

Paul Hardy's Xmas Tunebook 2012

Introduction

This tunebook contains Christmas tunes and carols that I play on my English concertina. They should also be playable on fiddle, whistle, flute, dulcimer, etc. The predominant keys used are G, D and C (and Em, Bm, and Am) to suit folk instruments and ease learning.

Most are traditional tunes, minly from the British Isles, but others are imports from various sources. All tunes are believed free of current copyright (unless noted explicitly), or else appear to have been placed in the public domain as part of the ongoing live folk music tradition. Please let me know if you are the owner of any that are under access restrictions and I'll remove them.

I have tried to choose the simple versions of most tunes, without much decoration and interpretation, so add your own triplets, grace notes and variations. I have also included guitar chords, often based on computer generated ones if not present at the tune's source. I'm not a guitarist, so these will not necessarily be the best possibilities! I've also included a small subset of words – just enough to go with the notes written, usually one verse plus a chorus if any. This tunebook is for instrumentalists, not singers!

This tunebook has been prepared using the abcm2ps software, with help from abcmus, EasyABC, and ABCexplorer. A big thank you goes to those creative and dedicated people who give their time to create and maintain low-cost or free and open source software for abc music editing and output.

The current version of this tunebook, in ABC and in PDF forms, is downloadable from Paul's web site at <http://www.pghardy.net/>, along with Paul Hardy's Session Tunebook.

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March
♩ = 140

A Child this Day is Born

*Trad. Sandys 1833
England*

Musical notation for the piece 'A Child this Day is Born'. It consists of two staves of music in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff begins with a repeat sign. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: D, A, Bm, G, A. The second staff continues the melody with chord symbols: D, G, D, Bm, D, A, D. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

A Child this day is born,
A Child of high renown.
Most worthy of a scepter,
A scepter and a crown.

Noëls, noëls, noëls,
Noëls sing all we may,
Because the King of all kings
Was born this blessed day.

Mazurka
♩ = 120

A Virgin Most Pure

Trad
England

Chord symbols for the first staff: G, C G, D G, Am C D G, C G, D G, Am C D G, G

Chord symbols for the second staff: G, D G, Am D C G, C D G, C G, D G, Am C D G, G

A virgin most pure, as the prophets do tell, Hath brought forth a Baby, as it hath befell,
To be our Redeemer from death, hell and sin, Which Adam's transgression has wrapped us in.
And therefore be merry, set sorrow aside; Christ Jesus our Savior was born on this tide.

Air **Adam Lay Ybounden** *Trad, 15th Century*
England

$\text{♩} = 110$

Am Em Am Em Am Em Am Em Am D Am

Am Em Am Em Am C Am Em F Am F Am

Am Bm Em Am Dm Am Dm Am Dm C Em Am D

Am Em C Am Bm G D Am D Am Bm Em Am

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 clerkès finden written in their book.

Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been,
 Ne had never Our Lady a been heavenly queen.
 Blessed be the time that apple taken was.
 Therefore we moun singen Deo gratias!

March
 ♩ = 140

Angels from the Realms of Glory

*Trad.
 France*

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as a march with a quarter note equal to 140 beats per minute. The score consists of five staves of music. Above the notes, various chords are indicated: G, Em, D, G, D, G, G, Em, D, G, D, G, G, Am, G, D, G, C, G, D, G, Am, G, D, G, C, G, D, G.

Angels from the realms of glory
 Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 Ye who sang creation's story;
 Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Come and worship, Come and worship;
 Worship Christ, the newborn King!

March
 ♩ = 140

As With Gladness, Men of Old

William Chatterton Dix, 1859
England

The image shows a musical score for a march in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of two staves of music. The first staff has five measures with chords G, C, G, Em, and G above them. The second staff has five measures with chords G, D, Em, C, and G above them. The melody is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#).

As with gladness, men of old; Did the guiding star behold
 As with joy they hailed its light; Leading onward, beaming bright
 So, most glorious Lord, may we; Evermore be led to Thee

Waltz
♩ = 110

Away in a Manger

William J Kirkpatrick, 1895
England

The musical score is written for guitar in G major and 3/4 time. It consists of two staves of music. The first staff contains the first line of music, and the second staff contains the second line. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: G, C, G, E, Am, D, G, Em, A7, D7 on the first staff; and G, C, G, E, Am, D, G, Em, C, D7, G on the second staff. The melody is a simple waltz tune.

