

About the Christmas Eve Music – 5:30 Service

By Caitlin & Trystan Bennett

Hodie Christus Natus Est

This Gregorian chant is the antiphon for the Magnificat, when sung at the close of Vespers on Christmas Day. The text translates to: 'Today Christ is born, today the Savior has appeared, today on earth sing the Angels, the Archangels rejoice: today the just exult, singing "Glory to God in the highest, alleluia.'

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

'Personent Hodie' is a Christmas carol originally published in the 1582 Finnish song book '*Piae Cantiones*', a volume of 74 Medieval songs with Latin texts collected by Jaakko Suomalainen, a Swedish Lutheran cleric. A similar melody was published in 1360 in Moosburg, Germany, and it is from this manuscript that the tune is usually dated. The English translation was done by Jane A. Joseph, a pupil and later associate of Gustav Holst, who assisted him in transcriptions, arrangements and translations. Holst arranged this carol for unison voices and orchestra in 1916 and its organ reduction is often used as a processional hymn, as found in the 1982 Hymnal.

Chorale Prelude on 'Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her'

This choral prelude to Martin Luther's Christmas carol 'Vom Himmel hoch', was composed by Johann Pachelbel, who is primarily known today for his 'Cannon in D.' Originally published in *Erster Theil etlicher Choräle*, a collection of liturgical organ music. Johann Christoph Bach (1671–1721), Johann Sebastian's eldest brother and one of Pachelbel's most important pupils, may have assisted with the publication of the first edition of this work, for the engraving closely resembles his handwriting. Pachelbel became popular in Colonial America because of his son, Charles Theodore Pachelbel, who was the organist of Trinity Church in Newport, RI and then at St. Phillip's Church in Charleston, SC. He was an important musical figure in the colonies, performing concerts in Boston, New York and in Charleston.

In the Bleak Midwinter

In the Bleak Midwinter is a Christmas carol composed by Gustav Holst which first appeared in *The English Hymnal* of 1906. The hymn sets a poem written by Christina Rossetti, first published in 'Scribner's Monthly' in 1872. Rossetti was born into large family of writers and became a popular poet in the mid ninetieth century. Another one of her Christmas poems, 'Love Came Down at Christmas', has been set to music by Harold Darke, Leo Sowerby, John Kelsall, and John Rutter.

The Huron Carol

The Huron Carol written probably in 1642 by Jean de Brébeuf, a Jesuit missionary at Sainte-Marie among the Huron Indigenous People in Canada. Brébeuf wrote the lyrics in the native language of the Huron/Wendat people and the song's original Huron title is 'Jesous Ahatonhia' ('Jesus, he is born'). The song's melody is based on a traditional French folk song, 'Une Jeune Pucelle' ('A Young Maid'). The well-known English lyrics were written in 1926 by Jesse Edgar Middleton. Although changed in the 1982 Hymnal, Middleton's lyrics used a traditional Algonquian name, Gitchi Manitou, for God, which is not in the original Wyandot version. Algonquian is a subfamily of Native American languages spoken in much of Canada, Michigan and Northern East Coast of America; including the Powhatan Confederation in Virginia

'A la venue' and 'Joseph est bien marié' from Premier Suite de Noël

'A la venue' is the second movement from Claude Balbastre's *Premier Suite de Noël*, first published in 1770. Balbastre was the organist of the Notre-Dame cathedral in Paris and of the Chapelle Royale. He also became harpsichordist to the French royal court where he taught queen Marie-Antoinette, and became organist for Louis-Stanislas-Xavier, Count of Provence, who later became Louis XVIII, King of France. Balbastre's fame was so great that the Archbishop of Paris, Christophe de Beaumont, had to forbid him to play at Saint Roch during some of their services, as the church would become over-crowded when Balbastre played. It is also of note that Balbastre survived the events of the French Revolution through his composition of several patriotic tunes, effectively 'switching allegiance'.

Il est né, le divin Enfant

Il est né, le divin Enfant (He is born, the divine Child) is a traditional French Christmas carol, which was published for the first time in 1862 by R. Grosjean, organist of the Cathedral of Saint-Dié-des-Vosges, in a collection of carols, '*Airs des Noël's lorrains.*' The text of the carol was published for the first time in a collection of ancient carols, published in either 1875 or 1876 by Dom G. Legeay. Gabriel Fauré wrote this arrangement in 1888 for treble voices (children), oboe, cello, double bass, and organ but it was not published until late in his life in 1923.

Cantique populaire Noël d'enfants

This arrangement of the popular 18th century French carol, *Les anges dans nos campagnes* (The Angels in our countryside) was composed by Gabriel Fauré in 1890 but wasn't published until 1921. English speakers will be familiar with the tune, James Chadwick, Roman Catholic Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle used the tune and the loose translation of the text to pen '*Angels We Have Heard on High*' in 1862.

Away in a Manger

This carol was first published in the November 1883 issue of '*The Sailors' Magazine and Seamen's Friend*' and claimed that it was "composed by Martin Luther for his children, is still sung by many of the German mothers to their little ones." There is no evidence of this and the carol is believed to be completely American in origin. The first musical setting of the carol was published in the Evangelical Lutheran Sunday School collection, '*Little Children's Book for Schools and Families*' (1885). The third verse, 'Be near me, Lord Jesus' was added in 1892. There are two popular tunes for the carol, "Mueller" popular in the United States, was first published in 1887. The tune gets its name from Germanizing the last name of the composer, James R. Murray, over the years because of the misattribution to Martin Luther. The standard tune in England is called 'Cradle Song' written by American composer William J. Kirkpatrick for the musical '*Around the World with Christmas*' (1895).

Chorale Prelude 'In Dulci Jubilo', BWV 751

Johann Michael Bach was the first cousin, once removed and father-in-law of Johann Sebastian Bach. He was a composer as well as instrument maker particularly known for building harpsichords. The chorale prelude 'In dulci jubilo', is his most performed work, and has been long attributed to his son-in-law, Johann Sebastian. This attribution has persisted even so far as the work still being included as number "BWV 751" in the 'Bach-Werke-Verzeichnis' (Bach-Works-Catalog).

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

'In dulci jubilo' ('In sweet rejoicing') is a traditional Christmas carol from Germany. In its original setting, the carol is a macaronic text of German and Latin dating from the Middle Ages. The original song text is thought to have been written by German mystic Heinrich Seuse circa 1328. The tune first appeared in the manuscript Codex 1305 dating from c.1400. Although the tune may be older, it was found in several Lutheran hymnals dating from the 16th century. The earliest English translation was done by Wedderburn in 1567, with the most popular version today by Robert Lucas Pearsall in 1837. The lyrics 'Good Christian men, rejoice' is not a translation of the original text and was written by Anglican priest John Mason Neale in 1853. Neale translated several hymns found in the Hymnal including All Glory, Laud and Honour; Of the Father's Heart Begotten; and Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle. He also wrote the carol 'Good King Wenceslas' and was responsible for translating and combining the Advent 'O Antiphons' into the hymn 'O come, O come, Emmanuel'.

Manger Carol

Manger Carol is a 13th century French carol arranged by Pulitzer Prize winner and American composer, Leo Sowerby. The piece was published in 1956, while he was the organist-choirmaster at St James's Episcopal Church, Chicago. Sowerby was often called the "Dean of American church music" and composed over 500 works in every genre but opera and ballet.