

# The Boys Carol

## Personent Hodie

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

Soprano  
Alto

Per - so - nent ho - di - e, Vo - ces pu - er - u - lae, Lau - dan - tes  
Let the boys' cheer - ful noise, Sing to - day none but joys, Praise a - loud,

Tenor  
Bass

6

S  
A  
jo - cun - de, Qui no - bis est na - tus, Sum - mo De - o da - tus,  
clear and proud, Praise to him in cho - rus, Giv'n from hea - ven for us,

T  
B

11

S  
A  
Et de vir, vir, vir, Et de vir, vir, vir, Et de vir -  
Vir - gin - born, born, born, Vir - gin - born, born, born, Vir - gin - born

T  
B

Et de vir, vir,  
Vir - gin - born, born,

16

S  
A  
gin - - ne - o ven - - tre pro - - cre - - a - - tus.  
on that morn, Pro - - cre - - a - - ted for us.

T  
B

- 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.]

## The Boys Carol

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|--|---|
| 1. Personent hodie,<br>Voces puerulae,<br>Laudantes jocunde,<br>Qui nobis est natus,<br>Summo Deo datus,<br>Et de vir, vir, vir,<br>Et de vir, vir, vir,<br>Et de virginneo<br>Ventre procreatus.                  | 1. Let the boys' cheerful noise,<br>Sing today none but joys,<br>Praise aloud, clear and proud,<br>Praise to him in chorus,<br>Giv'n from heaven for us,<br>Virgin-born, born, born,<br>Virgin-born, born, born,<br>Virgin-born on that morn,<br>Procreated for us. |
| 2. In mundo nascitur,<br>Pannis involvitur,<br>Praesepe ponitur<br>Stabulo brutorum<br>Rector supernorum,<br>Perdidit, dit, dit,<br>Perdidit, dit, dit,<br>Perdidit spolia<br>Princeps infernorum.                 | 2. He who rules heaven and earth<br>Lies in stall at his birth,<br>Humble beasts at his feast<br>See the Light eternal<br>Vanquish realms infernal:<br>Satan's done, done, done,<br>Satan's done, done, done,<br>Satan's done, God has won,<br>Victor he, supernal. |
| 3. Magi tres venerunt,<br>Parvulum inquirunt,<br>Parvulum inquirunt,<br>Stellulam sequendo,<br>Ipsum adorando,<br>Aurum, thus, thus, thus,<br>Aurum, thus, thus, thus,<br>Aurum, thus, et myrrham<br>Ei offerendo. | 3. Magi come from afar<br>See their sun, tiny one,<br>Follow far, little star,<br>At the crib adoring,<br>Man to God restoring,<br>Gold and myrrh, myrrh, myrrh,<br>Gold and myrrh, myrrh, myrrh,<br>Gold and myrrh offered there,<br>Incense for adoring.          |
| 4. Omnes clereculi,<br>Pariter pueri,<br>Cantent ut angeli:<br>Advenisti mundo,<br>Laudes tibi fundo.<br>Ideo, o, o,<br>Ideo, o, o,<br>Ideo gloria<br>In excelsis Deo.   | 4. Clerk and boy, join in joy,<br>Sing as heaven sings for joy,<br>God this day here doth stay,<br>Pour we forth the story<br>Of his might and glory:<br>So to God, God, God,<br>So to God, God, God,<br>So to God glory be,<br>In the highest, glory.              |

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