Away in a manger, No crib for His bed
The little Lord Jesus, Laid down His sweet head
The stars in the bright sky, Looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus, Asleep on the hay

Air
 ♩ = 140

Boar's Head Carol

Trad. 1521
 England

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (F major). It consists of four staves of music. Above the notes, chord symbols are provided: C, G, F, G, C for the first staff; C, G, F, G, C for the second staff; C, G, C, G, F, G, C for the third staff; and C, G, C, G, F, G, C for the fourth staff. The melody is simple and characteristic of a traditional carol.

The boar's head in hand bear I
 Bedecked with bays and rosemary;
 And I pray you, my masters, be merry,
 Quot estis in convivio:

Caput apri defero, Reddens laudes Domino.
 Caput apri defero, Reddens laudes Domino.

March
♩ = 140

Brightest and Best
Morning Star

J P Harding 1892
England

The image shows a musical score for a march in 2/2 time, key of D major. It consists of two staves of music. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second staff also has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. Above the first staff, the following chords are written: G, D7, G, A, G, D, G, D, A7, D. Above the second staff, the following chords are written: G, D, G, C, G, B, Em, G, D7, G. The music is written in a simple, rhythmic style with quarter and eighth notes.

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

(Bishop Reginald Heber 1783–1826)

March
♩ = 140

The Cherry Tree Carol

*Trad.
England*

The image shows two staves of musical notation for 'The Cherry Tree Carol'. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first staff contains the melody with chords G, Em, G, Am, G, D, and Em. The second staff contains a bass line with chords G, Em, D, G, C, D, and G. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some beamed eighth notes in the third measure.

Joseph was an old man, and an old man was he,
when he wedded Mary in the land of Galilee.

March
♩ = 180

Christians, Awake, Salute the Happy Morn

J Wainwright, 1757
England

Christians, awake, salute the happy morn
Whereon the Saviour of the world was born
Rise to adore the mystery of love
Which hosts of angels chanted from above
With them the joyful tidings first begun
Of God incarnate and the Virgin's Son

(John Byron 1745)

March
♩ = 120

Christmas is Coming

*Trad.
England*

D Bm D G D

D G D A7 D

Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat
 Please put a penny in the old man's hat
 If you haven't got a penny, a ha'penny will do
 If you haven't got a ha'penny, then God bless you!

Irregular
♩ = 120

Coventry Carol

Trad. 16th C.
England, Coventry

Em B Em B Em B Em B Em D B Em B D Em B Em

B Em B Em B Em D B E Em B Em B Em B Em B Em

D B Em B D Em B Em B Em B Em B Em D B E

Lully, lullay, Thou little tiny Child,
 Bye, bye, lully, lullay.
 Lully, lullay, Thou little tiny Child,
 Bye, bye, lully, lullay.

O sisters too, how may we do,
 For to preserve this day
 This poor Youngling for Whom we sing
 Bye, bye, lully, lullay?

(16C Pageant of the Shearmen & Tailors)

Reel
 ♩ = 120

Cranbrook
While Shepherds Watched

Trad.
England

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of three staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes. Chords are indicated above the staff: C, Am, F, C, G. The second staff continues the melody with chords: G, F, C, G, Am, G. The third staff concludes the piece with chords: C, G, G7, C. The piece ends with a double bar line.

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, All seated on the ground,
 The angel of the Lord came down, The angel of the Lord came down,
 And glory shone around, And glory shone around, And glory shone around.

March
♩ = 160

Deck the Halls

Trad.
Wales

The musical score is written in treble clef, 4/4 time, and the key of D major (two sharps). It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a D chord and contains a melody of quarter and eighth notes. The second staff begins with an A chord and continues the melody. The third staff begins with a D chord, includes a G chord, and ends with an A and D chord. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Deck the halls with boughs of holly, Fa la la la la, la la la la,
 'Tis the season to be jolly, Fa la la la la, la la la la,
 Don we now our gay apparel, Fa la la la la, la la la la,
 Troll the ancient Yule-tide carol, Fa la la la la, la la la la,

March
♩ = 100

Ding Dong Merrily on High

Arbeau 1589
France

Chord symbols for the first staff: G, Am, D, C, D7, G

Chord symbols for the second staff: G, Em, Am, D7, Em, Am, D7

Chord symbols for the third staff: Em, C, D, C, D7, G

Ding dong! merrily on high
In heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
Is riv'n with Angel singing.
Gloria; Hosanna in excelsis!

