

For Sunday-School, Choir and General Use



Old Christmas Carols
Traditional Melodies

Newly arranged, Harmonized and Edited

By S. Archer Gibson

First Set

Second Set

By F. Flaxington Harker

Third Set

Fourth Set

Fifth Set

Sixth Set

Each Set, Seven Cents a Copy, net

In Quantities of One-hundred or more, Six Cents a Copy

New York : G. Schirmer
Boston : The Boston Music Co.

Introductory

THESE Carols all belong to the Folk-song class. The fact that they have lived so long is of itself proof of their intrinsic worth. Their beauty and unequalled appropriateness for the Christmas season warrant their appearance in this new form, harmonized, arranged and edited with a direct view to practical use.

Owing to the limited range of children's voices, a special point has been made of keeping them within the compass of the one octave D to D, so far as possible. Very few notes will be found exceeding this narrow limit, and then only such as will be found easy in practice. While the melodies have been preserved scrupulously intact, the harmonies have been freely reconstructed. Several slight changes in the words have been made for obvious reasons.

Most of the Carols have been planned for unison singing, with pianoforte accompaniment, this being not only the simplest and most practical, but also the most effective and artistic. All the words are directly under the music; and as the accompaniments have nearly all been written in the four-part vocal style, the harmony may be sung if desired.

Many of these Carols that usually appear labelled as "Old English," by courtesy, bear internal evidence of other origin. For example, *What Child is This?* (see page 13) is obviously Irish, and in Shakespeare's time was known by the name *Green Sleeves* (see "The Merry Wives of Windsor," Act v, Sc. 5, Act ii, Sc. 1). Other Carols suggest Scotland, Wales, France and Germany, and were doubtless produced by representatives of those lands. An attempt to honestly label these Carols would involve one in all sorts of useless difficulties and controversies, which it has been thought well to avoid under the simple title "Traditional Melodies."

Suggestions

In such Sunday-schools as have both piano and pipe-organ available, splendid results will be obtained by using the organ only for climaxes and special effects, the piano taking the burden of the accompaniment.

Do not let the children sing too loud; it strains their voices and does not add to the music. Enthusiasm is not necessarily noise.

Teach the children to rely on themselves in their singing. They sing all the better for it if attention is given to the expression, so as to make the work of learning new tunes interesting as well as instructive. It will be found practical to form a small Musical Circle among the children, meeting once a week for a musical social evening, teaching them all new music in advance of the regular school. Seated among the other scholars they will be the "leaven in the lump" that will work wonders; their enthusiasm will be infectious, and the whole school will soon be singing heartily and tunefully, without a strident preceptor, a cornet, or other atrocity in evidence. If a leader is found necessary it is better that he should use his voice as little as possible to keep the children to the melody; if the music is good they will learn it more thoroughly

Introductory

by being taught to rely on themselves. Once these traditional melodies have been learned, they have such individuality as to be unforgettable, and will be a constant source of pleasure with every recurring Christmastide.

See that the children enunciate clearly; poor enunciation is inexcusable in any one, singing or speaking, except in cases of malformation.

Give more attention to the general expression and style of rendering than to the detail; it is worth more, and this is the natural method. Never lose grasp on the effect of the Carol as a whole, in attending to minutiae. This is the rock that has wrecked so many musical craft attempting to sail the seas of "Music for the Masses."

Of course, suitable short selections from Scripture and literature are to be inserted between the musical numbers. As conditions are never the same in any two schools, the selections can be better prepared by some member of each school than by any outsider. These Carols will be seen to be arranged in a sequence of thought (see *Table of Contents*); their mere titles will suggest the sort of material needed for the readings, recitations, etc.

