

Musical Musings of Christmastime – 2022

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Program

Notes:

If you know it! – hum it – or *sing* it with me! Don't be shy!
Your neighbor won't mind! - even if you mangle the words!
– it's the *spirit and joy of the season* that counts! –

About the items printed in RED:

- Because of time, I probably won't perform them today.
- (But, speak up and “request” any you especially want to hear, when we come to it in the program, and I'll fit it in if possible.)
- They are on the list *because they belong there*: along with the others in this survey of the *received canon* – our musical/cultural heritage of **CHRISTMASTIME!** – They are a reference for you: on your “I've-heard-about it” list.

[everything in this show is *google-able, youtube-able, wikipedia-able*]

PART I

1. Some “Opening Fun”
2. For Unto Us A Child Is Born – 1741 – *music* Handel – *from* oratorio “Messiah”
libretto Charles Jennens, Isaiah 9:5
3. Cherubim Song - Bortniansky, 17th C. Russian
Hark! What what mean those holy voices...
4. MEDLEY– a grouping I put together in 1984 for Voz Vaqueros, The Singing Men of Las Cruces (70-men, Las Cruces chorus, founded 1971 – Voz = “voice” Vaqueros = “buckaroos”)
 - Good Christian Men, Rejoice – German text 12th C.
tune “in dulce júbilo” (“sweet rejoicing”) 14th C.
 - God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen – English, 1600s, *based on* Luke 2
 - Go Tell It On the Mountain – *before* 1865, *enslaved African-American spiritual compiled*, 1907, John Work
 - I Wonder As I Wander – *traditional* Appalachian, *collected by* John Jacob Niles
 - Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head – 1933, John Jacob Niles, in Appalachian *folk style*
 - Carol of the Friendly Beasts – 12th C. France – *my mother sang to me*
Jesus, our brother, kind and good, was humbly born in a stable rude,
And the friendly beasts around him stood, Jesus our brother kind and good.
I, said the donkey shaggy and brown, I carried his mother up hill and down
I carried her safely to Bethlehem town, I said the donkey, shaggy and brown

- Lullaby (Rocking) – *my mother sang to me – traditional Czech Carol*
...we will rock you, rock you, rock you
- Here We Come A-Wassailing – 12th C. Danes in England – *from earlier Norse*
the noun becomes *gerundized* ! – a sort-of-a-good-will “beg” song! - give us drink!

another “BEG” Song

5. Carol of The Bressan [*from* Brescia, Italy] Waits – (“waits” = paid street singers, 6th - 19th C.)

6. . Deck The Halls – 16th C. Welsh [CAROL – for us all](#)

Deck the halls with boughs of holly, fa la la la la_ la la la la_

‘Tis the season to be jolly (fa la etc.)...Don we now our gay apparel (fa la etc.)

Troll the ancient yuletide carol, fa la la la la_la la la la!

6. Christmas Is Coming, the Geese Are Getting Fat! - *we’ll all sing a “ROUND”!*

19th C. – *from* Shropshire, Anglo-Welsh area. [*we already did this in the “opener”*]

– **stand up – stretch – “wassail” a little with your friends! –**

PART II

1. Rudolph, The Red-nosed Reindeer – 1949, Johnny Marks

2. Bring A Torch, Jeanette, Isabella – French Provence – 17th Century

Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella! ...to the cradle run!...Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the Mother; Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the Son!

Another coming-to-manger song

3. Ihr Kinderlein Kommet – “O Dear Little Children” – *poem* 1798 German; *music* 1794

Ihr kinderlien kommet, O kommet doch all / O dear little children, o come, one and all

[“thrice holy” – *from early apostolic times* Greek Trisagion = holy 3 different ways]

4. Away In A Manger – 1882 – *three different tunes*

5. O Sanctissima - (*also called* “Sicilian Mariners’ Hymn”) – (*in Latin*) – 1700s

tune origin is uncertain; tune also used for English Hymn “O, How Joyfully”

and for “We Shall Overcome”

O sanctissima, o piissima, dulcis Virgo Maria O most holy, o most loving, sweet Virgin Mary

Mater amata, intemerata; ora, ora pro nobis Beloved Mother, pray, pray for us

SPIRITUALS – songs of enslaved African-American tradition

6. See that Babe In The Lowly Manger – 1946 – Noah F. Ryder

7. Sweet Little Jesus Boy – 1934, Robert MacGimsey

8. Mary’s Little Boy-Chile – 1956, Jester Hairston; *here, we’ll do Calypso style arrangement,*

by Leonard De Paur *and his* De Paur Men’s Chorus

Folk Songs from other countries

9. I Saw Three Ships - 17th Century Derbyshire

I saw three ships come sailing in

...And what was in those ships, all three audience: “On Christmas Day in the morning.”

