Hodie

# Cantata by [Ralph Vaughan Williams](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_settings.html?ComposerId=6050) (1872 - 1958)

1. Prologue

### [( Sung text)](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/about_sung_texts.html)

Language: Latin

Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!

Hodie Christus natus est: hodie salvator apparuit: Hodie in terra canunt angeli, laetantur archangeli:

Hodie exultant justi, dicentes: gloria in excelsis Deo: Alleluia.

**Text Authorship:**

* by [Bible or other Sacred Texts](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_author_texts.html?AuthorId=241) , Vespers for Christmas Day Go to the [general single-text view](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_text.html?TextId=27548)

Researcher for this page: Ahmed E. Ismail

# Narration (1)

### [( Sung text)](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/about_sung_texts.html)

MENU

Language: English

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was in this wise: when as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream.

"Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS."

"He shall be great; and shall be called the Son of the Highest: Emmanuel, God with us."

**Text Authorship:**

* by [Bible or other Sacred Texts](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_author_texts.html?AuthorId=241) , Matthew 1:18-21, 23 and Luke 1:32 Go to the [general single-text view](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_text.html?TextId=27549)

Researcher for this page: Ahmed E. Ismail

# Song: It was the winter wild

### [( Sung text)](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/about_sung_texts.html)

Language: English

It was the Winter wild, While the *Heaven born child*,

All meanly wrapt in the rude manger lies; Nature in awe to him

Had doﬀed her gaudy trim,

With her great Master so to sympathize: And waving wide her myrtle wand,

She strikes a universal Peace through Sea and Land. No war or battle's sound

**Text Authorship:**

* by [John](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_author_texts.html?AuthorId=1891)

[Milton](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_author_texts.html?AuthorId=1891) (1608

- 1674),

"Hymn on the Morning of Christ's Nativity"

Was heard the world around,

The idle spear and shield were high up hung; The hookèd Chariot stood

Unstained with hostile blood,

The Trumpet spake not to the armèd throng, And Kings sate still with aweful eye,

As if they surely knew their sovran Lord was by.

But peaceful was the night Wherein the Prince of light

His reign of peace upon the earth began: The winds, with wonder whist,

Smoothly the waters kissed,

Whispering new joys to the mild Ocean, Who now hath quite forgot to rave,

While birds of calm sit brooding on the charmèd wave.

See other [settings](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_text.html?TextId=27550) of this text.

Researcher for this page: Ahmed E. Ismail

# Narration (2)

### [( Sung text)](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/about_sung_texts.html)

Language: English

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up into the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her ﬁrstborn son,

and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

**Text Authorship:**

* by [Bible or other Sacred Texts](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_author_texts.html?AuthorId=241) , Luke 2:1-7

Go to the [general single-text view](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_text.html?TextId=27551) Researcher for this page: Ahmed E. Ismail

# Choral: Kyrieleison

### [( Sung text)](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/about_sung_texts.html)

Language: English

The blessed son of God only In a crib full poor did lie;

With our poor ﬂesh and our poor blood Was clothed that everlasting good.

Kyrieleison.

The Lord Christ Jesu, God's son dear, Was a guest and a stranger here;

Us for to bring from misery, That we might live eternally. Kyrieleison.

All this did he for us freely, For to declare his great mercy;

All Christendom be merry therefore, And give him thanks for evermore. Kyrieleison.

**Text Authorship:**

* by [Miles Coverdale](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_author_texts.html?AuthorId=7858) (1488 - 1568)

**Based on:**

* a text in German (Deutsch) by [Martin Luther](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_author_texts.html?AuthorId=1711) (1483 -

1546) [text unavailable]

* + [Go to the text page.](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_text.html?TextId=27552)

Go to the [general single-text view](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_text.html?TextId=27553)

Researcher for this page: Ahmed E. Ismail

# Narration (3)

### [( Sung text)](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/about_sung_texts.html)

Language: English

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the ﬁeld, keeping watch over their ﬂock by night. And, lo, the angel of

the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them:

"Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall ﬁnd the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying:

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thee thanks for thy great glory, O Lord

God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty."

"Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us."

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another,

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

**Text Authorship:**

* by [Bible or other Sacred Texts](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_author_texts.html?AuthorId=241) , from Luke 2:8-17 and the Book of Common Prayer [an adaptation]

See other [settings](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_text.html?TextId=27554) of this text. Researcher for this page: Ahmed E. Ismail

1. The Oxen [[sung text not yet checked]](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/status_info.html)

Language: English

Christmas Eve, and twelve of the clock. "Now they are all on their knees,"

An elder said as we sat in a ﬂock By the embers in hearthside ease.

