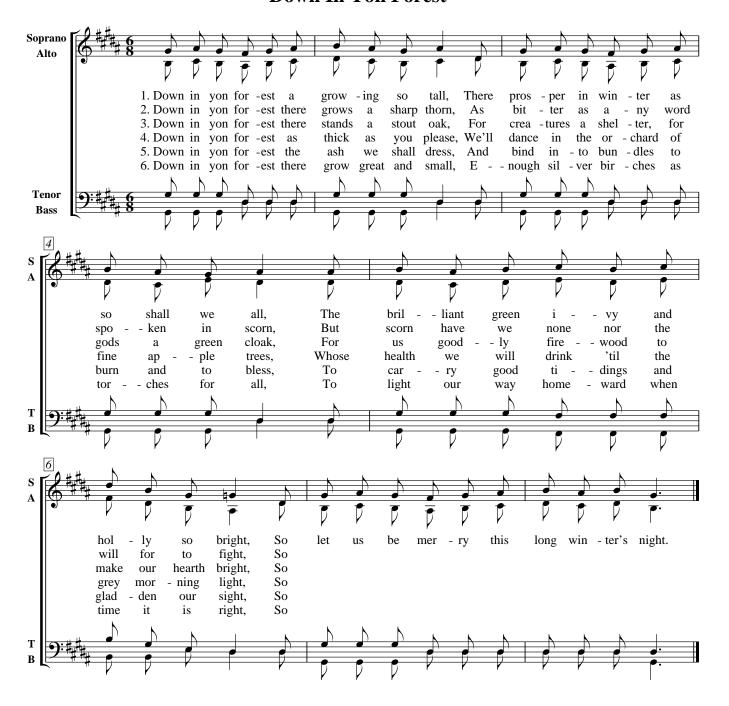


Chorus:

Wassail Wassail, all over the town We are all Wassailers of fame and renown Open your doors and fill up our cup Or we'll sing through your letter box until you cough up

- Wassail Wassail, we know you're about
 Though you sit in the dark and pretend that you're out
 If you're thinking of calling the police to give chase
 Just who do you think is singing the bass
- Wassail Wassail, all over your garden
 If we've done any damage then we beg your pardon
 We're sorry to call upon you so late
 But we had to pick the lock on your gate
- 3. Wassail Wassail, that you may believe
 Tis more blessed to give than it is to receive
 The more that you give the more blessed are you
 The more we receive the less damage we'll do
- 4. Wassail Wassail, with a crisp ten pound note We can all drink your health down at the Old Goat If you haven't a tenner two fivers will do If not things don't look very healthy for you
- 5. Wassail Wassail, all over for now Now you've seen sense we will make no more row Peace be upon you all at your repose And we'll come no more nigh you until the pubs close

Down In Yon Forest



(Sopranos only)

Down in yon forest a-growing so tall
 There prosper in winter as so shall we all
 The brilliant green ivy and holly so bright
 So let us be merry this long winter's night

(Sopranos and Altos)

Down in yon forest there grows a sharp thorn
 As bitter as any word spoken in scorn
 But scorn have we none nor the will for to fight
 So let us be merry this long winter's night

(All parts)

3. Down in yon forest there stands a stout oak
For creatures a shelter, for gods a green cloak
For us goodly firewood to make our hearth bright
So let us be merry this long winter's night

(All parts)

4. Down in yon forest as thick as you please
We'll dance in the orchard of fine apple trees
Whose health we will drink 'til the grey morning light
So let us be merry this long winter's night

(All in unison; Soprano part)

5. Down in yon forest the ash we shall dress And bind into bundles to burn and to bless To carry good tidings and gladden our sight So let us be merry this long winter's night

(All parts)

6. Down in yon forest there grow great and small Enough silver birches as torches for all To light our way homeward when time it is right So let us be merry this long winter's night

Gaudete

14th Century tune (Piae Cantiones, 1582) harmony arrangement John Bromka, 1996



Gaudete, gaudete! Christus est natus Ex Maria virgine, gaudete! Gaudete, gaudete! Christus est natus Ex Maria virgine, gaudete!

- Tempus adest gratiae, Hoc quod optabamus; Carmina laetitiae Devote reddamus.
- 2. Deus homo factus est, Natura mirante; Mundus renovatus est A Christo regnante.
- 3. Ezechielis porta Clausa pertransitur; Unde lux est orta, Salus invenitur.
- 4. Ergo nostra contio Psallat iam in lustro; Benedicat Domino: Salus Regi nostro.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ is born Of the Virgin Mary, rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ is born Of the Virgin Mary, rejoice!

- The time of grace has come For which we have prayed Let us devoutly sing Songs of joy.
- 2. God is made man, While nature wonders The world is renewed By Christ the King.
- 3. The closed gate of Ezekiel
 Has been passed through
 From where the light has risen [the East],
 Salvation is found.
- Therefore let us sing praises now At this time of purification Let it bless the Lord: Greetings to our King.

Translation from the New Oxford Book of Carols, 1992, provided only for the curious. We only sing the Latin.

Gloucestershire Wassail



Verses in this order and chorus only on the last time.

