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Twelve Traditional Carols

from Herefordshire

for unison voices and keyboard or unaccompanied mixed chorus



GALAXY MUSIC CORPORATION
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Preface.

The following traditional carols were collected some years back by the Editors in the neighbourhood of WEOBLEY in Herefordshire. The majority of the words and tunes have already appeared in the "Journal of the Folk-song Society" and in "The Folk-lore of Herefordshire."

The object of this volume is not scientific but artistic; it is simply to preserve these carols in a form in which they can be sung by those who value our traditional songs and melodies. The Editors have therefore not hesitated (while keeping as much of the original text as possible) to emend corruptions in the words to correct grammatical errors and to supply missing lines and verses from other sources.

The chief of these are:-

SANDYS. (W.) Christmas Carols, Ancient & Modern. (1883) SYLVESTER. (J.) A Garland of Christmas Carols. (1861) "A GOOD CHRISTMAS BOX" (Chap-book 1847.)

Those who wish to see the words as they were originally sung should consult the "Journal of the Folk-song Society" (Vols. II & IV.) and "The Folk-lore of Herefordshire."

With the melodies the case is different—here the question of verbal logic and grammar does not come in—the sole question is that of artistic value.

The melodies in this volume, therefore, remain exactly as they were sung to the Editors who hope that only those of distinct musical merit have been included.

All that has been done to the melodies is to add a simple accompaniment for pianoforte and (as an alternative) a harmonisation in four parts for choral singing, but in all cases these may be dispensed with and the melodies sung alone.

The Editors' thanks are due to Miss L.E. Broadwood for much kind advice and assistance, and to M. Frank Sidgwick, for leave to consult his "Popular Carols" (Sidgwick & Jackson.)

July 1920.

E. M. Leather. R. Vaughan Williams.

TWELVE TRADITIONAL CAROLS.

from HEREFORDSHIRE.

Collected, Edited and Arranged by

B. M. LEATHER & R. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS.

1. THE HOLY WELL.

(1st Version.)











- As it fell out on a high holiday
 On a holiday so high,
 Sweet Jesus He asked of His own mother dear.
 If He should go and play.
- 2. "To play, to play, dear Child," she did say, "It's time that You were gone, And don't let me hear of complaint upon You At night when You come home."
- 8. "Now go You down to the merry little town
 As far as the Holy Well,
 And there You ask the children if they shall play with You,
 And You shall play with them:"
- 4."They say 'we are lords and ladies sons,
 And You the meanest of them all,
 You are nothing but mild Mary's child
 Born down in an ox-full stall!"
- 5. You are nothing but mild Mary's child, Born down in an ox-full stall; But You shall be crowned King of Heaven, And the ruler above us all."

Emendations:-

Verse 1, line 1, "high" for "my," line 2 "a" for "my."

.. 2. "were" for "had been!"

.. 8, .. 1, "Now go you down" for "You go down"

.. 8, "shall" for 'whould."

.. 4, "and" for "or!"
.. 4, .. 1, "and" omitted, "are" for "was;" "we" for "they".

" 2, "You" added.

i, , 1, "If" omitted.

., 8, "but" for "and."

Some verses have been omitted.

Melody and text from Gypaies at Sutton St. Nicholas.

2. THE HOLY WELL.

(2nd Version.)



- As it fell out upon a day,
 On a high and a holy day,
 Sweet Jesus asked of His dear mother,
 If He might go and play.
- 2. "To play, to play, sweet Jesus shall go, To play now get You gone, And let me hear of no complaints To-night when You come home!"
- 8. Sweet Jesus went down to yonder town,
 As far as the Holy Well,
 And there did He see as fine children
 As any tongue can tell.
- 4. He bade God bless them, every one, And Christ their portion be. "Little children, shall I play with you? And you shall play with Me."
- 5. "O nay we are lords and ladies sons, Born in bower and hall, And You the meanest of us all Born in an ox's stall."
- Sweet Jesus turned Himself around,
 And neither did laugh nor smile,
 But the tears did fall from sweet Jesus'eyes,
 Like water from the sky.

- 7. Sweet Jesus turned himself around, To His mother home went He, He said, 'I have been to yonder town As far as you can see.'
- 8. "I have been down to yonder town, As far as the Holy Well, And there did see as fine children As any tongue can tell.
- 9. "I bid God bless them every one And their bodies Christ save and see, 'Little children, shall I play with you, And you shall play with Me'.
- 10."O nay we are lords and ladies sons

 Born in bower and hall,

 And You, the meanest of us all,

 Were born in an ox's stall."
- 11: Sweet Jesus, go down to yonder town

 As far as the Holy Well,

 And take away those sinful souls,

 And dip them deep in Hell."
- 12. "Nay, nay," sweet Jesus smiled and said "Nay, nay, that must not be, For there are too many sinful souls Crying out for the help of Me."
- 18. Then up spoke the Angel Gabriel, "Now by our good Saint Stephen, Although Thou art but a maidens child, Thou art the King of Heaven."

