

SIX OLD CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Sing Noël

Vivace

Besançon Melody

1

1. Shepherds! shake off your drow-sy sleep, Rise and leave your sil - ly
 2. Hark! e - ven now the bells ring round, Lis - ten to their mer - ry
 3. See how the flow'rs all burst a - new, Thinking snow is summer
 4. Com - eth at length the age of peace, Strife and sor - row now shall
 5. Shepherds! then up and quick a - way, Seek the Babe ere break of

sheep; Angels from Heav'n a-round loud sing-ing, Ti - dings of great joy are
 sound; Hark! how the birds new songs are mak-ing, As if win - ter's chains were
 dew; See how the stars a - fresh are glow-ing, All their bright - est beams be -
 cease; Prophets fore - told the wondrous sto - ry Of this Heav'n-born Prince of
 day; He is the hope of ev - 'ry na - tion, All in Him shall find sal -

bringing.
 breaking.
 stow-ing: 1-5. Shepherds, the cho - rus come and swell! Sing No - ël, oh sing No - ël!
 Glo - ry.
 va - tion.

The Cherry-Tree Carol*

Moderato

Traditional Melody and Words

The musical score is written in G major and 4/4 time. It begins with a 2-measure rest, followed by a treble clef staff with a melody starting on G4. The piano accompaniment starts with a two-measure introductory chord (mf) in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The lyrics are: 1. Jo - seph was an old man, An old man was he; He 2. As they went a - walking In the garden so gay, Maid mar - ried sweet Ma - ry, The Queen of Gal - i - lee. Ma - ry spied cher - ries, Hanging o - ver yon tree.

3. Mary said to Joseph,
With her sweet lips so mild
"Pluck those cherries, Joseph,
For to give to my Child."
4. "O then," replied Joseph,
With words so unkind,
"I will pluck no cherries
For to give to thy Child."
5. Mary said to cherry-tree
"Bow down to my knee,
That I may pluck cherries
By one, two, and three."
6. The uppermost sprig then
Bowed down to her knee:
"Thus you may see, Joseph,
These cherries are for me."
7. "O eat your cherries, Mary,
O eat your cherries now,
O eat your cherries, Mary,
That grow upon the bough."
8. As Joseph was a-walking
He heard Angels sing,
"This night there shall be born
Our Heavenly King."

9. "He neither shall be born
In house nor in hall,
Nor in the place of Paradise,
But in an ox-stall."
10. "He shall not be clothèd
In purple nor pall;
But all in fair linen,
As wear babies all."
11. "He shall not be rockèd,
In silver nor gold,
But in a wooden cradle
That rocks on the mould."
12. "He neither shall be christened
In milk nor in wine,
But in pure spring-well water
Fresh sprung from Bethine."
13. Mary took her Baby,
She dressed Him so sweet,
She laid Him in a manger
All there for to sleep."
14. As she stood over Him
She heard Angels sing,
"Oh! bless our dear Saviour,
Our heavenly King."

* The first seven stanzas may be omitted, if considered unsuitable.

↔ This introductory chord will be necessary for Verses 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 12.

Cradle Song:- Infant So Gentle

Gascon Carol

Slowly
p

In-fant so gen-tle, so pure and so sweet,—

pp

Love, from Thy ti-ny eyes, sin-ners doth greet,

p

Ten-drest words fail all Thy beau-ty to shew:—

pp rit.

We must a-dore Thee, if Thee we would know.

A Babe is Born

Ancient Melody

Words from the 15th century

Moderato

mf

4

1. A Babe is born, all of a Maid, To
 2. At Beth - le - hem, that bless - ed place, The
 3. There came three kings out of the East, To
 4. The shep - herds heard an An - gel cry, A
 5. The An - gel came down with a cry, A

mf

bring sal - va - tion un - to__ us; No more are we to
 Child of bliss then born He__ was; Him aye to serve God
 wor - ship there that King so__ free; With gold and myrrh and
 mer - ry song that night sang he, "Why are ye all so
 fair and joy - ful song sang he, All in the wor - ship

sing a - fraid, Ve - ni, Cre - a - tor Spi - ri - tus.
 give us grace, O Lux be - a - ta Tri - ni - tas.
 frank - in - cense, A so - lis or - tus car - di - ne.
 sore a - ghaast, Jam lu - cis or - to si - de - re?"
 of that Child: "Glo - ri - a Ti - bi, Do - mi - ne!"

