

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 Parker

Third Set

Fourth Set

Fifth Set

Sixth Set

Each Set, Ten Cents a Copy

In Quantities of Twenty-five or more, Five Cents a Copy

New York : G. Schirmer

Boston : The Boston Music Co.

Introductory Note

THOSE interested in the practical use of these Carols will find several suggestions in the Introductory Note to the First Set.

Number One of this Second Set is the famous old Welsh air commonly known in this country as *All thro' the night*.

Number Two, which is here adapted to sacred words for the first time, is an old English melody, *In good King Charles's golden days*.

Number Three is one of the most famous of the German Christmas melodies, and is generally attributed to Martin Luther. It is more than probable that he merely adapted it from an older source.

Number Four is a novelty, in that, while it is faithful to the letter of the original melody, it has been rewritten so as to satisfy the modern rhythmic instinct. The original "Gregorian" melody was written in the days of very imperfect notation, and it is probable that many things were systematically done in practice that their incomplete system gave no means of committing to paper.

Number Five is one of those delicious Breton melodies that make the world debtor to that artistic province.

Number Six is a deservedly popular German melody.

S. A. G

New York

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Old Christmas Carols

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“’Tis Christmas Day?”

WORDS BY S. ARCHER GIBSON

OLD WELSH MELODY

ANDANTE ESPRESSIVO

GIRLS

BOYS

1. OH, what mean these songs they're sing-ing? 'Tis Christ-mas Day!
2. See these gifts that we're re- ceiv - ing; 'Tis Christ-mas Day!
3. Glo - ry be to God in heav - en, 'Tis Christ-mas Day!

GIRLS

BOYS

ALL: CRESCENDO

Oh, what mean these bells they're ring-ing? 'Tis Christ - mas Day! Oh, what mean these
To - ken of God's won-drousgiv - ing. 'Tis Christ - mas Day! Oh, that we may
Who for us His Son has giv - en. 'Tis Christ - mas Day! Loud we raise our

FF **RITARD. MOLTO** \rightrightarrows **P**

or - gans peal - ing, What this news that they're re - veal - ing,
 not for - sake Him, Oh, that we our - selves may take Him,
 hap - py voic - es, Na - ture adds har - mo - nious nois - es,

FF **RITARD. MOLTO** \rightrightarrows **P**

PP A TEMPO **PPP**

Tens of thou - sands low - ly kneel - ing? 'Tis Christ - mas Day!
 On - ly gift that we can make Him! 'Tis Christ - mas Day!
 All His world in Him re - joic - es! 'Tis Christ - mas Day!

PP A TEMPO **PPP**

“While shepherds watched their flocks by night”

WORDS BY NAHUM TATE (1703)

TRADITIONAL MELODY, OLD ENGLISH

ALLEGRO MODERATO

F

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1. WHILE shep-herds watch'd their flocks by night, All seat - ed on the
2. “To you, in Da - vid's town, this day Is born of Da - vid's
3. Thus spake the ser - aph, and forth-with Ap-peared a shin - ing

F

ground, . The an - gel of the Lord came down, And glo - ry shone a -
 line . . The Sav - iour, who is Christ the Lord; And this shall be the
 throug . Of an - gels, prais - ing God, who thus Ad - dress'd their joy - ful

round. . "Fear not," said he, for might-y . . dread Had seiz'd their trou - bled
 sign : . The heav'n - ly Babe you there shall find To hu - man view dis -
 song : . "All glo - ry be to God on high, And to the earth be

mind; "Glad ti - dings of great joy I bring To you and all man - kind. .
 play'd, All mean-ly wrapp'd in swath-ing bands, And in a man-ger laid." .
 peace; Good-will hence-forth from Heav'n to men Be - gin, and nev - er cease." .

"From highest Heaven to Earth we come"

WORDS ARRANGED FROM
THE ORIGINAL

OLD GERMAN MELODY
[MARTIN LUTHER?]