Emendations:-

Verse 4, line 1, "bade" for "bid."

., 5, 1&2, Adapted from another Herefordshire version, in place of:"But they jointly answer Him, no,

They were lords and ladies sons!

- 8, "You" for "He".
- .. 6, 844, These two lines are taken from another Herefordshire version, in place of:

 "But the tears came trickling from His eyes

 As the rain falls from the skies!"
- " 7, 2, "went" for "goes!" following SANDYS.
 - 8, "suid" for "says."
 - 3, "down" ozitted.
- .. 9, 2, taken from SANDYS in place of "And Christ their bodies bear and see!"
- ., 10, See v. 5.
- .. 18, 1, "and" omitted.
 - 2, "Now by" for "Upon!"

3. CHRISTMAS NOW IS DRAWING NEAR AT HAND.



Arrangement for unaccompanied voices.





- Oh, Christmas now is drawing near at hand,
 Pray serve the Lord and be at His command;
 For you a portion God He will provide,
 And give a blessing to your soul beside.
- 2. Remember man that thou art made of clay, And in this world thou hast not long to stay; This wicked world will never be content With all the gifts that our great God hath sent.
- 8. Down in the garden where flowers grow in ranks, Down on your knees, return the good Lord thanks, Down on your knees, and pray both night and day, Leave off your sins and live upright I pray.
- 4. So now sing praises to our God and King That did on earth this great salvation bring, Laid down His life upon the curséd tree, And died a cruel death on Calvary.

The above version is a collation of the two texts mentioned below. Emendations:-

Verse 1, line 1, (A) has "You christian people all, within this land"

(B) has not the "Oh" but the singer probably added it when singing.

" 4, " 3, "Who" emitted; "On Calvary" for "Upon Mount Calvary." me Versen have been emitted.

Melody and Text"A" from Mr. Johnson, The Homme, and Mrs Esther Smith, at Weobley. Text"B" from Mr. William Colcombe, Weobley.

4. JOSEPH AND MARY.

To the tune of "THERE IS A FOUNTAIN."



Arrangement for unaccompanied voices.



Note:- The words to be sung by the Tenors only, the other parts to vocalize.

- Oh, Joseph being an old man truly, He married a virgin fair and free; A purer virgin could no man bee
 Than he chose for his wife and his dearest dear.
- They lived both in joy and bliss;
 But now a strict commandment is,
 In Jewry-land no man should miss
 To go along with his dearest dear,
- Unto the place, where he was born,
 Unto the Emp'ror to be sworn,
 To pay a tribute that's duly known,
 Both for himself and his dearest dear.
- 4. And when they were to Bethlehem come,
 The inns were full, both all and some;
 For Joseph entreated them, every one.
 Both for himself and his dearest dear.
- 5. Then were they constrained presently Within a stall all night to lie, Where they did oxen and asses tie, With his true love and his dearest dear.
- 6. The King of all power was in Bethlehem born, Who wore for our sakes a crown of thorn. Then God preserve us both even and morn For Jesus' sake our dearest dear.

The original words to which this tune was sung were probably not traditional - and were moreover full of the rather unpleasant imagery which is characteristic of much of the Eighteenth Century Evangelistic verse.

Rather than omit such a fine tune, the Editors have decided to set other words to it—undoubtedly traditional, and for which, as far as they know, no tune has been preserved. These words are taken from SANDYS collection.

Those who wish to see the words to which the tune was originally sung will find them in the Journal of the Folk Song Soc. Vol. II, p 183 and Vol. IV. p 21.

Melody from Mrs. Esther Smith, Weebley.

5. THE ANGEL GABRIEL.



Arrangement for unaccompanied voices.



- 1. Come all you faithful Christians That dwell here on earth, Come celebrate the morning Of our dear Saviour's birth. This is the happy morning, This is the blessed morn, To save our souls from ruin. The Son of God was born.
- 2. Behold the Angel Gabriel, In scripture it is said, Did with his holy message Come to the Virgin maid: "Hail blest among all women!" He thus did greet her then, "Lo, thou shalt be the mother Of the Saviour of all men."
- 3. Her time being accomplished, She came to Bethlem. And then was safe delivered Of the Saviour of all men. No princely pomp attended Him, His honours were but small; A manger was His cradle His bed an ox's stall.
- 4. Now to Him that is ascended Let all our praises be; May we His steps then follow, And He our pattern be; So when our lives are ended, We all may hear Him call, "Come souls, receive the kingdom, Prepared for you all."