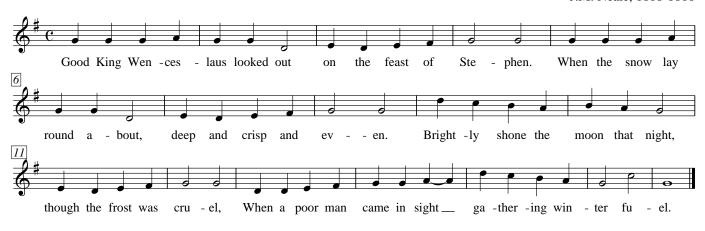
- Wassail, wassail, all over the town!
 Our toast it is white and our ale it is brown,
 Our bowl it is made of the white maple tree;
 With the wassailing bowl, we'll drink to thee.
- 6. And here is to Colly and to her long tail, Pray God send our master he never may fail, A bowl of strong beer; I pray you draw near, And our jolly wassail it's then you shall hear.
- 7. Come butler, come fill us a bowl of the best, Then we hope that your soul in heaven may rest; But if you do draw us a bowl of the small, Then down shall go butler, bowl and all.
- 8. Then here's to the maid in the lily-white smock, Who tripped to the door and slipped back the lock! Who tripped to the door and pulled back the pin, For to let these jolly wassailers in.
- 5. And here is to Fillpail and to her left ear, Pray God send our master a happy New Year, And a happy New Year as e'er he did see; With our wassailing bowl, we'll drink to thee. Chorus: Drink to thee, drink to thee, With our wassailing bowl we'll drink to thee.

We don't sing verses 2-4.

- 2. So here is to Cherry and to his right cheek, Pray God send our master a good good piece of beef, And a good piece of beef that may we all see; With a wassailing bowl, we'll drink to thee. Drink to thee, drink to thee, With a wassailing bowl we'll drink to thee.
- 3. And here is to Dobbin and to his right eye,
 Pray God send our master a good Christmas pie,
 A good Christmas pie that may we all see;
 With our wassailing bowl, we'll drink to thee.
 Drink to thee, drink to thee,
 With our wassailing bowl we'll drink to thee.
- 4. And here is to Broad May and to her broad horn, May God send our master a good crop of corn, And a good crop of corn that may we all see; With the wassailing bowl, we'll drink to thee. Drink to thee, drink to thee, With the wassailing bowl we'll drink to thee.

Good King Wenceslaus

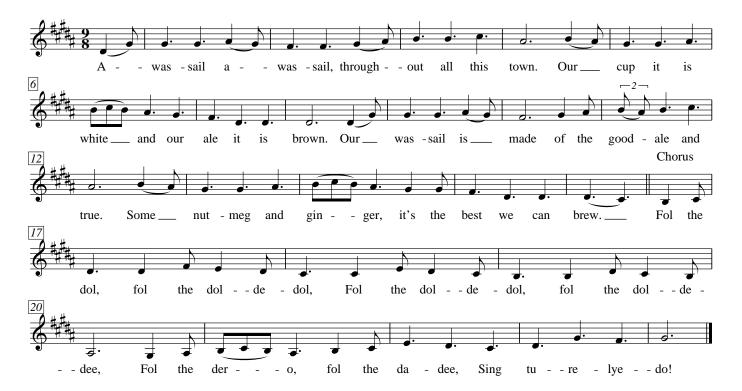
J.M. Neale, 1818-1866



We arrange the parts by king, page, and all.

- A. Good King Wenceslaus looked out on the feast of Stephen. When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even. Brightly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cruel, When a poor man came in sight, gathering winter fuel.
- K. Hither page and stand by me, if thou knowst it telling, Yonder peasant, who is he, where and what his dwelling?
- P. Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain, Right against the forest fence, by Saint Agnes' fountain.
- K. Bring me flesh and bring me wine, bring me pinelogs hither Thou and I will see him dine, when we bear them thither
- A. Page and monarch forth they went, forth they went together; Through the rude winds wild lament and the bitter weather.
- P. Sire, the night is darker now, and the wind blows stronger Fails my heart, I know now how; I can go no longer.
- K. Mark my footsteps, my good page, tread thou in them boldly; Thou shalt find the winter's rage freeze thy blood less coldly.
- A. In his master's steps he trod, where the snow lay dinted; Heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed. Therefore, Christian men be sure, wealth or rank possessing, Ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing.

Gower Wassail



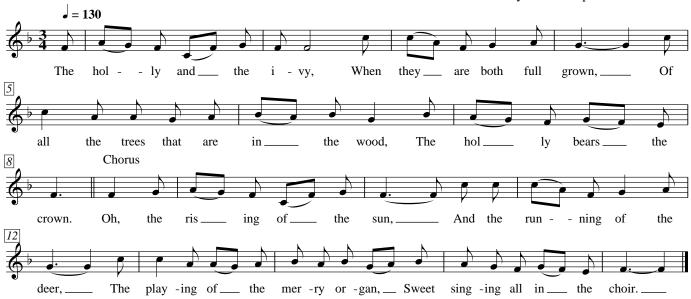
- A-wassail, a-wassail, throughout all this town.
 Our cup it is white and our ale it is brown.
 Our wassail is made of the good ale and true,
 Some nutmeg and ginger, it's the best we can brew.
 - **CHORUS**

Fol the dol, fol the dol-de-dol, Fol the dol-de-do, fol the dol-de-dee, Fol the der-o, fol the da-dee, Sing tu-re-lye-do!