MAESTOSO

FF

VOM HIMMEL HOCH DA KOMM' ICH HER*



1. From high - est heav'n to earth we come, To bear good news to ev - 'ry
2. For Christ, our Lord, from heav'n on high, Has heard His creatures' bit - ter
3. He brings those bless - ings, long a - go Pre-par'd by God for all be -
4. My heart for ver - y joy doth leap, My lips no more can si - lence
5. "All glo - ry be to God in heav'n, Who un - to man His Son hath

home; Glad ti - dings of great joy we bring; Let all the earth with prais - es ring.
cry, Has come to earth to set us free, And He will our sal - va - tion be.
low, That in His Fa - ther's mansions blest We may with Him for ev - er rest.
keep, I too must sing with joy - ful tongue That sweet - est, an - cient cra - dle - song;
giv'n." And ev - er thro' the a - ges long, Shall ring this ho - ly Christ - mas song!

*All Pauses in this chorale indicated by (∞), are best made rhythmical, holding each for exactly three beats. S. A. G.

"Hark! what music fills the sky?"

POEM BY E. WIGGLESWORTH

COMPOSED ON AN ANCIENT LATIN ADVENT
HYMN, "JESU, REDEMPTOR OMNIUM";*

BY S. ARCHER GIBSON

MODERATO



1. HARK! what mu - sic fills the sky! "Glo - ry be to God on high,"
2. "To the sons of men is giv'n God's dear Son, best gift of heav'n,
3. Right - eous - ness and Peace em - brace, For the Prince of Peace doth place
4. Would ye see the wondrous sign, In a man - ger, Child di - vine,
5. Thee we own as Lord and King, And as trib - ute meet we bring
6. Him we praise, Him - self who gave To the man - ger and the grave

FF RITARDANDO P

An - gels sing, and hosts re - ply,— “Hal - le - lu - jah!”
 Pledge of grace, and sin for - giv'n: “Hal - le - lu - jah!”
 His right hand on Ad - am's race: “Hal - le - lu - jah!”
 Lies the heir of Da - vid's line: “Hal - le - lu - jah!”
 Songs which an - gels can - not sing: “Hal - le - lu - jah!”
 All to ran - som and to save: “Hal - le - lu - jah!”

RITARDANDO

FF P

* ORIGINAL VERSION (“Gregorian,” transposed)

“O'er the cradle of a King”

WORDS BY S. ARCHER GIBSON

OLD BRETON MELODY

MODERATO

PP

1. O'ER the cra - dle of a King, Hear the song the
 2. On this ho - ly night be - gins God's own sac - ri -
 3. From His Fa - ther's home on high, Lo, for us He
 4. Of His own free will He came, Lord Im - man - u -
 5. On Thy gen - tle Moth - er's breast Slum - ber, Je - sus,

PP

an - gels sing: “In ex - cel - sis glo - ri - a!”
 fice for sins: “In ex - cel - sis glo - ri - a!”
 came to die: “In ex - cel - sis glo - ri - a!”
 el His name: “In ex - cel - sis glo - ri - a!”
 sweet - ly rest: “In ex - cel - sis glo - ri - a!”

“As with gladness men of old”

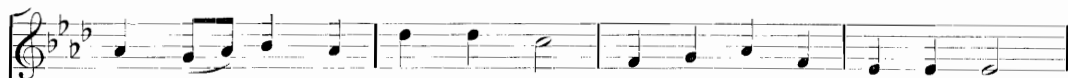
POEM BY W. C. DIX (1859)

GERMAN MELODY. CONRAD KOCHER (1838)

CON BRIO



1. As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold,
2. As with joy-ful steps they sped To that low-ly man-ger-bed,
3. As they of-fer'd gifts most rare At that man-ger rude and bare,
4. Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day Keep us in the nar-row way,



As with joy they hail'd its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright,
 There to bend the knee be-fore Him, whom heav'n and earth a-dore,
 So may we with ho-ly joy, Pure, and free from sin's al-loy,
 And when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-som'd souls at last



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev-er-more be led by Thee.
 So may we with will-ing feet Ev-er seek Thy mer-cy-seat.
 All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.
 Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo-ry hide.

