

# A Wassail to Keep Out the Cold

A Christmas Medley of Folk Poetry and Words from England and Ireland

for the Henbury Singers

Oliver Barton 1997

The musical score is arranged for a choir and piano. It features three systems of music. The first system includes staves for Recorder (Rec.), Clarinet in B-flat 1 (Cl B♭ 1), and Clarinet in B-flat 2 (Cl B♭ 2), all of which are mostly silent. Below these are the vocal staves and piano accompaniment. The piano part begins with a 'Heartily' instruction and a forte (*f*) dynamic. The vocal line starts with the word 'ALL' in all caps, followed by the lyrics 'All hail to the days That'. The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the right hand and chords in the left hand. The second system continues the vocal line with the lyrics 'me - rit more praise Than all the rest of the year! And wel - come the nights That'. The piano accompaniment continues with similar rhythmic patterns. The third system includes a Clarinet in C 1 (Cl.1) staff, which begins to play at measure 10. The vocal line continues with 'dou - ble de-lights As well for the poor as the peer! Good for - tune at - tend Each'. The piano accompaniment includes a 'chunkily' instruction at the end of the system. The score is written in a key signature of two sharps (D major) and a 6/8 time signature.

This can be performed with piano alone. And choir, of course, o pedant. If you're using instruments, some of the piano doubling could be omitted.

In the voice parts, there a number of extra syllables in the words, rather in the Ye Olde Tea Shoppe vein. Unlike common practice, these should be neutral sounds (sort of "uh", so that it's roughly "Ye Olduh Tea Shoppuh" instead of "Ye Oldee Tea Shoppee" as many would have it). In the text, these are indicated by "è", though I may have missed a few.

## All hayle to the dayes

'A pleasant Country new Ditty: Merrily shewing how To drive the cold Winter away' from a broadside in the Pepysian collection, early 17th century, to the tune of "When Phoebus did rest," first published in The Dancing Master, 1650.

A Wassail to Keep Out the Cold

Cl.1

mer - ry man's friend That doth but the best that he may, — For - get - ting old wrongs With

Rec

Cl.1

Treble

*p* *legato*

Sop

ALL ca - rols and songs To drive the cold win - ter a - way. — *p* As blithe, — as

Alt

ca - rols and songs To drive the cold win - ter a - way. — *mf* Now Sis - ley and Nan - ny, More

*p* *legato*

Rec

*mf* *p*

blithe, — as blithe as the month — of — June, Like birds, — like

jo - cund than an - y, As blithe as the month of — June, — Do ca - roland sing, Like

A Wassail to Keep Out the Cold

26

Rec

Cl.1

*mf*

*mf* *mp*

birds. \_\_\_\_\_ La la la la la la \_\_\_\_\_ con-tent

*mp* *mf*

birds of the spring (No night - ingale swee - ter in tune) \_\_\_\_\_ To bring in con-tent, When

*less sweet than a nightingale*

30

Rec

Cl.1

is spent in plea - sant play, \_\_\_\_\_ Good cheer,

sum - mer is spent, In plea - sant de - light and play, \_\_\_\_\_ With \_\_\_\_\_ mirth and good cheer, To

*mf*



A Wassail to Keep Out the Cold

42

Rec

Cl.1

Cl.2

mer - ry as the bucks in pale. Ah,

mer - ry as the bucks in pale. Ah,

8 mer - ry as bucks in the pale. Ah,

mer - ry as bucks in the pale; Where cakes, bread and cheese Is brought for your fees To

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*mf*

*p*

46

Rec

Cl.1

Cl.2

Ah

To drive a -

Ah To drive the cold win - ter a -

8 As the fire, Ah, To drive a -

make you the lon - ger stay, As the fire to warm Will do you no harm To drive the cold win - ter a -

*p*

A Wassail to Keep Out the Cold

51 *cresc.*

Cl.1 *mf* *cresc.*

Cl.2 *mf* *cresc.*

*mf* *cresc.*

way. When Christ - è - mas - tide Comes in like a bride, With hol - ly and i - vy

*mf* *cresc.*

way. When Crist - è - mas - tide Comes in like a bride, With hol - ly and i - vy

*mf* *cresc.*

way. *mf* When Crist - è - mas - tide Comes in like a bride, With hol - ly and

*mf* *cresc.*

way. *mf* When Christ - è - mas - tide Comes in like a bride, With hol - ly and

*mp* *loco*

55 *f*

Cl.1 *f*

Cl.2 *f*

*f*

clad, Twelve days in the year Much mirth and good cheer In ev - e - ry house - hold is