- 2. Our wassail is made of the elderberry bough, And so, my good neighbor, we'll drink unto thou. Besides all on earth, you'll have apples in store, Pray let us come in for it's cold by the door.
- 3. We hope that your apple trees prosper and bear So that we may have cider when we call next year. And where you've one barrel, we hope you'll have ten So that we may have cider when we call again.
- 4. We know by the moon that we are not too soon, And we know by the sky that we are not too high, We know by the stars that we are not too far, And we know by the ground that we are within sound.

The Holly and the Ivy

collected by Maud Karpeles and Pat Shaw



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.

CHORUS

Oh, the rising of the sun, And the running of the deer, The playing of the merry organ, Sweet singing all in the choir.

- 2. The holly bears a blossom, As white as any milk, And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, All wrappéd up in silk.
- 3. The holly bears a berry,
 As red as any blood,
 And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
 To do poor sinners good.

- 4. The holly bears a prickle, As sharp as any thorn, And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, On Christmas Day in the morn.
- The holly bears a bark,
 As bitter as any gall,
 And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
 For to redeem us all.

We don't sing the last verse

6. The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown.
Of all the trees are in the wood
The holly bears the crown.

Horsham Tipteerers Carol

Sussex Mummers Carol

Horsham Tipteerers, Sussex collected by Lucy Broadwood, 1880



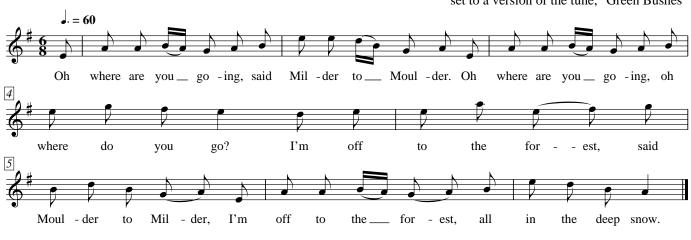
- When righteous Joseph wedded was Unto a virgin maid,
 A glorious angel from Heaven came Unto that virgin maid;
 Unto that virgin maid.
- As joyful shepherds brought their gifts
 To Christ, the savior dear.
 And so we come upon this night
 With blessings and good cheer;
 With blessings and good cheer.

- 3. God bless the mistress of this house With gold all round her breast; Where e'er her body sleeps or wakes, Lord, send her soul to rest; Lord, send her soul to rest.
- God bless the master of this house With happiness beside; Where e'er his body rides or walks, Lord Jesus be his guide; Lord Jesus be his guide.
- God bless your house, your children too, Your cattle and your store.
 The Lord increase you day by day, And send you more and more;
 And send you more and more.

This carol was collected by Lucy Broadwood near Horsham, Sussex, in 1880, from the singing of Christmas mummers locally known as tipteers or tipteerers. Its verses were something of a mix: a stanza from another carol about The Annunciation; some moralistic lessons; and several blessings common to other house-visiting wassails. In this version from Finest Kind, the song keeps the opening verse and the house-visiting verses, eliminates the lessons, and adds a new verse written by Shelley Posen.

Hunting the Cutty Wren

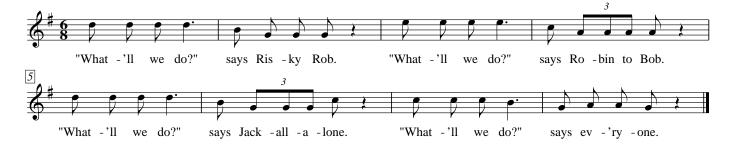
Lyrics by Les Barker set to a version of the tune, "Green Bushes"



- Oh where are you going, said Milder to Moulder Where are you going, oh where do you go?
 I'm off to the forest, said Moulder to Milder
 I'm off to the forest all in the deep snow.
- 2. Why are you going, says Milder to Moulder Why are you going with all of these men? You nosy old bleeder, said Moulder to Milder You nosy old bleeder, we're hunting the wren.
- 3. Two dozen hunters? says Milder to Moulder Yet you never catch one, won't you tell me how? It's a bloody small target, said Moulder to Milder It's a bloody small target, you stupid old cow.
- 4. Then why do you do it, says Milder to Moulder Why do you do it, says the whiny old voice I know it sounds silly, said Moulder to Milder It's an old pagan custom and we have no choice.
- 5. Would you walk in the forest, says Milder to Moulder Would you walk in the forest like an old pagan man? We'll go in my motor, said Moulder to Milder I've got a Toyota, it's a four-wheel drive van.
- 6. Where have you been, says Milder to Moulder Where have you been, won't you tell to me? Hunting the wren, said Moulder to Milder Hunting the wren, has your memory gone?
- 7. Pray have you got one, says Milder to Moulder Pray have you got one please tell I'm all ears! Yes, we're enraptured, says Moulder to Milder It's the first one we've captured for two thousand years.
- 8. Where did you catch it, said Milder to Moulder Where did you catch it, oh pray tell to me We got it at Safeway, said Moulder to Milder We got it at Safeway for 55 p.
- 9. It's not very big though, says Milder to Moulder Won't need much stuffing, I don't see the sense Of course it's not big though, said Moulder to Milder It's one of the salient features of wrens.