We pictured the meek mild creatures [where]**1** [They]**2** dwelt in their strawy pen,

Nor did it occur to one of us there To doubt they were kneeling then.

So fair a fancy few would weave In these years! Yet I feel,

If someone said on Christmas Eve, "Come; see the oxen kneel,

In the lonely barton by yonder coomb Our childhood used to know,"

I should go with him in the gloom, Hoping it might be so.

**Text Authorship:**

* by [Thomas Hardy](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_author_texts.html?AuthorId=1125) (1840

- 1928), "The Oxen",

first published 1915 See other [settings](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_text.html?TextId=7259) of this text.

[View original text (without](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_text.html?TextId=7259&RF=1) [footnotes)](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_text.html?TextId=7259&RF=1)

First published in *The Times*, December 1915

**1** omitted by Gibbs.

**2** Gibbs: "As they"

Researcher for this page: Ted Perry

# Narration (4)

### [( Sung text)](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/about_sung_texts.html)

Language: English

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

"Glory to God in the highest."

**Text Authorship:**

* by [Bible or](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_author_texts.html?AuthorId=241) [other](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_author_texts.html?AuthorId=241) [Sacred](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_author_texts.html?AuthorId=241) [Texts](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_author_texts.html?AuthorId=241) , "Luke 2:20"

Go to the [general single-](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_text.html?TextId=27555) [text view](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_text.html?TextId=27555)

Researcher for this page: Ahmed E. Ismail

# Pastoral

### [( Sung text)](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/about_sung_texts.html)

Language: English

The shepherds sing; and shall I silent be? My God, no hymn for Thee?

My soul's a shepherd too; a ﬂock it feeds Of thoughts, and words, and deeds.

The pasture is Thy word: the streams, Thy grace Enriching all the place.

Shepherd and ﬂock shall sing, and all my powers Outsing the daylight hours.

Then will we chide the sun for letting night Take up his place and right:

We sing one common Lord; wherefore he should Himself the candle hold.

I will go searching, till I ﬁnd a sun Shall stay, till we have done;

A willing shiner, that shall shine as gladly, As frost\_nipped suns look sadly.

Then will we sing, and shine all our own day, And one another pay:

His beams shall cheer my breast, and both so twine, Till ev'n His beams sing, and my music shine.

**Text Authorship:**

* by [George](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_author_texts.html?AuthorId=1178) [Herbert](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_author_texts.html?AuthorId=1178) (1593 -

1633),

"Christmas (II)"

Go to the [general](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_text.html?TextId=27556) [single-text view](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_text.html?TextId=27556)

Researcher for this page: Ahmed E. Ismail

# Narration (5)

### [( Sung text)](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/about_sung_texts.html)

Language: English

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her own heart.

**Text Authorship:**

* + by [Bible or other Sacred Texts](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_author_texts.html?AuthorId=241) , "Luke 2:19" Go to the [general single-text view](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_text.html?TextId=27557)

Researcher for this page: Ahmed E. Ismail

# Lullaby

### [( Sung text)](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/about_sung_texts.html)

Language: English

Sweet was the song the Virgin sang, When she to Bethlem Juda came

And was delivered of a Son,

That blessed Jesus hath to name: "Lulla, lulla, lulla-bye,

Sweet Babe," sang she,

And rocked him sweetly on her knee.

"Sweet Babe," sang she, "my son, And eke a Saviour born,

Who hath vouchsafèd from on high To visit us that were forlorn:

"Lalula, lalula, lalula-bye, Sweet Babe," sang she,

And rocked him sweetly on her knee.

**Text Authorship:**

* by Anonymous / Unidentified Author

Go to the [general single-text view](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_text.html?TextId=27558) Researcher for this page: Ahmed E. Ismail

# Hymn

### [( Sung text)](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/about_sung_texts.html)

Language: English

**Text Authorship:**

Bright portals of the sky, Emboss'd with sparkling stars,

Doors of eternity,

With diamantine bars, Your arras rich uphold,

Loose all your bolts and springs, Ope wide your leaves of gold,

That in your roofs may come the King of Kings.