*f*

clad, Twelve days in the year Much mirth and good cheer In ev - e - ry house - hold is

*f*

i - vy clad, Twelve days in the year Much mirth and good cheer In ev' - ry

*f*

i - vy clad, Twelve days in the year Much mirth and good cheer In ev' - ry

55

A Wassail to Keep Out the Cold

59

Rec

Cl.1

Cl.2

had; The coun - try guise Is then to de-vise Some gam-bol of Christ-mas play, Where-

had; The coun - try guise Is then to de-vise Some gam-bol of Christ-mas play, Where-

8 house-hold is had; The coun - try guise Is then to de-vise Some gam-bol of Christ-mas play, Where-

house-hold is had; The coun - try guise Is then to de-vise Some gam-bol of Christ-mas play, Where-

59

64

Rec

Cl.1

Cl.2

as the young men Do best what they can To drive the cold win - ter a -

as the young men Do best what they can To

8 as the young men Do best what they can To drive the cold win - ter a -

as the young men Do best what they can To

64



A Wassail to Keep Out the Cold

Cl.1

Rec

Rec

Slow Waltz *King Herod & the Cock*  
(The Star of County Down)

*p* like the cry of a bird

There was a star in Da - vid's land, So bright it did ap - pear In -

There was a star in Da - vid's land, So bright it did ap - pear In -

Oo Oo Oo

*p* *loco*

**King Herod and the Cock**

The words were collected by Cecil Sharp from Mrs. Plumb of Armscote, Worcestershire. The melody is "The Star of County Down." The story can be traced back to 1200.

A Wassail to Keep Out the Cold

109

Rec

Cl.1

Cl.2

*pp*

*pp*

to King Her - i - od's cham - è - ber And bright - è - ly it shined there. *mf* The

to King Her - i - od's cham - è - ber And bright - è - ly it shined there.

8

oo

Ah

oo

109

117

Rec

Cl.1

Cl.2

*p*

*pp*

Wise Men soon - è es - pi - ed it, And told to the king - è on high, That a

Oo

Ah

Oo

etc.

Oo

oo

oo

oo

oo

oo

oo

oo

Ah

117

A Wassail to Keep Out the Cold

Rec

125

prince - ly ba - by was born that night No - king could - e'er des - troy.

prince - ly ba - by born that night No - king could - e'er des - troy.

ah ah ah Ah

mf *ff*

125

133

pp Ah mp King Her - i - od said, pp Ah p Ah

pp Ah mp King Her - i - od said, pp Ah p Ah

pp Ah mp King Her - i - od said, pp Ah p Ah

this be true," King Her - i - od said, "As - thou - hast told to - me, This -

133

141

Ah Ah *mp* Shall crow - è full fen - ces three, one,  
Ah Oo *mp* Shall crow - è full fen - ces three, one,  
Ah Oo *mp* Shall crow full fen - ces three, one,  
roas - ted cock that lies in the dish shall crow - è full fen - ces three.

Cl.1  
Cl.2

148

two, three, *mf* The cock soon thrust-ened and fea - thered well By the work of God's own  
two, three, *p* La, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la,  
two, three, *p* La, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la,  
— *R*La, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la,  
two, three, *p* La, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la,

155

Cl.1

Cl.2

hand. *pp* in the

la, *p* And he did crow full fen - ces three In the dish - è where he,

la, *pp* oo, oo, oo, oo, oo, oo,

la, *pp* oo, oo, oo, oo, oo, oo,

155 *8va* *mp*

163

Rec

Cl.1

Cl.2

dish - è where he did stand. Ah,

*mp* Da da da da da da da da da da

oo, oo, oo. Ah,

oo, oo, oo. *mp* Da da da da da da da da da da

163 *8va* *mp*



187

Rec

*pp*

Ah ah And he did crow-è full fen - ces three In the

work of God's good hand. And he did crow full fen - ces,

ah Oo

Ah Oo oo

195

Rec

Cl.1

*pp*

dish - è where he, Ah, In the dish - è where he did stand.

Ah, Oo, Ah.

oo oo oo oo

*loco*

*f*

203

Cl.1

*chunkily*

*chunkily*

The Old Gray Cat

The Old Gray Cat

A good old English reel. If you're using instruments, the piano could indulge in some more full-bloodied oompahing.