Of the Father's Love Begotten

(The Threefold Birth)

Flemish Carol

Maestoso

5

1. Of the Father's love be - got - ten, Ere the worlds be - gan to
 2. O, that birth for ev - er blessed! When the Vir - gin, full of
 3. Thee let old men, Thee let young men, Thee let boys in cho - rus
 4. Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly Ghost, to

be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the source, the end - ing
 grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, Bare the Sav - iour of our
 sing; Matrons, vir - gins, lit - tle maidens, With glad voic - es an - swer -
 Thee, Hymn and chant, and high thanks - giv - ing, And un - wear - ied prais - es

He Of the things that are, that have been, And that fu - ture years shall
 race, And the Babe, the world's Re - deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred
 ing; Let their guile - less songs re - ech - o, And the heart its prais - es
 be, Hon - our, glo - ry and do - min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to -

see,
 Face, 1-4. Ev - er - more and ev - er - more, ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 bring,
 ry,

The Golden Carol

of Melchior, Balthazar, and Caspar

Lively

Old English

6

1. We saw a light shine out a - far, On Christ - mas in the
2. Oh! ev - er thought be of His Name, On Christ - mas in the

morn - ing, And straight we knew it was Christ's star, Bright beam - ing in the
morn - ing, Who bore for us both grief and shame, Af - flic - tions sharpest

morn - ing. Then did we fall on bend - ed knee, On Christ - mas in the
scorn - ing. And may we die (when death shall come), On Christ - mas in the

morn - ing, And prais'd the Lord, who'd let us see His glo - ry at its dawn - ing.
morn - ing, And see in heav'n, our glo rious home, That Star of Christmas morn - ing.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

- KURT SCHINDLER.** Six Old French Christmas Carols, edited and harmonized. English version by H. G. Chapman. 2 Books, each 10 cents net. (In quantities of 25 or more copies, each 5 cents net.)
- S. ARCHER GIBSON.** Old Christmas Carols. Traditional Melodies, arranged, harmonized and edited. 2 Sets, each 10 cents net. (In quantities of 25 or more copies, each 5 cents net.)
- T. TERTIUS NOBLE.** Eight Christmas Carols. The words by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Truro. 10 cents net. (In quantities of 25 or more copies, 5 cents net.)
- F. FLAXINGTON HARKER.** Six Christmas Carols. Op. 88, No. 2. (Christmas Annuals, No. 8.) 5 cents net. (In quantities of 25 or more copies, 4 cents net.)

The carol collections here listed merit the attention of every clergyman and church musician anxious to have his service or Sunday-school singing instinct with the true spirit of the Nativity.

The "Old French Christmas Carols", edited and harmonized by Kurt Schindler, comprise some of the loveliest of those mediæval Noël's that sing the story of the Christ-birth in music of simple beauty, touched with the tender and reverential humor of a by-gone day—the naive and pious joy of the peasant among whose simple spiritual verities the Nativity took first place. Mr. Chapman's English versions of the old texts admirably preserve their childlike happiness of expression.

In "Old Christmas Carols," traditional melodies, arranged, harmonized and edited by S. Archer Gibson, the compiler has allowed himself wide latitude in the selection of beautiful carol-melodies; and the two sets include, not only some of the choicest of the old-time English Christmas carols, but, in particular, various traditional airs which, supplied with appropriate texts, rank with the best Christmas carols to be found, as for instance, the old Welsh air, "All thro' the night."

Among these collections the set of "Eight Christmas Carols" by T. Tertius Noble should take high rank. The fervency of an earlier age, when the Christ-birth voiced its appeal to mankind in rhyme and melody of quaint dignity and charm, is here expressed both in music and verse.

The "Six Christmas Carols" by F. Flaxington Harker are not, as is sometimes the case, ditties written hastily and at random "for the occasion." In these little songs of Christmastide the composer has caught the very spirit of joyous exultation that marks the day of the Birth divine.

There are three advantages enjoyed in common by these collections. First, notwithstanding the fact that they are written and intended primarily for unison singing, they can be used for four-part chorus as well. Second, they are without exception easily singable and delightfully tuneful; and, lastly, they are not expensive.