

Medieval Christmas 2018

Christmas Through the Centuries

Prelude

11th Century

Hymn: Ut Queant Laxis



Ut queant laxis resonare fibris Mira gestorum famuli tuorum, Solve polluti labii reatum, Sancte Iohannes.	So that your servants may, with loosened voices, resound the wonders of your deeds, clean the guilt from our stained lips, O Saint John.
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Explanation: Guido d'Arezzo

12th Century

Song: Orientis Partibus (anon. French)

Orientis partibus Adventavit Asinus Pulcher et fortissimus Sarcinis aptissimus. Hez, sir asne, hez.	From the East the donkey came, pretty and strong, fit for burden. Hey, Sir Donkey, Hey!
Aurum de Arabia Thus et myrrham de Saba, Tullit in ecclesia Virtus asinaria. Hez, sir asne, hez.	Gold from Arabia, incense and myrrh from Saba this gallant donkey brought to the church. Hey, Sir Donkey, Hey!
Amen dicas, asine, Iam satur de gramine, Amen, amen itera Aspernare vetura. Hez, sir asne, hez.	You say "Amen," donkey, all filled with grass. "Amen," you repeat, spurning the past. Hey, Sir Donkey, Hey!

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Hymn: The Friendly Beasts #227

13th Century

Song: Rosa das Rosas (Cantigas de Santa Maria #10)



Rosa das rosas e Fror das frores,
Dona das donas, Sennor das sennores.

Rosa de beldad' e de parecer
e Fror d'alegria e de prazer,
Dona en mui piadosa ser
Sennor en toller coitas e doores.

Atal Sennor dev' ome muit' amar,
que de todo mal o pode guardar;
e pode-ll' os peccados perdõar,
que faz no mundo per maos sabores.

Devemo-la muit' amar e servir,
ca punna de nos guardar de falir;
des i dos erros nos faz repentir,
que nos fazemos come pecadores.

Esta dona que tenno por Sennore de que
quero seer trobador,
se eu per ren poss' aver seu amor,
dou ao demo os outros amores.

(medieval Galician-Portuguese)

Rose of roses and flower of flowers,
Lady of ladies, Queen of Queens.

Rose of beauty and fine appearance
And flower of happiness and pleasure,
lady of most merciful bearing,
And Lady for relieving all woes and cares;

Such a Mistress everybody should love,
For she can ward away any evil
And she can pardon any sinner
To create a better savor in this world.

We should love and serve her loyally,
For she can guard us from falling;
She makes us repent the errors
That we have committed as sinners:

This lady whom I acknowledge as my Queen
And whose troubadour I'd gladly be,
If I could in any way possess her love,
I'd give up all my other lovers.

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14th Century

Song: In Dulci Jubilo (Fr. Heinrich Seuse, 1328)

In dulci júbilo, Nun singet und seid froh! Unsers Herzens Wonne Leit in praesepio; Und leuchtet wie die Sonne Matris in gremio. Alpha es et O!	In sweet rejoicing, now sing and be glad! Our hearts' joy lies in the manger; And it shines like the sun in the mother's lap. You are the alpha and omega!
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Hymn: Good Christian Men Rejoice #224

Song: Adam lay ybounden

Adam lay ybounden, Bounden in a bond; Four thousand winter Thought he not too long. And all was for an apple, An apple that he took, As clerkës finden written In their book. Nor had one apple taken been, The apple taken been, Then had never Our Lady A-been heaven's queen. Blessed be the time That apple taken was. Therefore we may singen <i>Deo gratias!</i>

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15th Century

Explanation: The Carol

Reading: Luke 1:26-31

But in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God into a city of Galilee, whose name was Nazareth, to a maiden, wedded to a man, whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the name of the maiden was Mary. And the angel entered to her, and said, Hail, full of grace; the Lord is with thee; blessed be thou among women. And when she had heard this, she was troubled by his words, and thought what manner salutation this was. And the angel said to her, Dread thou not, Mary, for thou hast found grace with God. Lo! thou shalt conceive in the womb, and shalt bear a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus. (Wycliffe)

Carol: What tydynges bringest thou, messenger (Trinity Roll)