(George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1924)

Waltz
♩ = 120

The First Nowell
First Noel

Trad. Ancient in 1833
England

The musical score consists of four staves of music in 3/4 time, key of D major. The chords are: D, Bm, A, Bm, D, G, D, G; D, G, D, Em7, A7, D, A7, D, A; D, Bm, F#m, Bm, G, D; Bm, F#m, G, D, G, A7, D, A7, D.

The first nowell the angels did say
 Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
 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.

Irregular
♩ = 80

Gabriel's Message
The Angel Gabriel from Heaven came

Trad.
Basque

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G major. The first two staves are in 9/8 time, and the last two are in 12/8 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as Irregular with a quarter note equal to 80 beats per minute. The score includes various chord markings: Em, D, and Em. The melody features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
All hail, said he, thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favour'd lady, Gloria!

Air **Gaudete** *Trad. – Pia Cantiones, 1582*
 ♩ = 110 *Sweden*

Am G Am G Am G Am G Am

Am G Am F Am Dm F Am G Am

Gaudete! Gaudete!
 Christus est natus ex Maria virgine. Gaudete!

Tempus adest gratiae, hoc quod optabamus;
 Carmina laetitiae devote reddamus.

March
♩ = 150

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

*Trad.
England*

Em B Em G Em B

Em Am Em C Em B

Am Em B Em D Em

G B Em D G C G B Em

God rest you merry, gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ, our Savior, Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's power When we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

March
♩ = 180

Good King Wenceslas

Trad. – *Piae Cantiones*, 1582
Sweden

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is composed of quarter and eighth notes. Above the first staff, the following chords are indicated: G, Em, D7, G, D7, C, G, C, D7, G. The second staff continues the melody with the following chords: G, D7, G, D7, Em, C, G, C, D7, G. The third staff concludes the piece with the following chords: C, B7, Em, D7, G, C, D, Em, C, G. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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
Though the frost was cruel
When a poor man came in sight
Gath'ring winter fuel

(John Mason Neale, 1853, after Czech poem)

March
 ♩ = 160

Go Tell It On the Mountain

Trad. Negro Spiritual
 USA

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 2/2 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: G, D, G, C, D7, G, C, G, D7, G, G, C, G, A, D, D7.

Go, tell it on the mountain,
 Over the hills and everywhere
 Go, tell it on the mountain,
 That Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching
 Over silent flocks by night
 Behold throughout the heavens
 There shone a holy light.

March
♩ = 130

Hark The Herald Angels Sing

Felix Mendelssohn, 1840
Germany

Chords: G D G D G C D G
 G D G A D D A D
 D G D7 G D G D7 G D
 C E7 Am E Am D G Em D G
 C E7 Am E Am D G Em D G

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

(Charles Wesley 1839)

Irregular
♩ = 110

Here We Come A–Wassailing

Trad.
England

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and an irregular time signature. The piece is divided into four systems of staves. The first system is in 6/8 time, the second in 3/4, and the third and fourth in 2/2. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: D, A7, D, G, D, A7, Em, A7, D, G, D, A7, D, B7, Em, A7, D, Em, A7, D, B7, Em, A7, D.

Here we come a–wassailing; Among the leaves so green;
Here we come a–wand’ring; So fair to be seen.

Love and joy come to you, And to you your wassail too; And God bless you and send you
A Happy New Year, And God send you a Happy New Year.

Waltz
♩ = 140**The Holly and the Ivy***Trad.
England*

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef, 3/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as a waltz with a quarter note equal to 140 beats per minute. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some dotted rhythms. Chord symbols are placed above the staff to indicate the harmonic accompaniment.

Chord symbols: G, C, Am, D, G, Am, D, G, G, Am, G, Am, D, G, C, D, G, D, G.

The holly and the ivy, When they are both full grown,
 Of all the trees that are in the wood, The holly bears the crown:
 The rising of the sun, And the running of the deer,
 The playing of the merry organ, Sweet singing in the choir.