- 10. You should have got a chicken, says Milder to Moulder A chicken or a turkey or maybe a joint We should have got chicken? said Moulder to Milder You silly old woman, you're missing the point.
- 11. So why hunt the wren then? says Milder to Moulder Why hunt the wren then if it's such a small thing? It's an old pagan custom, said Moulder to Milder And hunting the sausage don't have the same ring.
- 12. Where are you going, says Milder to Moulder Where are you going says Milder again Off to the Arundales, said Moulder to Milder To open a shop called Kentucky Fried Wren.

Hunting the Wren



"What'll we do?" says Risky Rob.

"What'll we do?" says Robin to Bob.

"What'll we do?" says Jack-all-alone.

"What'll we do?" says everyone.

"We'll hunt the wren." says Risky Rob.

"We'll hunt the wren." says Robin to Bob.

"We'll hunt the wren." says Jack-all-alone.

"We'll hunt the wren." says everyone.

"How'll we shoot her?" says Risky Rob.

"How'll we shoot her?" says Robin to Bob.

"How'll we shoot her?" says Jack-all-alone.

"How'll we shoot her?" says everyone.

"Sticks and stones," says Risky Rob.

"Bows and arrows," says Robin to Bob.

"Big guns and cannons," says Jack-all-alone.

"That's how we'll do it," says everyone.

"How'll we carry her?" says Risky Rob.

"How'll we carry her?" says Robin to Bob.

"How'll we carry her?" says Jack-all-alone.

"How'll we carry her?" says everyone.

"Four strong men's shoulders," says Risky Rob.

"Horse and wagon," says Robin to Bob.

"A big eighteen-wheeler," says Jack-all-alone.

"That's how we'll do it," says everyone.

"How'll we cook her?" says Risky Rob.

"How'll we cook her?" says Robin to Bob.

"How'll we cook her?" says Jack-all-alone.

"How'll we cook her?" says everyone.

"Pots and pans," says Risky Rob.

"Bloody great cauldrons," says Robin to Bob.

"A microwave oven," says Jack-all-alone.

"That's how we'll do it," says everyone.

"How'll we carve her?" says Risky Rob.

"How'll we carve her?" says Robin to Bob.

"How'll we carve her?" says Jack-all-alone.

"How'll we carve her?" says everyone.

"Knives and forks," says Risky Rob.

"Hatchets and cleavers," says Robin to Bob.

"Gas-driven chainsaws," says Jack-all-alone.

"That's how we'll do it," says everyone.

"Who'll come to dinner?" says Risky Rob.

"Who'll come to dinner?" says Robin to Bob.

"Who'll come to dinner?" says Jack-all-alone.

"Who'll come to dinner?" says everyone.

"The King and the Queen," says Risky Rob.

"The House and the Senate," says Robin to Bob.

"All of New England," says Jack-all-alone.

"Invite the whole world," says everyone.

"Eyes to the blind," says Risky Rob.

"Legs to the lame" says Robin to Bob.

"Ribs to the poor" says Jack-all-alone.

"Bones to the dogs" says everyone.

"Manx Ballads & Music," (1896) edited by A. W. Moore, has verses which may have formed the basis for Barrand and Roberts' version.

I Am Christmas

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1. I will sew a braid of gold
On gray December's ragged sleeve,
Teach the crabbed and jaded soul
How to give, how to receive;
For rooms are thick with magic now,
The tree its soft light throwing;
The mistletoe, the holly bough
My age-old spell bestowing.

CHORUS

I am warmth and I am light And I am kith and kin, A candle in your longest night. I am Christmas. Let me in. I am Christmas. Let me in.

- I bring stories by the hearth,
 Delight in half-forgotten names,
 Apple logs on fragrant fires
 With flick'ring faces in the flames.
 As the year draws in its days
 And tired leaves are falling,
 I will brighten darkened ways
 Where dusk is early calling.
- 3. I can take the weary miles
 And weave a carpet to your door,
 Guide the dusty wand'rers home
 Safely to your side once more.
 I can cheer the bitter days
 With tunes to set you singing.
 My standard in your heart I'll raise,
 Joy and comfort bringing.
- 4. I bring churches all aglow
 And carols on the midnight air,
 Colored windows streaked with snow
 That gild the congregations there;
 For young and old shall join and sing
 To mark the longest turning.
 From one glad candle that I bring,
 Ten thousand more are burning.