The above words have been collated from three sources

- (1) M. Hirons, Haven, Dilwyn. (2) M. Gallet, Leigh Linton, Worcosternhire.
- (3) A ballad sheet published by R. Elliot, Hereford. Several verses omitted.

Melody from M! Hirons.

6. GOD REST YOU MERRY, GENTLEMEN.



Arrangement for unaccompanied voices.



- 1. God rest you merry, gentlemen, Leave nothing you dismay; Remember Christ our Saviour Was born on Christmas day, To save poor souls from Satan's power, Long time had gone astray. That brings tidings of comfort and joy, All and joy, That brings tidings of comfort and joy.
- 2. In Bethlehem in Jewry, This blessed Babe was born. And laid within a manger, Upon this blessed morn; The which His mother Mary. Nothing did take in scorn.
- 8. From God our Heavenly Father The Holy Angel came, And to some certain shepherds Brought tidings of the same, That He was born in Bethlehem, The Son of God by name.

- 4. The shepherds at those tidings Rejoiced much in mind, And left their flocks a-feeding, In tempest, storm and wind, And went to Bethlehem straight way, This blessed Babe to find.
- 5. But when they came to Bethlehem, Whereas this Infant lay, They found him in a manger. Where oxen fed with hay; The blessed Virgin Mary Kneeling down to the Lord to pray.
- 6. God bless the master of this house, Likewise the mistress too: God bless them and their children That round the table go; God bless their friends and kindred, That live both far and near. And God send them all a joyful New Year, And New Year, And God send them all a joyful New Year.

Emendations.

Verse 2 and 4, also verse 5, lines 1 and 2 from SANDYS. Verse 8, line 1, emended from "Oh God he is our Father"

- "They" for "we" 5, ,.
 - 4, emended from "Ox were fed"
- 1&2, the words "master" and "mistress" transposed-
- 4, added to complete the verse 5, from A good Christmas Box.

Melody and Text from Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Smith, The Homme, Dilwyn.

7. NEW YEAR'S CAROL.



- God in the Holy Trinity,
 All with His mighty hand
 Hath made the sun, the stars, the moon,
 The water and dry land.
- All for the saving of our souls
 Christ died upon the cross.
 We never shall do for Jesus Christ
 As He has done for us.
- Oh, these six days in all the week
 Are for the labouring man.
 And the seventh is for to serve the Lord,
 Both the Father and the Son.
- 4. Come teach your children well, dear man. And teach them when they're young: The better it will be for your own dear soul, When you are dead and gone.
- 5. To-day dear man you might be alive. With many a hundred pound. And tomorrow, dear man you might be dead. And laid all in the ground.
- With a turf all at your head dear man.
 And another all at your feet,
 Thy good deeds and thy bad O man,
 Before the Lord shall meet.
- My song is done, I must be gone,
 No longer can I stay;
 May the Lord give us grace, in every place.
 To pray to our ending day.

Emendations.

Verse 1, is frankly a conjectural emendation, the verse as sung by MT Whatton is obviously corrupt; it runs.

"Christ made a trance one Sunday at noon
All with His own dear hands

He made the sun clear all of the moon Like water off dry land."

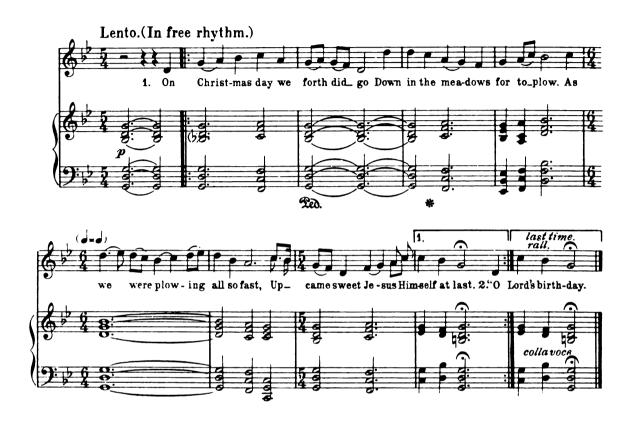
A chap-book published at Dudley in 1847 called Agood Christmas Box has a version of this Carol in which the following lines occur"God in the Trinity

With holy, mighty hand Hath made the sea, the moon, the stars The waters and the land."