Air
♩ = 130

Huron Carol
Une Jeune Pucelle

Trad.
Canada 1643, after France

'Twas in the moon of wintertime when all the birds had fled
That mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead;
Before their light the stars grew dim and wondering hunters heard the hymn,
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

(Translation by Jesse Middleton, of Jesous Ahatonia by Saint Jean de Brebeuf, 1643)

March
♩ = 140

Il est né le Divin Enfant
He is born, the holy Child

Trad.
France

The image shows a musical score for a march in 4/4 time, key of G major. It consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody starts on G4. Above the staff, there are chord markings: 'G' above the first measure, and a box containing '1 D' above the 10th measure, and another box containing '2 D G' above the 11th and 12th measures. The second staff also begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 4/4 time signature. It starts with a repeat sign. Above the staff, there are chord markings: 'G' above the first measure, 'C' above the second measure, 'G' above the third measure, and a box containing '1 G' above the 10th measure, and another box containing '2 G D' above the 11th and 12th measures. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Il est né le divin enfant,
Jouez hautbois, résonnez musette.
Il est né le divin enfant,
Chantons tous son avènement.

He is born, the holy Child,
Play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the holy Child,
Sing we all of the Savior mild.

Jig
♩ = 100

In Dulci Jubilo
Good Christian Men Rejoice

Heinrich Seuse circa 1328
Germany

In dulci júbilo; Now sing we all with hearts aglow!
Our delight and pleasure; Lies in praesepio,
Like sunshine is our treasure; Matris in gremio.
Alpha es et O! Alpha es et O!

Good Christian men rejoice; With heart and soul and voice!
Give ye heed to what we say; News! News! Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before Him bow; And He is in the manger now
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

March
♩ = 120

In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Holst 1906
Germany

The image shows a musical score for 'In the Bleak Midwinter' in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves of music. The first staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. Above the first staff, the following chords are indicated: G, Em, Am, C, D, G, Em, C, D7, G. The second staff continues the melody with the following chords: C, Em, G, D, G, Em, C, D, G. The piece ends with a double bar line.

In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long a go.

(Christina Rossetti, 1872)

Mazurka
♩ = 120

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
Zlobie Lezy

Trad.
Poland

The musical score consists of four staves of music in treble clef, 3/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written on the top line of each staff. Above the notes, guitar chords are indicated by letters: G, D, G, C, G, D, D, G, C, G, C, D, G, C, G, G, C, G. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

Infant holy, Infant lowly, For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, Little knowing, Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging, Angels singing, Nowells ringing, Tidings bringing,
Christ the Babe is Lord of all; Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Jig
♩ = 90

I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In

*Trad.
England*

The image shows two staves of musical notation for a jig. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The first staff contains the first six measures of the melody, with chords G, D, G, Am, G, and D written above the notes. The second staff contains the remaining six measures, with chords G, D, G, Am, G, D, and G written above the notes. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, with a final measure ending on a half note G.

I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day in the morning.

March
 ♩ = 120

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

*A Sullivan after Trad.
 England*

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. Above each staff, chord symbols are provided for each measure. The chords are: G, Em, C, D, G, C, G; G, C, D, G, D, G; G, Bm, D, G, Em, D, Bm, D; D, G, C, D, G, D, G.

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, goodwill to men,
 From heaven's all-gracious King.
 The world in solemn stillness lay,
 To hear the angels sing.

(Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1849)

Jig
♩ = 50

I Wonder as I Wander

Trad.
USA

D Bm G D A7 Bm G Bm

G D Bm D Bm

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
 How Jesus the Savior did come for to die.
 For poor ordinary people like you and like I,
 I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

March
♩ = 130

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Trad.
USA after England

C G C G C G C G C G C G C

C Am F C G C G C Am F C

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

March
♩ = 200

Jingle Bells

James Lord Pierpont, 1857
USA

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. Above each staff are chord symbols: G, C, Am, D7, G; C, Am, G, D7, G, D7; G, C, G, A7, D7; G, C, G, D7, G.

Dashing through the snow
 In a one-horse open sleigh
 O'er the fields we go
 Laughing all the way
 Bells on bobtail ring
 Making spirits bright
 Oh, what fun it is to sing
 A sleighing song tonight

Jingle bells, jingle bells,
 Jingle all the way;
 Oh! what fun it is to ride
 In a one-horse open sleigh.
 Jingle bells, jingle bells,
 Jingle all the way;
 Oh! what fun it is to ride
 In a one-horse open sleigh.