In Praise of Christmas To Drive the Cold Winter Away

Words: Tom Durfey (1653-1723) Tune: 18th Century mer - it more praise, Than 1. All hail days of the that all the rest of the to for 2. Tis ill an - ger in - clined To of small in - jur -ies mind to think a 3. This time of spent in good cheer, And neigh - bours to - geth - er do the year is bride, With 4. When Christ -a -mas's tide comes in like a hol - ly and i 4 well for the poor And wel -come the nights, that dou - ble de - lights, As the as year, lend her your cheek, Nor now. If wrath be to seek, do not let her in - ha - bit thy oth - er in love for to meet. To sit by the fire. with friend -ly de - sire, Each e - ver - y house -hold is Twelve mirth and good cheer In clad. days in the year, much 8 Good mer -ry man's friend, That that he peer!_ for - tune at - tend each doth but the best brow. _____ Cross out of thy books ma - lev - o - lent looks, Both beau - ty and youth's de greet. ____ Old grud - ges for - got are put in the All sor - rows a - side pot, had. __ The coun - t - ry guise is then to de - vise Some gam - bols of Christ - mas may, For get ting old wrongs with And whol ly con - sort with lay; The old and the young doth Where the do play, at young men 14 ca - rols and songs, To drive the cold win - - ter a - - way._

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To

To

To

- All hail to the days that merit more praise
 Than all of the rest of the year,
 And welcome the nights that double delights
 As well for the poor as the peer!
 Good fortune attend each merry man's friend
 That doth but the best that he may,
 Forgetting old wrongs with carols and songs
 To drive the cold winter away.
- Tis ill for a mind to anger inclined
 To think of small injuries now,
 If wrath be to seek, do not lend her your cheek,
 Nor let her inhabit thy brow.
 Cross out of thy books malevolent looks,
 Both beauty and youth's decay,
 And wholly consort with mirth and with sport
 To drive the cold winter away.
- This time of the year is spent in good cheer,
 And neighbours together do meet,
 To sit by the fire, with friendly desire,
 Each other in love for to greet.
 Old grudges forgot are put in the pot,
 All sorrows aside they lay;
 The old and the young doth carol this song,
 To drive the cold winter away.
- 4. When Christmas's tide comes in like a bride, With holly and ivy clad, Twelve days in the year, much mirth and good cheer In every household is had. The country guise is then to devise Some gambols of Christmas play, Whereat the young men do the best that they can To drive the cold winter away.

In the Bleak Midwinter

Words by Christina Rossetti Music by Gustav Holst



- 1. In the bleak mid-winter, 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 ago.
- Angels and archangels, May have gathered there, Cherubim and seraphim Thronged the air: But only his mother In her maiden bliss Worshipped the Beloved With a kiss.
- 5. What can I give him, Poor as I am?
 If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
 If I were a wise man I would do my part;
 Yet what I can I give him, Give my heart.

We sing verses 1, 4, 5.

- Our God in heav'n cannot hold him Nor earth sustain; Heav'n and earth shall flee away When he comes to reign: In the bleak mid-winter A stable place sufficed The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.
- 3. Enough for him, whom cherubim Worship night and day, A breastful of milk, And a mangerful of hay; Enough for him, whom angels Fall down before, The ox and ass and camel Which adore.

Liverpool

lyrics: Nahum Tate, music attributed to John Hall of Sheffield Park c. 1790s





Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Setting by Michael Praetorius, 1609 (Cologne, 1599)

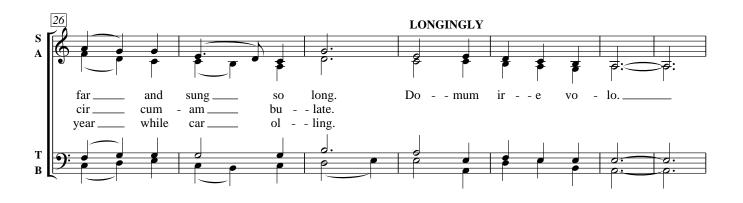


Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming,
From tender stem hath sprung,
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As men of old have sung!
It came a Flow'ret bright
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

- Isaiah had fortold it,
 The Rose I have in mind;
 With Mary we behold it,
 The virgin mother kind.
 To show God's love aright
 She bore to us a Savior
 When half spent was the night.
- 3. This Flow'r, whose fragrance tender, With sweetness fills the air, Dispels with glorious splendor The darkness ev'rywhere.
 True Man, yet very God, From sin and death He saves us And lightens ev'ry load.

Macaronic Carol





Hear us come through fields of snow.
 Pedes frigidi sunt. [My feet are cold]
 Singing Christmas cheerio.
 Et esurio. [And I'm hungry]
 Listen to our gladsome song.
 Pedes defessi sunt. [My feet are tired]
 We've travelled far and sung so long.
 Domum ire volo. [I want to go home]

- Master, Mistress, children, pets.
 Pedes frigidi sunt.
 The more it snows, the more joyful we get.
 Et esurio.
 Join us as we celebrate.
 Pedes defessi sunt.
 We waits, we circumambulate.
 Domum ire volo.
- 3. Branches and houses are hung with white. Pedes frigidi sunt.
 Mittens aglow with candlelight.
 Et esurio.
 Deck the halls, for la we sing.
 Pedes defessi sunt.
 Once a year while carolling.
 Domum ire volo.