A Wassail to Keep Out the Cold

210

Rec

Cl.1

*f*

216

Rec

Cl.1

Cl.2

*f*

222

Rec

Cl.1

Cl.2

*gallumphingly*

229

Rec

Cl.1

Cl.2

*gradually more legato and quieter*

Rec

243 *with a heavyish swing*

*f*

This bit doesn't exist in the original tune, but something is necessary to accommodate the secular words. To balance things up, it's also used in with the sacred text later.

T

For our bles - sed La - dy's sake,

Bring us in good ale, — good — ale, and bring us in good ale, For our bles - sed La - dy's sake,

Bring us in good ale/The Salutation Carol

Nowell, nowell (c.1460)

Copied down in the commonplace book of William Hill (grocer and Mayor of London) in 1504. "Bring us in good ale" is a boozy parody of the Salutation (or Annunciation) carol. Such parodies were common; church and tavern often shared tunes. Hill's book is an amazing collection of items, from 'a good medycyne for a cutt,' which begins 'Take a pynte of good ale,' to notes on the breaking in of horses.

249

Bring — us in good ale. *mf* Bring us in no brown — bread For that is made of bran, — Nor

Bring — us in good ale. *mf* Bring us in no brown — bread For that is made of bran, — Nor

*mf* *etc.*

256 T & B *as though you meant it*

bring us in no white bread For there - in lies no gain. — But *f* bring us in good ale, good ale, And bring us in good

Rec

263

ale; For our bles - sed La - dy's sake, Bring — us in good ale. *mf*

A Wassail to Keep Out the Cold

Cl.1

270

*regally cheerful*

*mp* La la la la la la la la la la la la

(sheepishly)

*mf* Bring us in no mut - ton For that is pas - sing lean, — Nor bring us in no tri - pès, For they — be sel - dom

*p*

Cl.1

277

*mf*

la la la Bring us in good ale, good ale, Bring us in good ale, good ale, For our

*f* clean, — But bring us in good ale, good ale, And bring us in good ale, For our bles - sed

*mf*

Cl.1

283

La - dy's sake, Bring us in good ale, good ale, good ale. *mf* Bring us in no eggs, no eggs, For

*marcato*

La - dy's sake, Bring — us in good ale. *p* Bring us in no eggs For

*p*

A Wassail to Keep Out the Cold

290

Rec

S & A

T & B

there are ma - ny shells, — But bring us in good ale, good ale, And give — us no - thing else, — So

there are shells, But bring us in good ale, For our La - dy's sake,

*mf*

296

Rec

bring us in good ale, good ale, And bring us in good ale, For our bles - sed La - dy's sake,

Bring us in good ale, good ale. Bring us in good ale, good ale, For our La - dy's sake,

*mp*

302

Rec

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Bring — us in good ale. *p* La la la la *still cheerful!*

Bring us in good ale, good ale, good ale. *p* And bring us in no but - ter For there - *bouncily*

*mf* *like a coarse-chopped Ardennes paté*

A Wassail to Keep Out the Cold

308

Rec

Cl.1

Cl.2

*f*

T  
la la la la la la la la la la la la

B  
in are ma - ny hairs, — Nor bring us in no pig - gè's flesh For that — will make us boars, — But

in are ma - ny — — — — — bring us in no pig - gè's flesh For that — will make us boars, — But

308

314

Rec

Cl.1

Cl.2

S & A

Bring us in good ale, good ale, Bring us in good ale, good ale, For our La - dy's sake,

T  
bring us in good ale, good ale, And bring us in good ale, For our bles - sed La - dy's sake,

B  
bring us in good ale, good ale, And bring us in good ale, For our bles - sed La - dy's sake,

314

A Wassail to Keep Out the Cold

320

Rec

Cl.1

Cl.2

*bouncily* *f*

*f*

Bring us in good ale, good ale, good ale, ale, good ale, Bring us in no ca-pon's flesh For

Bring us in good ale, good ale, good ale, ale, good ale, *ff* Bring us in no ca-pon's flesh For

8 Bring us in good ale. Bring us in no ca-pon's flesh For

Bring us in good ale. Bring us in no ca-pon's flesh For

*ff*

320 *8va*

326

Rec

Cl.1

Cl.2

that is of - ten dear, — Nor bring us in no duck's flesh For they slob - ber i' the mere, — But

that is of - ten dear, — Nor bring us in no duck's flesh For they slob - ber i' the mere, — But