(See Journal of the Folk-song Society Vol. IV. page 14). As the rest of the words of this Carol are similar to those of "The moon shines bright," two versions of that Carol have been drawn on to complete the words as they were sung to the above tune, namely one from MI William Colcombe of Weebley, and one from SANDYS' collection.

Melody and text from M. Whatton and Miss Angelina Whatton, The Homme, Dilwys.

8. ON CHRISTMAS DAY.



Arrangement for unaccompanied voices.



Note. The words to be song by the seprano only, the other parts to vocalize.

- On Christmas day we forth did go
 Down to the meadows for to plow.
 As we were plowing all so fast,
 Up came sweet Jesus Himself at last.
- 2. "O man, O man, why plow 1 pray So hard upon the Lord's birthday?" The farmer answered Him with speed, "For the plow this day we have great need."
- 8. His arms did quaver to and fro; His arms did quaver, he could not plow; The ground did open and took him in, Before he could repent of sin.
- 4. His wife and children have no employ, His beasts and cattle they pine and die, His beasts and cattle they die away, For the breaking of our Lord's birthday.

For the purposes of singing it has been necessary to emend entirely the text of this Carol. For the sake of completeness the original text is given below.

- "On Christmas day it happened so, Down in the meadows for to plow; As we were plowing on so fast, Up comes sweet Jesus His-self at last"
- 2. "O man! O man! what makes you plow So hard upon the Lord's birthday." The farmer answered Him with great speed, "For the plow this day we have great need."
- His arms did quaver too and fro, His arms did quaver he could not plow, The ground did open and lose him in, Before he could repent of sin.
- 4. His wife and children are out of place, His beasts and cattle they die away, His beasts and cattle they die away, For the breaking of our Lords birthday.

We are indebted for the above emendation to suggestions kindly made by Miss L.E. Broadwood. Melody and text from MC Esther Smith, at The Homme, Dilwyn.

9. DIVES AND LAZARUS.



- 1. As it fell out upon one day, Rich Divus made a feast. And he invited all his friends And gentry of the best.
- 2. Then Las'rus laid him down and down, And down at Divus' door. "Some meat and drink, brother Diverus, Bestow upon the poor."
- 8. "Thou'rt none of mine, brother Lasarus That liest begging at my door, No meat, nor drink will I give thee, Nor bestow upon the poor."
- 4. Then Laz'rus laid him down and down, All under Divus' wall. "Some meat, some drink, brother Diverus, For hunger starve I shall."
- 5. "Thou'rt none of mine, brother Lazarus, That liest begging at my wall, No meat, nor drink will I give thee, For hunger starve you shall."
- 6. Then Las'rus laid him down and down, And down at Divus' gate, "Some meat! some drink! brother Diverus, For Jesus Christ His sake."
- 7. "Thou'rt none of mine, brother Lazarus, 14. And now my carol's ended, That liest begging at my gate, No meat, no drink will I give thee, For Jesus Christ His sake!"

- 8. Then Divus sent out his hungry dogs, To worry poor Laz'rus away; They hadn't the power to bite one bite But licked his sores away.
- 9. Then Divus sent to his merry men, To worry poor Las'rus away; They'd not the power to strike one stroke But flung their whips away.
- 10. As it fell out upon one day, Poor Laz'rus sickened and died, There came two angels out of Heaven. His soul therein to guide.
- 11. "Rise up! rise up! brother Lazarus, And go along with me, For you've a place prepared in Heaven To sit on an angel's knee!'
- 12. As it fell out upon one day, Rich Divus sickened and died, There came two serpents out of Hell. His soul therein to guide.
- 18. "Rise up! rise up! brother Diverus And come along with me. There is a place provided in Hell For wicked men like thee"
- No longer can I stay here; God bless you all, both great and small, And God send you a happy new year.

The above text is the result of a collation of the two Herefordshire texts mentioned below with the help of that given in SYL-VESTER'S Carland of Christmas Carols. The various recurring words (such as "Divus", "upon one day", etc.) have been made to conform with the version associated with the melody.

The following verses are taken entirely from SYLVESTER,-2, 8, 11, 12, 13. Bmendations:-

Verse 4, line 3, "all" added. Verses 8, 9, line 4, "they" omitted. Verse 14, line 2, "here" added.

10. THE MIRACULOUS HARVEST.

(or THE CARNAL AND THE CRANE.)