...Our Saviour, Christ, and his Lady

...And wither sailed those ships all three

...They sailed into Bethlehem

...And all the bells on earth shall ring

...And all the souls on earth shall sing

...Then let us all rejoice again

10. Fum Fum Fum – 16th C. Catalanian Carol

11. Patapan – 1720 – Burgundian French Carol
12. Jesu Bambino (“When Blossoms Flowered ‘mid the Snow”) Pietro Yon
Italian, 1917 *Audience: “O Come let us adore Him” – and, “Ah ___”*
13. Feliz Navidad – 1970, Jose Feliciano

from “LOS PASTORES del Valle de Mesilla” (“The Shepherds of the Valley of Mesilla”)
Old Spanish mystery pageant; brought to Las Cruces, 1955, by Fr. Owen de Silva;
arr. for Voz Vaqueros, 1973, ’75, George Jarden

14. “En Belen” En Belen (*in Bethlehem*) a media noche (*in the middle of the night*)
un ninito (*a little baby*) nacera (*is born*)
15. “Toquen las Ponderetas” (*play the tambourines!*) ruido mas ruido (*make noise! More noise!*)
porque la profecia (*because the prophecy*) ya sea cumplido (*is completed!*)
16. “Viva, Viva, Jesus Mi-Amor” “viva!” *Jesus, my love, my saviour*
17. “Duerme Tranquilo” (*sleep peacefully*) Jesus de mi vida/mi Corazon (*Jesus of my life, my heart*)
18. O Precioso Nino (*O precious child*) tu mi solo bien (*my sole good*)
te amo con carino (*whom I love with affection*) y con fe tambien (*and faith*)
eres mas gracioso (*so agreeable /welcome*) que-el lindo-a rre-bol (*such good fortune!*)
eres mas hermoso que la luz del sol (*more beautiful than sunlight*)

19. ‘Twas The Night Before Christmas – *poem* 1823 Clement Moore; *song* 1942, Ken Darby;
1942, *recorded by* Fred Waring & His Pennsylvanians

– stand up – stretch – “Merry Christmas” a little with your friends! –

PART III

The Alfred Burt Carols – written for family & friends – mid-20th C.

music, Alfred Burt; *lyrics*, Wihla Hutson

1. Some Children See Him Some children see him lily white – the baby Jesus born this night...
...some children see him bronzed and brown...
...O lay aside each earthly thing... ‘tis love that’s born tonight.
2. Caroling, Caroling caroling, caroling now we go, Christmas bells are ringing
...through the snow...up and down

CAROL for us all to sing

3. The First Noel [noel = “news; a song”] – *before* 1800s, Cornwall, England

The first noel the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay
In fields where they__ lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter’s night that was so deep;
Noel! Noel! Noel! Noel! Born is the king of Israel.

4. Ven a Mi Casa Esta Navidad (Come To My House This Christmas)

Song about / to Cuban Refugees, 1960, by Luis Aguile, Argentine singer, songwriter and actor
tu que estas lejos [*you who are far...*] de tus amigos de tu tierra, y de tu hogar [*from your friends, land, home*]
y tienes pena [*and have sorrow...*] pena en el alma [*sorrow in your soul*]

porque no dejar de pensar [*because you can’t forget*]
tu que esta noche [*you, who this night...*] no puede dejar [*who can’t stop...*] de recordar [*remembering*]
quiero que sepas [*I want you to know*] que aqui en mi mesa [*that here at my table*] para ti [*for you*]
tengo un lugar [*I have a place*]
Por eso y muchas cosas más [*For these and for many more reasons*]
Ven a mi casa esta Navidad [*Come to my house this Christmas*]

...continued

5. Jingle Bells – 1857 – James Lord Pierpont

6. *Over The River And Through The Woods* – *poem* 1844, Olivia Maria Child; *tune origin unknown*

7. This Little Babe – *from* Robert Southwells’s 1595 *poem* “New Heaven, New War”
music, Benjamin Britton in his 1942 “A Ceremony of Carols”

This little babe, so few days old, is come to rife Satan’s fold
All Hell doth at His presence quake, tho’ he himself for cold do shake...

8. I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day – *poem*, 1863, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

tune I, 1872, John Baptiste Calkin; *tune* II, 1956, Johnny Marks

Grouping of Old Classics [about Advent (*the season before Christmas*)]

9. Now Let Ev’ry Tongue Adore Thee – 1731 *music* J.S. Bach, *from* Cantata 140

“Sleepers, Awake” - *text* 1599, Philip Nicolai, Mathew 25:1-13, *parable of the ten virgins*

10. Prepare Thyself, Zion – 1734, J.S.Bach, *from* “Christmas Oratorio”

11. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel – 8th Century; Mathew 1:23; *tune, anonymous* 15th C.

12. Lo, How A Rose E’re Blooming – *text* 1599 German; English 1894, by Theodore Baker
from Isaiah 11:1; *tune* German, Michael Praetorius, 1609

“And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, (Jesse of Bethlehem, father of King David, writer of the psalms) and a branch shall grow out of its roots.”