O Little One Sweet



- O little one sweet, O little one mild, Thy Father's purpose thou hast fulfilled; Thou cam'st from heav'n to mortal ken, Equal to be with us poor men, O little one sweet, O little one mild.
- O little one sweet, O little one mild, With joy thou hast the whole world filled; Thou camest here from heav'n's domain, To bring men comfort in their pain, O little one sweet, O little one mild.
- 3. O little one sweet, O little one mild, In thee love's beauties are all distilled, Then light in us thy love's bright flame, That we may give thee back the same, O little one sweet, O little one mild.
- 4. O little one sweet, O little one mild, Help us to do as thou hast willed, Lo, all we have belongs to thee! Ah, keep us in our fealty! O little one sweet, O little one mild.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

words: Phillips Brooks (1867) tune: Forest Green [trad.] arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1906) Soprano 1. O lit - tle Beth __ le ___ hem, How still town of we_ thee 2. For Christ is ga - thered _ all born of And a - ry, 3. How si - lent - ly, how si ____ lent ___ ly, The won -drous __ Gift is 5. O ho - ly Child of Beth ___ le _ _ hem, De scend to_ we Alto Tenor 1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - - hem, How still we thee. see 2. For Christ is born of And ga - thered all ry, 3. How - ly, si - - lent - - ly, The Gift si - lent how won - drous is 5. O Child - le - - hem, De ho - ly of Beth scend to us, we. Bass 4 lie! thy A - - bove deep and dream _ less ___ sleep, The si - lent ___ stars -bove, While mor - tals sleep, the an ____ gels ___ Their watch of ___ won -dering keep, - parts God giv'n; So im to hu ___ man __ hearts, The bles - sings __ of His pray; Cast out sin, and en ____ ter ___ in, Be born in_ to our usT thy lie! A - - bove deep dream - less sleep, The si - lent and stars go_ While mor - tals sleep, Their bove, the an - - gels keep, watch of won -dering_ hu - - man So God im - parts hearts, The giv'n; bles - sings of His ___ to Cast sin, en - - ter Be born pray; out and in, in our usto_



The text was written by Phillips Brooks (1835-1893), then rector of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity, Philadelphia and later of Trinity Church, Boston. He visited the village of Bethlehem in the Sanjak of Jerusalem in 1865 and, a few years later, wrote the poem for his church. His organist Lewis Redner (1831-1908) wrote the music, a tune titled "St. Louis", which is used most often in the United States.

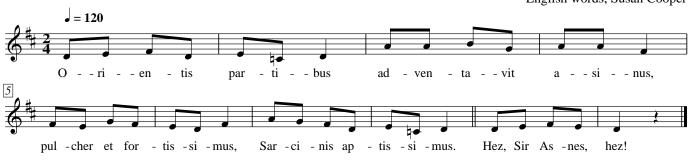
In the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth, the English hymn tune "Forest Green" is used instead. "Forest Green" was adapted by Ralph Vaughan Williams from an English folk ballad called "The Ploughboy's Dream" which he had collected from a Mr. Garman of Forest Green, Surrey in 1903.

- 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 tonight.
- 2. For Christ is born of Mary,
 And gathered all above,
 While mortals sleep, the angels keep
 Their watch of wondering love.
 O morning stars together,
 Proclaim the holy birth,
 And praises sing to God the King,
 And peace to men on earth!

- 3. How silently, how silently,
 The wondrous Gift is giv n;
 So God imparts to human hearts
 The blessings of His Heav n.
 No ear may hear His coming,
 But in this world of sin,
 Where meek souls will receive Him still,
 The dear Christ enters in.
- 4. Where children pure and happy
 Pray to the blessèd Child,
 Where misery cries out to Thee,
 Son of the mother mild;
 Where charity stands watching
 And faith holds wide the door,
 The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
 And Christmas comes once more.
- 5. O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

Orientis Partibus

anon. medieval carol English words, Susan Cooper



- Orientis partibus, Adventavit asinus, Pulcher et fortisimus, Sarcinis aptisimus. Hez, Sir Asnes, Hez!
- 2. From the East the donkey came, Stout and strong as twenty men; Ears like wings and eyes like flame, Striding into Bethlehem. Hez, Sir Asnes, Hez!
- 3. Faster than the deer he leapt, With his burden on his back; Though all other creatures slept, Still the ass kept on his track. Hez, Sir Asnes, Hez!

- 4. Still he draws his heavy load, Fed on barley and rough hay; Pulling on along the road Donkey pull our sins away! Hez, Sir Asnes, Hez!
- 5. Wrap him now in cloth of gold; All rejoice who see him pass; Mirth inhabit young and old On this feast day of the ass. Hez, Sir Asnes, Hez!

The "Song of the Ass," important in the early history of Western music, was sung during the Middle Ages as a processional at Sens, when a donky was ridden into the Cathedral. The irrepressible popular humor of the Feast of Fools and similar mediaeval festivals is found in the carol's "braying" refrain, which was sung by the clergy.

Source: The Christmas Revels Songbook, 2nd edition, 1995. [The Feast Day of the Ass or Festum Asinorum is January 14.]