8 that is of - ten dear, — Nor bring us in no duck's flesh For they slob - ber i' the mere, — But

that is of - ten dear, — Nor bring us in no duck's flesh For they slob - ber i' the mere, — But

326

A Wassail to Keep Out the Cold

332

Rec

Cl.1

Cl.2

bring us in good ale, good ale, And bring us in good ale, For our bles - sed La - dy's sake,

bring us in good ale, good ale, And bring us in good ale, For our bles - sed La - dy's sake,

8 bring us in good ale, good ale, And bring us in good ale, For our bles - sed La - dy's sake,

bring us in good ale, good ale, And bring us in good ale, For our bles - sed La - dy's sake,

332

*gradually smoother, slower and softer*

*rit.*

Rec

Cl.1

Cl.2

Bring - us in good ale.

Bring - us in good ale.

8 Bring - us in good ale.

Bring - us in good ale.

338 *loco*

*gradually smoother, slower and softer*

A Wassail to Keep Out the Cold

Slower—very gently, with growing exultation

345

Rec

Cl.1

Cl.2

*p*

*p*

*p*

ALL Slower—more rocking than swinging  
very gently, with growing exultation

*p*

No - well, no-well, no - well,— no - well, No - well, no-well, no - well! This is the sa - lu -

345

*p*

*etc.*

351

Rec

Cl.1

Cl.2

*mf*

*mf*

*mf legato*

*mf*

*mf legato*

*mf*

A & B

ta - ti - on Of the an - gel Ga - bri - el. *mf* Ti - dings true there be come new Sent

351

*mf*

*mf legato*

357

Rec

Cl.1

Cl.2

*mp*

*f*

*mf*

*mf*

S & T

*mp*

Ah

*f*

*f*

from the Tri - ni - ty, By Ga - bri - el to Na - za - reth, Ci - ty of Ga - li - lee.

357

363

Rec *detached*

Cl.1 *f*

Cl.2 *f*

S *mf* *foreshadowing*

A *f*

T *mf* *foreshadowing*

B *f*

clean mai-den and pure vir-gin, Through her hu-mi - li - ty Born to live and  
 Hath con-ceiv'd the per - son  
 clean mai-den and pure vir-gin, Through her hu-mi - li - ty Hath con-ceiv'd the per - son

363

369

Rec

Cl.1

Cl.2

*f* *swaying* *mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mf*

for us die. No - well, no - well! No - well, no - well!  
 Se-cond in de - i - ty. No - well, no - well! No - well, no - well!  
 for us die. No - well, no - well! No - well, no - well!  
 Se-cond in de - i - ty. No - well, no-well, no - well, no - well! No - well, no-well, no - well!

369

*f* *p*

The foreshadowing in the Soprano and Tenor lines is a fragment of the Dies irae plainsong, I'm sure I don't need to point out.

A Wassail to Keep Out the Cold

375 Descant

Rec  
Cl.1  
Cl.2

*mp* *f* *mp*

*p* *mf* *mp* *f*

This is the sa - lu - ta - ti - on, This is the sa - lu - ta - ti - on, *f*

This is the sa - lu - ta - ti - on, This is the sa - lu - ta - ti - on, *f*

8 This is the sa - lu - ta - ti - on, This is the sa - lu - ta - ti - on, *f*

This is the sa - lu - ta - ti - on, This is the sa lu - ta - ti - on, *8va*

375 *p* *mf*

380

Rec  
Cl.1  
Cl.2

*f* *mp* *f*

*f* *mp* *f*

this is the sa - lu - ta - ti - on, Of the an - gel Ga - bri -

this is the sa - lu - ta - ti - on, Of the an - gel Ga - bri -

8 this is the sa - lu - ta - ti - on, Of the an - gel Ga - bri -

this is the sa - lu - ta - ti - on, Of the an - gel Ga - bri -

380 *ff* *loco*

A Wassail to Keep Out the Cold

384 *molto molto rit.*

Rec. *ff* *molto molto rit.* Comfortably

Cl.1 *ff* *molto molto rit.* *f* *The First Nowell*

Cl.2 *ff* *molto molto rit.* *f* *The First Nowell*

el. *ff* *molto molto rit.* *f* The first no -

*ff* *molto molto rit.* *f* The first no -  
*Let the people join in...*

el. *ff* *molto molto rit.* *f* The first no -

384 *molto molto rit.* Comfortably

*f* *The First Nowell*

388

Cl.1

Cl.2

ALL

well the an - gel did say Was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; In -