Lo, how a rose e’re blooming, from tender stem hath sprung.

Of Jesse’s lineage coming, as men of old have sung...

Isaiah ‘twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind...

13. Jesu, Joy Of Man’s Desiring – *text old* German; *music* J.S. Bach, 1723, *from* Cantata 147

...some bits of classic musical-liturgical pieces

14. Hallelujah – 1802 – Beethoven *from* oratorio “Mount of Olives”

15. Hallelujah – 1741 – *music* Handel – *from* oratorio “Messiah”

libretto Charles Jennens, *from* Revelation 19:6

16. Domine Fili Unigenite (Lord Son, only begotten) – 1715 – Antonio Vivaldi, mass “Gloria”

17. The Twelve Days of Christmas – *old* 1600s English *song*; 1909, *arranged*, Frederic Austin

– stand up – stretch – “wassail” a little with your friends! –

PART IV

1. The Virgin’s Slumber Song (Maria wiegenlied) – old German song

English *text* 1912, Edward Teschemacher; *music*, Max Reger

Amid the roses Mary sits and rocks her Jesus child...ah, baby, ah, dear one, slumber now.

2. White Christmas – 1942, Irving Berlin

3. *from* “Hansel and Gretel – 1893 *opera*, Engelbert Humperdinck

album given to me when I was 4 y/o

- Susie, Little Susie, Pray What Is The News?

The geese are going barefoot because they’ve no shoes;

The cobbler has leather and plenty to spare

Why___ can’t he make the poor goose a new pair?

- Brother, Come and Dance With Me – both my hands I offer thee...

- Prayer – When at night I go to sleep, fourteen angels watch do keep...

4. O Little Town of Bethlehem – 1868, Philadelphia, PA; *text* Phillip Brooks; *tune* Lewis Redner
CAROL – for US
 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
 Above thy deep and dreamless streets the silent stars go by.
 Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
 The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight!
5. The Chipmunk Song (Christmas Don't Be Late) – 1958, Ross Bagdassarian
 Sing: *Christmas, Christmas time is near; time for toys and time for cheer!*
We've been good, but we can't last! Christmas, Christmas, hurry fast!
I want a plane that loops the loop! And I want a hoola hoop!
We can hardly stand to wait, so Christmas don't be late!
6. **While By My Sheep – 17th C. English carol**
7. (What Child Is This?) (“Greensleeves”) – *text*, 1865, William Chatterton Dix; Isaiah 9:6-7
tune, “Greensleeves,” *old traditional English folk song*
8. His Borning Day (“Weigh, Hey!”) - *old traditional New England Sea Chantey*
9. The Little Drummer Boy (Carol Of The Drum) – 1941, written by Katherine K. Davis
 1957, arr. Jack Halloran; 1958, arr. Harry Simeone, Henry Onorati
10. Joseph, Dear One, Joseph, Mine – *various old German origins*
11. Heidschi Bumbeidschi Bum Bum – *origins* 1700s, Bohemian (Austrian)
 a *wiegenlied* (cradle song/lullaby) – *modern German version by Heintje*, 1968
a nonsense baby-talk lullaby: Aber heidschi bumbeidschi im Himmel (Heaven)
12. Silent Night – 1818, *music* Franz Gruber, Austria; *text* Joseph Mohr

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
 Round yon virgin mother, and child; holy infant, so tender and mild
 Sleep in heavenly peace; sleep in heavenly peace

- **German:**

Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht! Alles schläft; einsam wacht;
//Still night, holy night; The most holy couple, alone,
 Nur das traute hochheilige Paar, holder Knabe im lockigen Haar;
// watch the blessed boy with the curly hair.
 Schlaf im himmlischer Rue, Schlaf im himmlischer Rue
//Sleep in heavenly peace; sleep in heavenly peace.

- **Spanish**

Noche de Paz, noche de amor, todo duerme alrededor;
//Night of peace, night of love, all around are asleep
 Solo velan mirando la faz, de su Niño en angelica paz;
//It is – who watch the Boy of angelic peace – only
 Jose y Maria en Belen; Jose y Maria in Belen.
//Joseph and Mary in Bethlehem; Joseph and Mary in Bethlehem

...continued

.CAROL

13. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing – 1739, English, *from* Luke 2:14
“Hark!” The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
“Peace on earth, and mercy mild; God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
“Hark!” The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”
14. The Christmas Waltz – 1954, Sammy Cahn & Jule Styne (*for* Frank Sinatra)
...ev’ry song you hear seems to say, “Merry Christmas”...
15. The Lord Bless You and Keep You & 7-Fold Amen – 1900 P.C. Lutkin;
text Numbers 6:24-26
16. We Wish You A Merry Christmas – Old English West Country *mummers song*

--- **“Merry Christmas” to all, and to all, “A good night!”**---