Over the Hill and Over the Dale

Piae Cantiones, 1582 English words by J.M. Neale $\sqrt{.}=60$ the hill dale, three - ver and - ver the Came _ kings_ to 2. O - ver the hill the dale, Each ____ king and o - ver bears_ a 3. He ___ God_ There ____ fore is ye to meet, in_ cense go __ ding 4. O - ver the hill_ and o - ver the dale, Ri ___ east ___ to -Car_ nought ___ hail, Cold_ ge - ther,_ ing for snow _ and and Wise_ men child_ to hail, Mon_ archs pre - sent, _ go, ____ a greet, prof - fer;_ He_ is Gold_ is King_ ye go_ to - ge - ther, _ Car_ ing nought ___ for and hail, Nought ___ for snow_ Per Now sia's where wind_ and wea -ther._ on san dy plain, Now O And seek ____ a pea - sant. ___ in front, a star pro ceeds, - - ver - fer. ___ Al - -E - very in_ your cof so, man, he comes ___ to share, and wea -ther._ Warned by God from od's Each king wind_ Her_ door, Ti_ swells_ with rain, They _ their gris ca_ mels and vers leads, Shines ____ with beams_ rocks ____ ri_ in that can bear, Temp ____ ter, rail_ woe _____ man ____ er, steps turns ____ for home ___ once more, Hearts ___ and foot_ Now through Sy - ther. _ rian lands_ they go, There ces - - sant. _ - fore on ward, on_ ward still, fer. __ There fore scof now, a gainst ___ the day, light - - er. _ Now be hind them shines _ the star, 33 through hea - ther._ Now Mo_ ab, faint ___ and slow, Now ___ o'er E_{-} _ dom's Ford the climb __ the hill; Love __ makes all ___ things plea - sant. __ stream _ and

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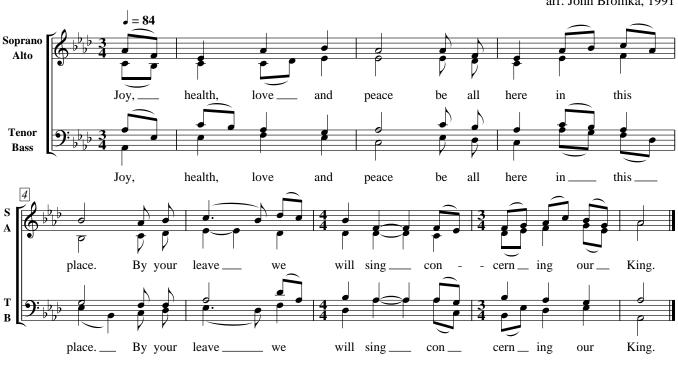
- 1. Over the hill and over the dale
 Came three kings together,
 Caring nought for snow and hail,
 Cold and wind and weather.
 Now on Persia's sandy plain,
 Now where Tigris swells with rain,
 They their camels tether.
 Now through Syrian lands they go,
 Now through Moab, faint and slow,
 Now o'er Edom's heather.
- 2. Over the hill and over the dale Each king bears a present, Wise men go, a child to hail, Monarchs seek a peasant. And in front, a star proceeds, Over rocks and rivers leads, Shines with beams incessant. Therefore onward, onward still, Ford the stream and climb the hill; Love makes all things pleasant.

- 3. He is God ye go to meet,
 Therefore incense proffer;
 He is King ye go to greet,
 Gold is in your coffer.
 Also, man, he comes to share
 Every woe that man can bear,
 Tempter, railer, scoffer.
 Therefore now, against the day,
 In the grave when Him they lay,
 Myrrh ye also offer.
- 4. Over the hill and over the dale Riding east together, Caring nought for snow and hail, Nought for wind and weather. Warned by God from Herod's door Each king turns for home once more, Hearts and footsteps lighter. Now behind them shines the star Which they followed from afar, Shining ever brighter.

Over the Hill and Over the Dale is by J.M. Neale, a setting to a tune from the Piae Cantiones, a book of Latin carols compiled in Finland in 1582. Neale composed English texts for several of them, Good King Wenceslas being the best-known. [Tune and notes transcribed from Nowell Sing We Clear.]

Please to See the King Our King





- 1. Joy, health, love and peace be all here in this place. By your leave we will sing concerning our King.
- 2. Our King is well dressed, in silks of the best, In ribbons so rare, no king can compare.
- 3. We have travelled many miles, over hedges and stiles, In search of our King, unto you we bring.
- 4. We have powder and shot, to conquer the lot. We have cannon and ball, to conquer them all.
- 5. Old Christmas is past, Twelfth Night is the Last. And we bid you adieu, great joy to the new.

Rolling Downward

The Angel Song



- Rolling downward, through the midnight, Comes a glorious burst of heavenly song; 'Tis a chorus full of sweetness, And the singers are an angel throng.
 - Chorus:

Glory! glory in the highest! On the earth goodwill and peace to men! Down the ages sound the echo; Let the glad earth shout again!

- Wond'ring shepherds see the glory,
 Hear the word the shining ones declare;
 At the manger fall in worship,
 While the music fills the quivering air.
- 3. Christ the Savior, God's Anointed, Comes to earth our fearful debt to pay. Man of sorrows, and rejected, Lamb of God, that takes our sin away.

Rumsey Road Wassail Old Apple Tree Wassail



Shouted:

Hatfuls, capfuls, three bushel bagfuls And a little heap under the stairs Hip! Hip! Hurray!

