

SING WE NOEL: CHRISTMAS MUSIC FROM ENGLAND AND EARLY AMERICA

NOEL, OUT OF YOUR SLEEP!

- Convoy M L Swan (?), Tennessee 1867
- Nowel, Owt of Your Slepe (processional) Anonymous, England 15th c.
Noel, out of our sleep! For God has now become man of a maid without compare. He that was captive is not free. She that was humble is now great.
- Ave Magnificat Maria Anonymous, England 13th c.
All magnificent Mary; who bringest salvation and bearest God; who being with child, cleanses us all. Alleluia!
- Ad Cantus Leticie Anonymous, England 12th c.
We are led today to sing songs of joy by our love and hope for the heavenly kingdom. Today Emmanuel is born, as Gabriel had foretold. You can still be free if you believe.
- Quam pulchra es John Dunstable, England c. 1390-1453
How beautiful thou art, and how graceful, my dearest in delights. / Your stature I would compare to a palm tree, and your breasts to clusters of grapes ... Come my love, let us go into the field, and see whether the flowers have yielded fruit, and whether the apples of Tyre are in bloom. / There will I give my breasts to you.
- Angelus Ad Virginem/Gabriel from Evene King (instrumental) Anonymous, England 14th c.
- Nova, Nova, Ave fit ex Eva Anonymous, England 15th c.
Noel, noel! Eve has become Ave. Gabriel from high degree has come down from the Trinity, from Nazareth to Galilee He met a maiden and knelt down and said: "Hail Mary, full of grace."
- Stantipes/Ductia (instrumental) Anonymous, England 14th c.
- Exultemus et letemur - Nicola! Anonymous, England 12th c.
Rejoice, rejoice! Let us know honor Nicholas and sing his praises! Soft, soft and by singing do them justice, do you hear me? All who are here, be glad! Bid the reader speak! Do you hear me?
- Campanis cum cymbalis/Honoremus Dominam Anonymous, England 14th c.
Let us honor the wonderful, queenly lady, mother of the King of Glory. Let the Lord be praised by the whole human choir with bells and cymbals, let us make a joyful noise with polyphony and monophony.

QUEEN OF HEAVEN

- This Endris Night (instrumental) Anonymous, England 15th c.
- A virgin most pure Anonymous, England ?

A virgin unspotted Anonymus, Pennsylvania 1826

There is no ros of such virtue Anonymus, England 15th c.
There is no rose of such virtue, as is the rose that bore Jesus. For in that rose was contained both heaven and earth in a small place.

Veine pleine de duçur Anonymus, England 13th c.
Source full of sweetness, True hope of life, Beloved Mother of the Creator, Help the needy. Ave Maria. You bore Jesus Christ within Yourself, Virgin, utterly pure, Ave Maria.

Edi be thu hevene queene Anonymus, England 13th c.
Happy be thou, Heavenly Queen, man's comfort and angel's bliss. My sweet Lady, hear me. I cry 'mercy', I am bound to thee.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

I saw three ships (instrumental) Anonymus, Scotland 20th c.

Northfield Jeremiah Ingalls, New Hampshire 1805

Dou way Robin/Sancta Mater gratiae Anonymus, England 14th
Upper voice: *Holy Mother of Grace, to whom Gabriel appeared, be with us.*
Lower voice: *Dou way, Robin, the child will weep.*

I saw three ships Anonymus, Scotland, 20th c.

All sons of Adam Anonymus, Scotland 15th c.

What Child is this? Greensleeves Anonymus, England 16th c.

The Audience is Invited to Sing Along with us

Lullay thou little tiny child John Jacob Niles, America 1892-1980

Lullay thou tiny little child Text: England, ca 1590
Music: Jeremiah Ingalls, New Hampshire, 1805

English Dance (instrumental) Anonymus, England 14th c.

While shepherds watched Anonymus, England 18th c.

Sherburne Daniel Read, Connecticut 1793

My little sweet darling Anonymus, England 16th c.

Cookham Anonymus, Pennsylvania 1844

Gloucestershire Wassail Anonymus, England, 20th

*The Audience is Invited to Sing Along with us:
Wassail, wassail all over the town,
Our toast it is white and our ale it is brown;
Our bowl it is made of the white maple tree,
With the waissailing bowl we'll drink to thee.*

THE BOSTON CAMERATA
Anne Azéma, voice, hurdy gurdy, direction
Camila Parias, voice
Deborah Rentz-Moore, voice
Shira Kammen, vielle, fiddle, harp
Christa Patton, harps, winds

With, in Gordon Chapel, Boston on December 7, 2025

The Boston City Singers
Gabriel Arbour-Kasper, Amaury Aubuchon,
Macy Branchaud, Isabel Branchaud,
June Cohen, Valentina de Vries,
Iker Fernandes, Pike Goines,
Anne Gosheff, Ruby Gruber,
Asha Mehta, Linda Miall,
Cora Tessler, Ayelet Williamson-Smith

Brooke Joynes
Jamaica Plain Training Chorus & Cantare Director

Thanks to Music Director Emeritus Joel Cohen for his generous help on this program.

Readings are from the King James Bible, as well as various Medieval English Anonymous sources