What tydynges bringest thou, messenger, Of Christes birth this Yoles day?	<i>Yoles day</i> , Yule Day; Christmas Day.
A babe ys born of hye nature, Is prins of pes & ever shal be. Of hevене & erthe he hath the cure, His lordshyp is eternite. Such wonder tydyngys ye mow here, That man is made now Godys fere, Whom synne hadde made but fendes praye.	<i>hye</i> , high. <i>prins of pes</i> , Prince of Peace. <i>Of hevене... cure</i> , he has power over heaven and earth. <i>mow here</i> , may hear. <i>Godys fere</i> , God's companion. <i>fendes praye</i> , fiend's (Devil's) prey.
A semely syght hit is to se, The berde that hath this babe y-borne Conceyved a lord of hye degre, A maiden as heo was byforne. Such wonder tydyngys ye mow here, That maide & moder is one y-fere, And alwey lady of hye aray.	<i>semely syght hit is to se</i> , pleasing sight it is to see. <i>berde</i> , maiden. <i>hath this babe y-born</i> , has given birth to this child. <i>A maiden as heo was byforne</i> , a virgin, as she was before [bearing the child]. <i>That maide & moder is one y-fere</i> , that maid & mother are one and the same. <i>of hye aray</i> , of great estate; magnificence.
This maide began to gretyn here childe, Saide: "Haile sone, haile fader dere!" He said: "Haile moder, haile maide mylde." This gretynge was in queynt maner. Such wonder tydyngys ye mow here, Here gretynge was in suche maner Hit turned manys peyne to play.	<i>queynt</i> , elegant. <i>manes peyne to play</i> , man's punishment (in hell) to enjoyment (in heaven).

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<p>A wonder thyng is now befallē; That lorde that formed sterres & sunne, Heven & earth & angelys alle, Nowe in mankynde is byginne. Such wonder tydyngys ye mow here, A faunt that is not of o yere, Ever hath y be & shal be ay.</p>	<p><i>is now befallē</i>, has now befallen; has happened. <i>sterres</i>, stars. <i>angelys</i>, angels. <i>in mankynde is byginne</i>, is born as man. <i>faunt</i>, infant (from the Fr. "enfant"). <i>not of o yere</i>, not even one year old. <i>Ever hath y be & shal be ay</i>, always has been and always will be.</p>
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Carol: There is no rose of such virtue (Trinity Roll)

<p>There is no rose of such virtue As is the rose that bare Jesu; Alleluia.</p> <p>For in this rose contained was Heaven and earth in little space; Res miranda.</p> <p>By that rose we may well see That He is God in persons three, Pari forma.</p> <p>The angels sungen the shepherds to: Gloria in excelsis Deo: Gaudeamus.</p> <p>Now leave we all this worldly mirth And follow we this joyful birth; Transeamus.</p>

16th Century

Carol: Gaudete! Gaudete! Christus est natus (Pie Cantiones)

<p>Refrain: Gaudete! gaudete! Christus est natus ex Maria virgine, gaudete!</p> <p>Tempus adest gratiae, hoc quod optabamus; carmina laetitiae devote reddamus.</p> <p>Deus homo factus est, natura mirante; mundus renovatus est</p>	<p>Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ is born of the Virgin Mary, Rejoice!</p> <p>The time of grace has come— What we have wished for; Songs of joy Let us give back faithfully.</p> <p>God has become man, With nature marvelling, The world has been renewed</p>
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a Christo regnante. Ergo nostra concio psallat iam in lustro; Benedicat Domino; salus Regi nostro.	By the reigning Christ. Therefore, let our preaching Now sing in brightness Let it bless the Lord: Greeting to our King.
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Reading: Luke 2:8-14

And shepherds were in the same country, waking and keeping the watches of the night on their flock. And lo! the angel of the Lord stood beside them, and the clearness of God shined about them; and they dreaded with great dread. And the angel said to them, Do not ye dread; for lo! I preach to you a great joy, that shall be to all people. For a Saviour is born today to you, that is Christ the Lord, in the city of David. And this is a sign for you; ye shall find a young child wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a feed-trough. And suddenly there was made with the angel a multitude of heavenly knighthood, praising God, and saying, Glory be in the highest things to God, and in earth peace be to men of good will. (Wycliffe)

Song: Psalite Unigenito (Michael Praetorius)

Psallite, unigenito Christo Dei Filio, Christo Dei Filio, Redemptori Domino, puerulo, iacenti in praesepio.	Sing your psalms to Christ, the only begotten Son of God, sing your psalms to the Redeemer.
Ein kleines Kindelein liegt in dem Krippelein; Alle liebe Engelein dienen dem Kindelein, und singen ihm fein,	A small Child lies in the manger. All the blessed angels serve Him and sing to Him.
Singt und klingt, Jesu Gottes Kind, und Maria Sohnelein Unserm lieben Jesulein im Krippelein beim Ochslein und beim Eselein	Sing and ring to Jesus, God's child, and sweet young Mary, her beloved little Jesus in the crib between the dear ox and ass.

Postlude

Instrumental: Como Poden (Cantigas de Santa Maria #166)

Links to the sheet music for this program can be found at
<http://www.twmarsh.net/music/2018/09/medieval-christmas-2018/>