Let

[last time] Take

all

of

us_

your hat ___ and

_ take

off

our hats and shout

for

shout Hoo -ray!____

out to the old ap -ple

Pe - - ter's ap - - ple

tree!

trees!_

The tune and first verse and chorus, with minor changes, are traditional. Verses 2-4 and final chorus were written by Susan Galbraith, in honor of Peter Hoover and his Stone Fence Farm cider orchard in Trumansburg, NY. We are gratified to have been able to perform this carol for Peter, and do a proper wassail of his orchard, including a mummers play written for him, on January 19, 2019. He died peacefully, 80 years young, surrounded by his family, on October 11, 2019.

Shepherds Arise

The Copper family Rottingdean, Sussex (traditional)









A powerful carol from the Copper family of Rottingdean, Sussex. A two-part setting may be found in Bob Copper's book, "A Song For Every Season."

Sherburne C. M.While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Music by Daniel Read, 1793

Text by Nahum Tate & Nicholas Brady, Supplement to the New Version of the Psalms, Ireland, 1700





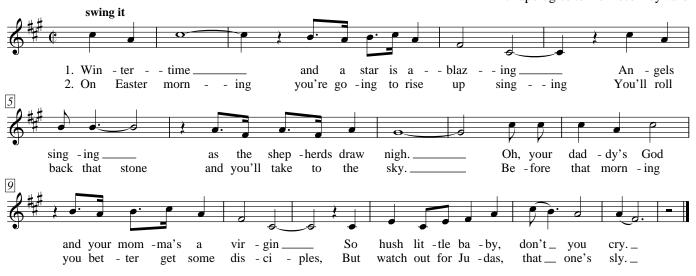
Somerset Wassail



- 1. Wassail and wassail all over the town.
 The cup it is white and the ale it is brown;
 The cup it is made of the good ashen tree,
 And so is the malt of the best barley.
 For it's your wassail and it's our wassail,
 And it's joy be to you, and a jolly wassail.
- O master and mistress, are you all within?
 Pray open the door and let us come in.
 O master and mistress a-sitting by the fire,
 Pray think on us poor travelers, a traveling in the mire.
 For it's your wassail and it's our wassail,
 And it's joy be to you, and a jolly wassail.
- 3. O where is the maid with the silver-headed pin, To open the door and let us come in? O master and mistress, it is our desire: A good loaf and cheese, and a toast by the fire. For it's your wassail and it's our wassail, And it's joy be to you, and a jolly wassail.
- 4. There was an old man, and he had an old cow, And how for to keep her he didn't know how; He built up a barn for to keep his cow warm. And a drop or two of cider will do us no harm. No harm, boys, harm; no harm, boys, harm; And a drop or two of cider will do us no harm.
- 5. The girt dog of Langport he burnt his long tail, And this is the night we go singing wassail. O master and mistress now we must be gone; God bless all in this house until we do come again. For it's your wassail and it's our wassail, And it's joy be to you, and a jolly wassail.

Wintertime

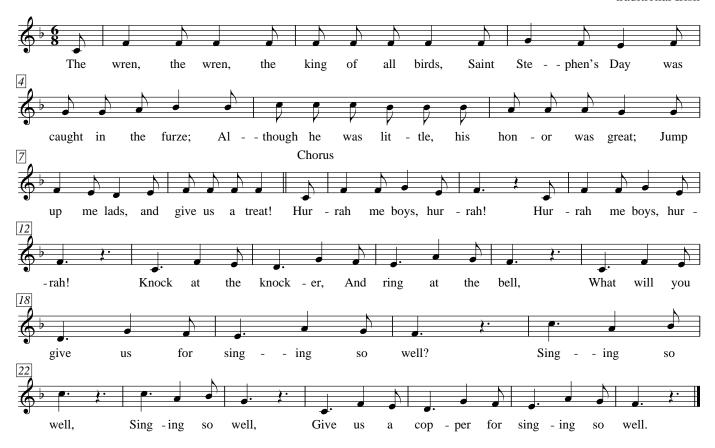
Music: George Gershwin Words: Susan Galbraith and an angel throng - with apologies to Du Bose Heyward



- Wintertime and a star is a-blazing,
 Angels singing as the shepherds draw nigh.
 Oh, your daddy's God and your momma's a virgin,
 So hush little baby, don't you cry.
- 2. On Easter morning you're going to rise up singing. You'll roll back that stone and you'll take to the sky. Before that morning you better get some disciples, But watch out for Judas, that one's sly.

The Wren Song





 The wren, the wren, the king of all birds, Saint Stephen's Day was caught in the furze, Although he was little, his honor was great, Jump up, me lads, and give us a treat!

CHORUS

Hurrah, me boys, hurrah! Hurrah, me boys, hurrah! Knock at the knocker and ring at the bell, What will you give us for singing so well? Singing so well, singing so well, Give us a copper for singing so well.

2. We followed the wren three miles or more, Three miles or more, three miles or more, Through hedges and ditches and heaps of snow, At six o'clock in the morning.

- 3. Rolley, Rolley, where's your nest? It's in the bush that I love best, It's in the bush, the holly tree, Where all the boys do follow me.
- As I went out to hunt and all,
 I met a wren upon the wall,
 Up with me wattle and gave him a fall,
 And brought him here to show you all.
- 5. I have a little box under me arm, A tuppence or penny'll do it no harm, For we are the boys that came your way, To bring in the wren on Saint Stephen's Day!