S. ARCHER GIBSON

New York, 1904

Contents

1. HOLY NIGHT! PEACEFUL NIGHT!	7
2. DRAW NIGH, IMMANUEL	8
3. O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM	9
4. GOD REST YOU MERRY, GENTLEMEN	10
5. A VIRGIN UNSPOTTED	11
6. THE FIRST NOËL	12
7. WHAT CHILD IS THIS?	13
8. WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE	14
9. NOËL! NOËL!	15

NOTICE

The copying of either the separate parts or of the whole of this composition by any process whatever is forbidden and subject to the penalties provided under Section 4966 of the Copyright Law.

Rights of performance can be secured only by the purchase of a copy of this score by or for each and every singer taking part.

Old Christmas Carols



“Holy night : peaceful night :”

WORDS FROM THE PARISH HYMNAL

GERMAN FOLK-SONG

SLOWLY, WITH EXPRESSION. TO BE SUNG IN HARMONY*

1. Ho - LY night! peace - ful night! All is dark, save the light
 2. Si - lent night! ho - ly night! Dark-ness flies, all is light!
 3. Si - lent night! peace - ful night! Child of heav'n! O how bright

pp *p*

cres. *cres.*

Yon - der where they sweet vig - ils keep O'er the Babe, who in si - lent sleep
 Shep - herds hear . the an - gels sing—“Hal - le - lu - jah! hail . the King!
 Thou didst smile . when Thou wast born; Bless - ed was . that hap - py morn,

cres. *cres.*

f *pp* SLOWER

Rests in heav - en - ly peace, rests . in heav - en - ly peace .
 Je - sus Christ . is here! . Je - sus Christ . is here! .
 Full of heav - en - ly joy, . full . of heav - en - ly joy . .

f *pp*

* This most beautiful of all Christmas Carols has been so harmonized here that it may be sung in complete four-part harmony, in two-part harmony (sopranos and altos), or in unison. The simplest possible chords have been used, so that where tenors and basses are available, it may be sung without any accompaniment. If an accompaniment is used, it should be very soft. S. A. G.

"Draw nigh, Immanuel"

WORDS FROM XII. CENTURY MOZARABIC BREVIARY
 TRANSLATED BY REV. J. M. NEALE, D.D., 1851

OLD FRENCH MELODY*
 OF THE XIII. CENTURY

IN MODERATE TIME

mf

1. DRAW nigh, draw nigh, Im - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive Is - ra -
 2. Draw nigh, draw nigh, O Morn - ing Star, And bring us com - fort from . a -
 3. Draw nigh, draw nigh, O Da - vid's key, The heav'nly gate un - folds . to
 4. Draw nigh, draw nigh, O Lord . of might, Who once from Sinai's flam - ing

mf

el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, Un - til the Son of God . . ap - pear.
 far, And ban - ish far from us . . the gloom Of sin - ful night and end - iess doom.
 Thee; Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path of mis - er - y.
 height Didst give the trem - bling tribes Thy law, In cloud, and maj - es - ty . . . and awe.

IN HARMONY

IN UNISON

SLOWER

fff *f* *dim.* *pp*

Re - joice! re - joice! Im - man - u - el Has come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

fff *f* *dim.* *pp*

SLOWER

* Original is a French Missal in the National Library at Lisbon.

"O little town of Bethlehem"

WORDS BY PHILLIPS BROOKS, 1866

TRADITIONAL MELODY

mf NOT TOO FAST



1. O LIT-TLE town of Beth - le - hem! How still we see thee lie; . A -
2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, And gath - ered all a - bove, While
3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, The wondrous gift is given; So
4. O Ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem! De - scend to us, we pray; Cast



bove thy deep and dream - less sleep The si - lent stars go by; .
 mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love. .
 God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n;
 out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day. .



CHORUS



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing Light; . The
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth! . And
 No ear may hear His com - ing, But in this world of sin, . . Where
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad ti - dings tell: . . O



hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night. .
 prais - es sing to God, the King, And peace to men on earth. .
 meek souls will re - ceive Him still, The dear Christ en - ters in. . .
 come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el! . .