388

395

Cl.1

Cl.2

fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep On a cold win - ter's night that was so

395

402

Cl.1

Cl.2

REFRAIN

deep. No - well! — no - well! no - well! no - well! Born is the King— of Is - ra -

402

410

Rec

Cl.1

Cl.2

el! They— look'd in the sky— and— saw a bright— star Shin-ing there in the  
This— star— drew— nigh— ov - er to the north - west: Till at last o - ver

They look'd in the sky— and— saw a bright— star Shin-ing there in the  
This star drew— nigh— ov - er to the north - west: Till at last o - ver

8 They— look'd in the sky— and— saw a bright— star Shin-ing there in the  
This— star drew— nigh— ov - er to the north - west: Till at last o - ver

410 They look'd in the sky— and— saw a bright— star Shin-ing there in the  
This star drew— nigh— ov - er to the north - west: Till at last o - ver

**The first nowell (for the audience to join in!)**

Tune and words from William Sandys' West Country collection "Christmas Carols Ancient and Modern," 1833. Harmonization of verses 2 and 3 is by Sir John Stainer (1871). I hope Sir John doesn't mind. I thought that since most people who sing parts are used to his arrangement, those in the audience would feel at home.

417

Rec

Cl.1

Cl.2

east— be - yond them so far; And— to— the— earth it— gave— great light, And—  
Beth - le - hem town it took rest; And— there— it— did both— stop— and stay, Right—

east— be - yond them so far; And— to— the— earth it— gave— great and light, And—  
Beth - le - hem town it took rest; And— there it did both stop and stay, Right—

8 east— be - yond them so far; And— to— the— earth— it— gave— great— light, And—  
Beth - le - hem town it took rest; And— there it did— both gave stop and— stay, Right—

east— be - yond them so far; And— to— the— earth— it— gave— great— light, And—  
Beth - le - hem town it took rest; And— there it did— both gave stop great and— stay, Right

417

Piano

424

Rec

Cl.1

Cl.2

*REFRAIN*

so it con - tin - ued both day— and night. No - well! no - well! no - well! no -  
o - ver the place— where Je - sus lay.

so it con - tin - ued both day— and night. No - well! no - well! no - well! no -  
o - ver the place— where Je - sus lay.

8 so it con - tin - ued both day— and night. No - well! no - well! no - well! no -  
o - ver the place— where Je - sus lay.

so it con - tin - ued both day— and night. No - well! no - well! no - well! no -  
o - ver the place— where Je - sus lay.

424

Piano

*REFRAIN*

431

Rec

Cl.1

Cl.2

*ff* like ringing bells etc.

*ff* like ringing bells etc.

*ff* like ringing bells etc.

*ff*

well! Born is the King of Is - ra - el! Then let us all with one ac-

well! Born is the King of Is - ra - el! Then let us all with one ac-

well! Born is the King of Is - ra - el! Then let us all with one ac-

well! Born is the King of Is - ra - el! Then let us all with one ac-

well! Born is the King of Is - ra - el! Then let us all with one ac -

431

440

Rec

Cl.1

Cl.2

cord, Sing prais-es high our heav-v'nly Lord! Heav'n and earth,

cord, Sing prai-ses high our hea - v'nly Lord! Heav'n and earth,

cord, Sing prai-ses high our hea - v'nly Lord! Heav'n and earth,

cord Sing - prai-ses on high to our heav-en - ly Lord That - heav'n - and - earth did -

440

447

Rec  
Cl.1  
Cl.2

make of nought, Through his blood, man-kind bought. No-well, no-  
make of nought, Through his blood, man-kind bought. No-well, no-  
make of nought, Through his blood, man-kind brought. No-well, no-

make— of nought, And— through his own blood— man - kind— hath bought. No - well! no -

454

Rec  
Cl.1  
Cl.2

well! no-well, no well! no-well, no well! no-well,— Born is the King— of Is - ra - el!  
well! no-well, no well! no-well, no well! no-well,— Born is the King— of Is - ra - el!  
well! no-well, no well! no-well, no well! no-well,— Born is the King— of Is - ra - el!

well! no - well! no - well! Born is the King— of Is - ra - el!