March
♩ = ♪/2 = 100

Joy to the World

*Lowell Mason 1839 after Handel
USA after Germany*

D G D Em D A7 D G A7 D

D

A7

D G D Em D A7 D

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
 Let earth receive her King;
 Let every heart prepare him room,
 And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
 And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

(Isaac Watts 1719)

March
♩ = 140

Love Came Down at Christmas

Garton

Trad.
Ireland

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the song 'Love Came Down at Christmas'. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first staff contains the first eight measures of the melody, and the second staff contains the next eight measures. Above each staff, the corresponding chords are written: G, Em, G, G, G, G, G, G for the first staff, and G, Em, G, G, G, G, G, G for the second staff. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some beamed eighth notes in the later measures.

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.

(Christina Rossetti 1885)

Reel
♩ = 130

Mary Had a Baby

Trad. – Negro Spiritual
USA

Musical notation for the first two staves of the piece. The first staff shows the beginning of the melody in G major, 4/4 time. The second staff continues the melody. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: G, Em, D, G, Em, G, D, G.

Mary had a baby (Aye Lord)
 Mary had a baby (Oh My Lord)
 Mary had a baby (Aye Lord)
 The people keep a-comin' and the train done gone.

Waltz
♩ = 180

My Dancing Day

Trad.
England, Cornwall

Chord progression for the first staff: G D C G C D Em D C G C D G

Chord progression for the second staff: G Am D C D G D G Am D G

Chord progression for the third staff: D C G D G D G D Em D G Am D G

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day: I would my true love did so chance;
 To see the legend of my play, To call my true love to my dance
 Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love; This have I done for my true love.

March
 ♩ = 130

O Come, All ye Faithful
Adeste Fideles

John Wade, 1743.
 England

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
 O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
 Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;
 Oh come let us adore Him; Oh come let us adore Him
 Oh come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.

March
 ♩ = 120

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Veni Emmanuel

Trad. 15C
France

Chord symbols for the first staff: Em, Am, D, Em, Am, G, Em, Am, Em

Chord symbols for the second staff: Am, G, D, Em, Am, D, G

Chord symbols for the third staff: D, Bm, Am, Em, G, Am, D, Em

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
 And ransom captive Israel,
 That mourns in lonely exile here
 Until the Son of God appear.
 Rejoice! Rejoice!
 Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

(Trans. John Neale of 12C Veni, veni, Emmanuel)

Jig
♩ = 100

O Holy Night
Cantique de Noël

Adolphe Adam (1803–1856)
France

D G D A D

D G D F#m C# F#m

A D A D

Bm F#m Em Bm

D A D G D A D

A D Em D A D

O Holy night, the stars are brightly shining. It is the night of our dear savior's birth.
 Long lay the world in sin and error pining, 'Til he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
 A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
 Fall on your knees. Oh, hear the angels voices.
 Oh, night divine. Oh, night when Christ was born.
 Oh, night. Oh, holy night. Oh, night divine.

(Translation by John Dwight, of Minuit Chrétien by Placide Cappeau, 1847)

March
♩ = 120

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Trad. = Forest Green
England

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three staves of music. Above the notes, chord symbols are provided: D, G, C, G, C, G, D, G for the first staff; G, D, G, D, G, D for the second staff; and D, G, D, C, G, C, D, G for the third staff. The melody is simple and characteristic of the traditional tune.

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.

(Phillips Brooks, 1903)

March
♩ = 120

Once In Royal David's City

Henry John Gauntlett, 1849

England

The image shows a musical score for the piece 'Once In Royal David's City'. It consists of two staves of music in G major and 2/2 time. The first staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 2/2. The melody is written in treble clef. Above the first staff are the following chords: D7, G, D7, G, Em, Bm, C, D7, G. The second staff continues the melody with the following chords: C, G, Am, D7, G, C, G, C, D7, G. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Once in royal Davids city,
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby,
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little Child.

(Cecil Frances Humphreys Alexander, 1848)

Waltz
♩ = 110**O Tannenbaum**
O Christmas Tree*Trad.*
Germany

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff has seven measures with chords D, A7, D, Bm, Em, A7, and D. The second staff has seven measures with chords D, G, A, and D. The third staff has seven measures with chords A7, D, A7, D, Em, A7, and D. The melody is simple and characteristic of the waltz.

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
Your branches green delight us. (x2)
They're green when summer days are bright;
They're green when winter snow is white.
O, Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
Your branches green delight us!