God rest you merry, gentlemen"

TRADITIONAL MELODY

IN MODERATE TIME. SOLO

1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men! Let no - thing you dis -
 2. In Beth - le - hem, in Jew - ry, This bless - ed Babe was
 3. From God, our Heav'n - ly Fa - ther, A bless - ed An - gel
 4. "Fear not, then," said the An - gel, "Let no - thing you af -
 5. Now to the Lord sing prais - es, All you with - in this

may, Re - mem - ber Christ, our Sav - iour, Was born on Christ - mas day, To
 born, And laid with - in a man - ger, Up - on this bless - ed morn; The
 came, And un - to cer - tain Shep - herds Brought ti - dings of the same; How
 fright, This day is born a Sav - iour, Of a pure Vir - gin bright, To
 place, And with true love and broth - er - hood Each oth - er now em - brace; This

save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r, When we were gone a - stray.
 which His moth - er Ma - ry Did no - thing take in scorn.
 that in Beth - le - hem was born The Son of God by Name.
 free all those who trust in Him From Sa - tan's pow'r and might."
 ho - ly tide of Christ - mas All oth - er doth de - face.

CHORUS

SOLO

CHORUS

O ti - dings of com - fort and joy, comfort and joy, O ti - dings of com - fort and joy!

"A Virgin unspotted"

TRADITIONAL MELODY

IN BR. TIME

V

1. A VIR - GIN un - spot - ted, the pro - phet fore - told, Should
2. Then God sent an an - gel from heav - en on high, To
3. To teach us hu - mil - i - ty all this was done, And

bring forth the Sav - iour, whom now we be - hold, To . be our Re - deem - er from
cer - tain poor shep - herds, in . fields where they lie, And . bade them no long - er in
learn we from thence haughty pride . to shun; Since a man - ger His cra - dle, who

death, hell, and sin, Which Ad - am's trans - ges - sion had wrapped us all in.
sor - row to stay For Je - sus, our Sav - iour, was born on this day.
came from a - bove, The great God of mer - cy, of peace and of love.

CHORUS: IN HARMONY

Aye, and there - fore be mer - ry, set sor - row a - side:

UNISON

ff

Christ Je - sus, our Sav - iour, was born on this tide.

“The first Noël”

TRADITIONAL MELODY

BOYS: IN UNISON. IN BRISK TIME.

ff

V

1. THE first . . No - ël, the an - gel did say, Was to
2. They look - ed up and saw . . a star, Shin-ing
3. And by . . the light of that . . same star, Three
4. This star . . drew nigh to the . . north-west, O - ver
5. Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, Full
6. ALL. Then let . . us all, with one . . ac - cord, Sing

GIRLS: IN UNISON

cer - tain poor shep-herds in fields as they lay; In fields where they lay
 in . . the east, . . be - yond . . them far, And to . . the earth it
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; To seek for a king was
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest, And there it did both
 rev - er - ent - ly up - on . . the knee, And of - fered there, in
 prais - es to . . our heav'n - ly Lord, (ALL.) Who hath made heav'n and

keep - ing their sheep, On a cold win - ter's night that was . . so deep.
 gave . . great light, And so it con - tin - ued both day . . and night.
 their . . in - tent, And to fol - low the star . . wher - ev - er it went.
 stop . . and stay, Right o - ver the place . where Je - sus lay.
 His . . pres - ence, Their gold, . and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.
 earth . . of nought, And with . His Blood man - kind . . hath bought.

CHORUS: IN HARMONY

fff No - ël, . No - ël, . No - ël, No - ël! Born is the King of Is - ra - el!

“What Child is this?”

