## Choir processional: Personent hodie (Piae Cantiones, 1582)

### Adam Lay Ybounden (words – anonymous, 15th century; music – Boris Ord)

### The First Nowell

The first Nowell the angels Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they In fields where they lay keeping their sheep On a cold winter's night that was so deep. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell! Born is the King of Israel!

They looked up and saw a Shining in the East beyond them far, And to the earth it gave great light, And so it continued both day and night. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell! Born is the King of Israel!

And by the light of that same star Three Wise men came from country far To seek for a King was their intent And to follow the star wherever it went. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell!

Born is the King of Israel!

This star drew nigh to the northwest O'er Bethlehem it took its And there it did both pause and stay Right o'er the place where Jesus lay. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell! Born is the King of Israel!

# Gabriel's Message

(Basque carol, arr. Edgar Pettman)

### Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high Sweetly singing over the plains And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this Jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heavenly song? Gloria in excelsis Deo!

See Him in a manger laid, Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth! Mary, Joseph, lend your With us sing our Savior's Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King Gloria in excelsis Deo!

# Tu scendi dalle stelle (St. Alphonsus Maria de' Liguori)

### O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep 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 to-night.

For Christ is born of Mary And gathered all above, While mortals sleep the Angels keep Their watch of wondering love. O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth! And praises sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is giv'n; So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His Heav'n. No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin, Where meek souls will receive Him still, The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray! Cast out our sin and enter Be born in us to-day. We hear the Christmas The great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with Our Lord Emmanuel!

### In the Bleak Midwinter

(words - Christina Rossetti, music - Gustav Holst)

### Past Three o' Clock

(words - George Ratcliffe Woodward, music - traditional

### It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear,

That glorious song of old, From angels bending near the earth

To touch their harps of gold; Peace on the earth, good will to men

From heav'n's all-gracious King.

The world in solemn stillness lay

To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come

With peaceful wings unfurled.

And still their heavenly music

floats

O'er all the weary world; Above its sad and lowly

plains

They bend on hovering wing, And ever o'er its Babelsounds

The blessed angels sing.

Oh ye, beneath life's crushing load,

Whose forms are bending low

Who toil along the climbing

With painful steps and slow, Look now! for glad and

golden hours Come swiftly on the wing;

Oh, rest beside the weary road

And hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on By prophet bards foretold, When, with the ever circling years

Shall come the age of gold; When Peace shall over all the earth,

Its ancient splendors fling, And the whole world give back the song,

Which now the angels sing.

# Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

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 angelic host proclaim
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest heaven adored; Christ the everlasting Lord! Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a Virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see. Hail the incarnate Deity. Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! Hark! the herald angels sing

Hark! the herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark! the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

### What Child Is This?

What Child is this who, laid to rest On Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom Angels greet with anthems sweet,

While shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and Angels sing;

Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary. Why lies He in such mean estate, Where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christians, fear, for sinners here

The silent Word is pleading. Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,

The cross be borne for me, for you.

Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The Babe, the Son of Mary. So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,

Come peasant, king to own Him; The King of kings salvation brings,

Let loving hearts enthrone Him. Raise, raise a song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby. Joy, joy for Christ is born, The Babe, the Son of Mary.

# God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay; Remember, Christ, our Saviour was born on Christmas day, To save us all from Satan's From God our Heavenly Father a blessed Angel came; And unto certain Shepherds brought tidings of the same: How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place, And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace; In Bethlehem, in Israel, this blessed Babe was born; And laid within a manger upon this blessed morn; The which His Mother Mary did nothing take in scorn. power when we were gone astray.

Name. Chorus

This holy tide of Christmas all other doth deface. Chorus

Chorus

#### Chorus:

O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

### Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine

"Joseph dearest, Joseph mine, Help me cradle the Child divine; God reward thee and all that's thine in Paradise," So prays the mother Mary.

**Chorus:** He came among us at Christmastime, At Christmastime in Bethlehem; Let us bring Him from far and wide Love's diadem; Jesus, Jesus, lo, he comes, and loves, and saves, and frees us!

"Gladly, dear one, lady mine, Help I cradle this Child of thine; God's own light on us both shall shine in Paradise, As prays the mother Mary." Chorus

All shall come and bow the knee; Wise and happy their souls shall be, Loving such a divinity, as all may see In Jesus, son of Mary. Chorus

### The Friendly Beasts

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 sheep with curly horn, "I gave Him my wool for His blanket warm; He wore my coat on Christmas

"I," said the sheep with curly horn.

morn."

"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.

"I," said the dove from the rafters high, "I cooed Him to sleep so He would not

We cooed him to sleep, my mate and I." "I," said the dove from the rafters high.

"I," said the cow all white and red "I gave Him my manger for His bed; I gave him my hay to pillow his head." "I," said the cow all white and red.

Thus every beast by some good spell, In the stable dark was glad to tell Of the gift he gave Immanuel, The gift he gave Immanuel.

# **Good King Wenceslas**

Good King Wenceslas looked out, on the Feast of Stephen, When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even; Brightly shone the moon that night, tho' the frost was cruel, When a poor man came in sight, gath'ring winter fuel.

"Sire, the night is darker now, and the wind blows stronger; Fails my heart, I know not how, I can go no longer." "Mark my footsteps, my good page;

tread thou in them boldly: Thou shalt find the winter's rage freeze thy blood less coldly."

"Hither, page, and stand by me, if thou know'st it, telling, Yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?" "Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain; Right against the forest fence, by Saint Agnes' fountain."

In his master's steps he trod, where the snow lay dinted; Heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed. Therefore, Christian men, be sure, wealth or rank possessing, Ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing.

"Bring me flesh, and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither: Thou and I will see him dine, when we bear them thither." Page and monarch, forth they went, forth they went together; Through the rude wind's wild lament and the bitter weather.

### We Three Kings of Orient Are

We three kings of Orient are, Bearing gifts we traverse afar, Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder Star.

### Chorus:

O, star of wonder, star of might, Star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a babe on Bethlehem's plain; Gold I bring to crown Him again; King forever, ceasing never, Over us all to reign.

#### Chorus

Frankincense to offer have I; nigh;

Incense owns a Deity Prayer and praising, all men raising, Worship Him, God on High.

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume Breathes a life of gathering gloom; Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Seal'd in the stonecold tomb.

Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and sacrifice, Alleluia, alleluia! Earth to heav'n replies.

**Chorus** Chorus

### Silent Night

Chorus

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, All is bright Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Holy Infant so Tender and mild,

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King! Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight! Glories stream from heaven afar; Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light Radiant beams from Thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus Lord at Thy birth; Jesus Lord at Thy birth.

# Joy to the World

Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns: Let men their songs employ, While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace. And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love.

# Midnight Mass:

Processional: O Holy Night (Adolphe Adam – John Sullivan Dwight) Mass: Missa O magnum mysterium (Tomàs Luis de Victoria) Offertory: Laetentur caeli (Orlando Lassus) Communion: Hodie Christus natus est (Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinbek)

### Recessional: Adeste Fideles

Adeste, fideles, laeti triumphantes; Venite, venite in Bethlehem. Natum videte Regem angelorum.

#### Refrain:

En grege relicto, humiles ad cunas Vocati pastores approperant: Et nos ovanti gradu festinemus.

Aeterni Parentis splendorem aeternum Velatum sub carne videbimus, Deum infantem, pannis involutum.

Pro nobis egenum et foeno cubantem Piis foveamus amplexibus; Sic nos amantem quis non redamaret?

Venite adoremus, venite adoremus, venite adoremus, Dominum.

Refrain

Refrain

Refrain