O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum,
Wie treu sind deine Blätter!
Du grünst nicht nur zur Sommerzeit,
Nein, auch im Winter, wenn es schneit.
O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum,
Wie treu sind deine Blätter!

Waltz
♩ = 130

Past Three O'Clock
London Waits

Trad.
England

Past three a clock,
And a cold frosty morning,
Past three a clock;
Good morrow, masters all!

Born is a Baby, Gentle as may be,
Son of the eternal, Father supernal.

Past three a clock,
And a cold frosty morning,
Past three a clock;
Good morrow, masters all!

(George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1924)

March
♩ = 120

Patapan

Bernard de La Monnoye 1720
France

Em D Em B

B Em B

B Em D B Em

Guillaume, prends ton tambourin,
Toi, prends ta flûte, Robin;
Au son de ces instruments,
Turelurelu, patapatapan,
Au son de ces instruments,
Je dirai Noël gaîment.

Willie, bring your little drum;
Robin, bring your flute and come;
And be merry while you play,
Tu-re-lu-re-lu, Pat-a-pat-a-pan,
Come be merry while you play,
On this joyous Holiday!

March
♩ = 120

Rocking Carol
Little Jesus, Sweetly Sleep

Trad.
Czech

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 2/2 time. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains the first nine measures, with chords G, C, G, C, G, Am, G, D, and G. The second staff contains the next four measures, with chords G, D, G, and D. The third staff contains the final seven measures, with chords G, C, G, Am, G, D, and G. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Little Jesus, sweetly sleep, do not stir; We will lend a coat of fur.
We will rock you, rock you, rock you; We will rock you, rock you, rock you.
See the fur to keep you warm; Snugly round your tiny form

Waltz
♩ = 130

Sans Day Carol
The Holly Bears a Berry

Trad.
England, Cornwall

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The chords are indicated above the notes as follows:

- Staff 1: G, C, D, G
- Staff 2: G, C, D, G
- Staff 3: G, Em, G, G, Em, G
- Staff 4: G, C, D, G, D
- Staff 5: D, G, C, D, G

Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk,
 And Mary bore Jesus, who was wrapped up in silk:
 And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be,
 And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.
 Holly! Holly! And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly!

March
♩ = 80

See, Amid The Winter's Snow

John Goss, 1871
England

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, 2/2 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as a march with a quarter note equal to 80 beats per minute. The score consists of four staves of music. Above each staff, the corresponding chords are indicated: G, Em, D, G, C, G, D; G, Em, D, G, C, D, G; G, C, D, G, C, D; G, Em, G, D, C, G, D, G.

See amid the winter snow,
Born for us on earth below;
See the tender lamb appears,
Promis'd from eternal years.

Hail, thou ever blessed morn;
Hail, redemption's happy dawn;
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

(Edward Caswall, 1871)

Jig
♩ = 100

Seven Joys of Mary
The First Good Joy that Mary Had

Trad.
England

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The chord progression is as follows:

- Staff 1: G, D, G, D
- Staff 2: D, Am, G, D
- Staff 3: Am, G, C, G, D, G

The first good joy that Mary had, It was the joy of one,
To see her ownsome Jesus Christ when he was first her son,
When he was first her son, good man, and blessed may he be.
O Father, Son and Holy Ghost, through all eternity.

Air
♩ = 60

Silent Night
Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!

Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818
Austria

The musical score is written in 6/8 time and consists of three staves. The first staff begins with a C chord, followed by a G chord, and ends with a C chord. The second staff starts with an F chord, then a C chord, an F chord, and a C chord. The third staff begins with a G7 chord, followed by a C chord, a G7 chord, and a C chord. The melody is simple and characteristic of the traditional carol.

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

(Josef Mohr, 1818, Trans by John Young, 1819)

Jig
♩ = 80

Sussex Carol
On Christmas Night, All Christians Sing

Trad.
England, Sussex

The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The first two staves are identical. The third staff continues the melody with different chords. The chords are indicated by letters G, C, D, Am above the notes.

On Christmas night all Christians sing, To hear the news the angels bring,
On Christmas night all Christians sing, To hear the news the angels bring,
News of great joy news of great mirth, News of our Redeemer's birth

March
♩ = 160

Sweet Chiming Bells
While Shepherds Watched

Trad.
England, Sheffield

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 160. The melody is simple and rhythmic, typical of a march. Chord symbols (G, Am, D) are placed above the notes to indicate the harmonic structure. The first staff has chords G, Am, D, G. The second staff has chords G, Am, D, G. The third staff has chords G, Am, G, Am, G, Am, G, Am. The fourth staff has chords G, Am, G, Am, G, D, G, Am, G, Am, G, D, G.