- 1. There was a star all in the East, Which shed a cheerful ray, Into King Herod's chamber, And where King Herod lay.
- 2. The wise men soon espied it, And told the king on high, A princely babe was born that night No king could e'er destroy.
- 8. Then Herod sent for his armed men, And ready then they be; All children under two years old Shall be slayed they shall be.
- 4. Then Jesus, aye, and Joseph, And Mary that was so pure, They travelled into Egypt, As you shall find most sure.
- 5. They travelled further and further, The weather being so warm. Till they came unto some husbandman A-sowing of his corn.
- 6. "Go speed thy work," said Jesus, "Go fetch thy oxen-wain, And carry home thy corn again, Which thou this day hast sown.

- 7. "If any one should ask you. And enquire for Me alone, Tell them that Jesus passed by, Just as your seeds were sown."
- 8. After that there came King Herod With his train so furiously, Enquiring of the husbandman Whether Jesus He has passed by.
- 9. "The truth it mast be spoken, The truth it must be told. For I saw Jesus passing by. Just as my seeds were sown.
- 10. "But now I have it reapen, And some laid on my wain, Ready to fetch and carry Into my barn again."
- 11. King Herod said to his armed men, "Your labour and mine's in vain. It's full three quarters of a year Since he his seeds has sown."
- 12. So Herod was deceived By the work of God's own hand, No further he proceeded Into the Holy land.

This ballad deals with three subjects, (i) the conversation between a carnal and a crane; (2) the legend of Herod and the cock; (3) the legend of the miraculous harvest. Mr. Hiron's text was very imperfect and contained a few verses on each of these subjects; we have decided to use only those dealing with the Miraculous Harvest. We have completed this section with a few verses from SANDYS collection, together with a few lines from the collections of HUSK and other printed sources. Verse 5 is from a version collected by Miss L.B. Broadwood and printed in the Journal of the Felk-Seng Society, Vol. I. p.183, and in Traditional Songs and Carels (Boosey & C9), and is included by her kind permission. The reading "No further" Verse 12, line 3, is from another version in Miss Broadwood's collection. Emendations in Mr Hiron's text:-

[&]quot;Herod" substituted for "Pharaoh" throughout.

Verse 3, line 4, originally "Shall slained they shall be."
6, 4, " "As which this day hath sown." 4,

S. "You can" omitted. 7.

^{3, &}quot;For" added. 9.

11. THE SAVIOUR'S LOVE.



Arrangement for unaccompanied voices.





- Have you not heard of our dear Saviour's love, And how He suffered like a harmless dove, And if we in our wickedness remain, We crucify our blessed Lord again.
- 2. If you were going to be put to death, It would be hard to find a friend on earth Who would lay down his life to set you free; But Christ did shed His precious blood for thee.
- Consider what our Lord did undergo,
 For to preserve us from the gulf of wee;
 Bepent in time, your wickedness refrain;
 Christ will not shed His precious blood again.

12. THE SEVEN VIRGINS.

(or UNDER THE LEAVES.)



4.

Under the leaves, the leaves of life, There I saw virgins seven. And one of them was Mary mild. Was our Lord's mother from Heaven. 6.

"O how can I my weeping leave. Or my sorrows undergo. Whilst I do see my own Son die. When sons I have no more?"

"O what are you seeking, you seven fair maids."Dear mother, dear mother, you must take John, All under the leaves of life?" "We're seeking for sweet Jesus Christ, To be our heavenly guide."

All for to be your son, That he may be a comfort to you, When I am dead and gone."

R.

"Go you down, go you down to yonder town, As far as you can see, And there you'll find sweet Jesus Christ, With His body nailed to a tree."

8.

"O, come, thou John Evangelist. Thou'rt welcome unto me. But more welcome my own dear Son. That I bore from my own body."

So they went down to yonder town, As fast as foot could fall, And many a grievous bitter tear. From the Virgins' eyes did fall.

Then He laid His head on His right shoulder, Seeing death it struck Him nigh: "The Holy Ghost be with your soul. I die, dear mother, I die?

5.

"Dear mother, do not weep for me, Your weeping doth Me grieve. O I must suffer this," He said, "For Adam and for Eve."

10.

Oh the rose, the rose, the gentle rose, The laurel that grows so green! May the Lord give us grace in every place, To pray for our King and Queen.

Emendations:-

Verses 4and 9; Verse 2, lines 1, 2 & 8; Verse 5, lines 3, 8 & 4; Verse 7, line 2; Verse 8, lines 1, 2 & 8; Verse 10, line 4, are taken from SYLVESTER. Verse 6 is taken from A Good Christmas Box. Verse 7, line 1, "take" for "love".

Melody and Text from Mrs. Whatton and Mrs. Loveridge, The Homme, Dilwyn.

FANTASIA ON CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Baritone Solo. Chorus and Orchestra.

R. Vaughan Williams.