WORDS BY W. W. WALLACE

TRADITIONAL MELODY

WITH EXPRESSION AND RHYTHM

vii

1. WHAT Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Ma - ry's lap is
2. Why lies He in such mean es - tate, Where ox and ass are
3. So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, Come, peas - ant, king, to

sleep - ing, Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, While shep - herds watch are
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tians fear; for sin - ners here The si - lent Word is
 own . Him; The King of Kings sal - va - tion brings, Let lov - ing hearts en -

CHORUS

ff

keep - ing? This, this is Christ, the King, Whom shep - herds guard and
plead - ing. Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through, The Cross be borne for
throne Him. Raise, raise the song on high, The Vir - gin sings her

ff *pp* MUCH SLOWER

an - gels sing: Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Ma - ry!
me, for you: Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The Babe, the Son of Ma - ry!
lul - la - by: Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The Babe, the Son of Ma - ry!

MUCH SLOWER

“We three kings of Orient are”

WORDS BY REV. J. H. HOPKINS, D.D.

OLD MELODY

IN MODERATE TIME

[REV. J. H. HOPKINS, D.D.]

mf

viii

1. ALL (TRIO). We three kings of O-ri-ent are, Bear-ing
2. GASPARD. Born a King on Bethlehem plain, Gold I
3. MELCHIOR. Frank-in-cense to of-fer have I, In-cense
4. BALTHAZAR. Myrrh is mine; its bit-ter per-fume Breathes a
5. ALL (TRIO). Glo-rious now behold Him a-rise, King and

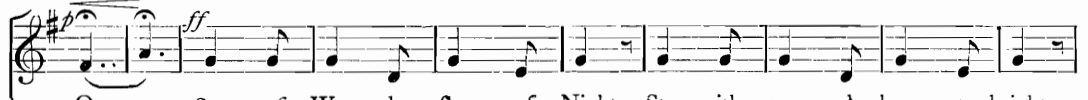
mf



gifts we trav-erse a - far Field and foun-tain, Moor and mountain, Following yon - der Star. .
 bring to crown Him a-gain, King for ev - er, Ceas - ing nev - er O-ver us all to reign. .
 owns a De - i - ty nigh: Prayer and prais-ing, All men rais-ing, Worship Him, God on High. .
 life of gath-er-ing gloom; Sor - r' wing, sigh-ing, Bleed-ing, dy-ing, Seal'd in the stone-cold tomb. .
 God and sac - ri - fice. Heav'n sings Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! the earth re - plies. .



CHORUS: WITH RHYTHM



O . . . Star of Won - der, Star of Night, Star with roy - al beau - ty bright,



West - ward lead - ing, Still pro-ceed - ing, Guide us to Thy per - fect Light. .



Noël: Noël:

OLD FRENCH MELODY

WITH ENTHUSIASM



ix

- 'T is the day, the bless - ed day On which our Lord was born, . And
- In a hum - ble feed - ing trough, With-in a low - ly shed, . With
- He will save the per - ish - ing, Will waft the sighs to heav'n Of
- Flow'rs, we see, bloom fair a - gain, Tho' all their life seems shed, . Thus



sweet - ly do the sun-beams gild The dew - be-span - gled thorn. The birds sing thro' the
 cat - tle at His in - fant feet, And shep-herds at His head, The Sav - iour of this
 guilt - y men, who tru - ly seek And weep to be for - giv'n. An In - ter - ces - sor
 we shall rise to life once more, Tho' numbered with the dead. Then may our place be

heav - ens clear, The breez - es gen - tly play, . And song and sun - shine
 sin - ful world In in - no - cence first lay, . And wise men made their
 still He shines, And men to Him should pray, . Be - fore His al - tar
 near . . . Him, To whom we wor - ship pay, . And of - fer heart - y

CHORUS

love - ly Be - gin this ho - ly day. . No - ël, No - ël, No - ël, No - ël, No -
 of - fer - ing Up - on a ho - ly day. .
 meekly kneel Up - on this ho - ly day. .
 prais - es Up - on this ho - ly day. .

ël, No - ël, No - ël! . Now hear the sal - u - ta - tion Of an - gel Ga - bri - el. .