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around,
And glory shone around.

Sweet bells, sweet chiming Christmas bells,
Sweet bells, sweet chiming Christmas bells,
They lead us on our heav'nly way, sweet chiming bells.
They lead us on our heav'nly way, sweet chiming bells.

March
♩ = 120

The Twelve Days of Christmas

*Trad.
England*

The musical score consists of three staves of music in G major. The first staff is in 2/2 time and contains the first two measures of the melody, with chords G and D7. The second staff is in 3/4 time and contains the next eight measures, with a sequence of chords: D7, Am7, D7, Am7, D7, Am7, D7, Am7, D7, Am7, D7, Am7. The third staff is in 2/2 time and contains the final two measures, with chords: G, Em7, A7, D, G, Em, Am, C, Em, A, D, G, C, G, D7, G.

On the twelfth day of Christmas,
my true love sent to me
Twelve drummers drumming
eleven pipers piping
ten lords a' leaping
nine ladies dancing
eight maids a' milking

seven swans a' swimming
six geese a' laying
five gold rings
four colly-birds
three French hens
two turtle doves
and a partridge in a pear tree

Waltz
♩ = 180

We Wish You A Merry Christmas

Trad.
England, Sussex

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords are indicated above the notes as follows:

- Staff 1: G, C, A, D
- Staff 2: B, Em, C, D, G
- Staff 3: G, D, A, D
- Staff 4: B, D, C, D, G

We wish you a merry Christmas, we wish you a merry Christmas,
 We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!
 Glad tidings we bring, to you and your kin,
 We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Jig
♩ = 90

We Three Kings Of Orient Are

Rev John Henry Hopkins, 1863
USA

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

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

Air **What Child Is This?** *Trad. (Greensleeves, 16C)*
 ♩ = 130 *England*

Em G D Bm Em B Em

Em G D Bm Em B Em

G D Bm Em B G

G D Bm Em B Em

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!

(William Chatterton Dix, 1865)

March
♩ = 100

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks *Trad. – Winchester Old, 1592*
England

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major and 2/2 time. The first staff contains the melody with the following chords above it: G, D, G, C, G, D, G, A, D. The second staff contains a bass line with the following chords above it: G, Em, C, G, D, G, D, G, D, G, D, G, G.

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, (Nahum Tate, 1700)
 All seated on the ground,
 The angel of the Lord came down,
 And glory shone around.

March
♩ = 120

Winter Wonderland

Felix Bernard, 1934
England

The musical score consists of four staves of music in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and includes a repeat sign. Chords G7 and C are indicated above the first few measures. The second staff continues the melody with chords G7, C, G7, and a first ending bracket labeled '1' above a C chord. The third staff shows a more complex chord progression with C, Dm, E, A, E, E, A, E, and Am. The fourth staff concludes the piece with chords G, C, G, Em, D7, and G.

Sleigh bells ring, are you listening,
 In the lane, snow is glistening
 A beautiful sight, We're happy tonight.
 Walking in a winter wonderland.

Gone away is the bluebird,
 Here to stay is a new bird
 He sings a love song, As we go along,
 Walking in a winter wonderland.

In the meadow we can build a snowman,
 Then pretend that he is Parson Brown
 He'll say: Are you married? We'll say: No man,
 But you can do the job when you're in town.

(Richard B. Smith 1934).

Irregular
♩ = 60

Zither Carol

Trad.
Czech

The musical score consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single line. Above the staff, guitar chords are indicated: G, D, Em Bm, D, Bm, G. The second staff continues the melody with chords G, D, Em Bm, G. The third staff has a 3/4 time signature and includes chords Em, G, Bm, Em, G, C, Em, G, C, G. The fourth staff concludes the piece with chords D, G, Em, Bm, G.

Girls and boys, leave your toys. Make no noise,
 Kneel at His crib and worship Him.
 At Thy shrine, Child divine, we are Thine,
 Our Saviour's here.

"Hallelujah!" the church bells ring,
 "Hallelujah!" the angels sing,
 "Hallelujah!" from everything.
 All must draw near.