O well\_spring of this All! Thy Father's image vive;

Word, that from nought did call What is, doth reason, live;

The soul's eternal food,

Earth's joy, delight of heaven; All truth, love, beauty, good:

To thee, to thee be praises ever given!

O glory of the heaven!

O sole delight of earth! To thee all power be given,

God's uncreated birth! Of mankind lover true,

Indearer of his wrong, Who doth the world renew,

Still be thou our salvation and our song!

* by [William](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_author_texts.html?AuthorId=735) [Drummond of](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_author_texts.html?AuthorId=735) [Hawthornden](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_author_texts.html?AuthorId=735) (1585

- 1649), "Christmas Day"

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# Narration (6)

### [( Sung text)](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/about_sung_texts.html)

Language: English

Now when Jesus was born, behold there came wise men from the east, saying, "Where is he that is born King? for we have seen his star in

the east, and are come to worship him." And they said unto them, "In Bethlehem." When they had heard that, they departed; and, lo,

the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star,

they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

**Text Authorship:**

* by [Bible or other Sacred Texts](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_author_texts.html?AuthorId=241) , Matthew 2:1-11 [an adaptation] Go to the [general single-text view](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_text.html?TextId=27560)

Researcher for this page: Ahmed E. Ismail

# March of the Three Kings

Language: English

From kingdoms of wisdom secret and far
come Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar;
they ride through time, they ride through night
led by the star’s foretelling light.

Crowning the skies the star of morning, star of dayspring, calls:
clear on the hilltop its sharp radiance falls
lighting the stable and the broken walls
where the prince lies.

Gold from the veins of earth he brings,
red gold to crown the King of Kings.
Power and glory here behold
shut in a talisman of gold.

Frankincense from those dark hands
was gathered in eastern, sunrise lands,
incense to burn both night and day
to bear the prayers a priest will say.

Myrrh is a bitter gift for the dead.
Birth but begins the path you tread;
your way is short, your days foretold
by myrrh, and frankincense and gold.

Return to kingdoms secret and far,
Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar,
ride through the desert, retrace the night,
leaving the star’s imperial light.

Crowning the skies the star of morning, star of dayspring, calls:
clear on the hilltop its sharp radiance falls
lighting the stable and the broken walls
where the prince lies.

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Crowning the skies the star of morning, star of dayspring, calls:
clear on the hilltop its sharp radiance falls
lighting the stable and the broken walls
where the prince lies.

Text Authorship:

* by [Ursula Vaughan Williams,](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_author_texts.html?AuthorId=6942) [née Joan Ursula Penton Lock](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_author_texts.html?AuthorId=6942) (1911 - 2007), **copyright ©**

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**.**

# Choral: No sad thought

No sad thought his soul aﬀright, Sleep it is that maketh night; Let no murmur nor rude wind To his slumbers prove unkind:

But a quire of angels make

His dreams of heaven, and let him wake To as many joys as can

In this world befall a man.

**Text Authorship:**

* by Anonymous / Unidentified Author

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But a quire of angels make

His dreams of heaven, and let him wake

To as many joys as can

In this world befall a man.

Promise ﬁlls the sky with light

Stars and angels dance in flight;

Joy of heaven shall now unbind

Chains of evil from mankind,

Love and joy their power shall break,

And for a new born prince’s sake;

Never since the world began

Such a light such dark did span.

# Epilogue

### [( Sung text)](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/about_sung_texts.html)

Language: English

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the Word was made ﬂesh, and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Emmanuel, God with us.*

*-- John 1:1, 4, 14; Matthew 1:23*

Ring out, ye crystal spheres, Once bless our human ears,

If ye have power to touch our senses so; And let your silver chime

Move in melodious time,

And let the bass of heaven's deep organ blow; And with your ninefold harmony

Make up full consort to the angelic symphony.

Such music (as 'tis said) Before was never made,

But when of old the sons of morning sung, While the Creator great

His constellations set,

And the well\_balanced world on hinges hung, And cast the dark foundations deep,

And bid the weltering waves their oozy channel keep.

Yea, truth and justice then Will down return to men,

Orbed in a rainbow; and, like glories wearing, Mercy will sit between,

Throned in celestial sheen,

With radiant feet the tissued clouds down steering; And heaven, as at some festival,

Will open wide the gates of her high palace hall.

**Text Authorship:**

* by [John Milton](https://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_author_texts.html?AuthorId=1891) (1608 - 1674), no title, from *Hymn on the Morning of Christ's Nativity*

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