

Paul Hardy's Xmas Tunebook 2019

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, mainly 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. From this 2019 edition, the guitar chords have had a major overhaul and simplification from the earlier editions (thanks to the Brind family). 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!

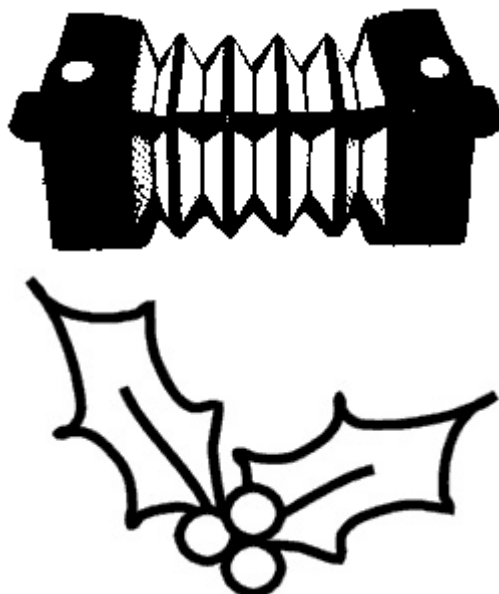
This tunebook has been prepared using the abcm2ps software, with help from abcmus, EasyABC, and ABCexplorer. A big thank you goes to those creative and dedicated people who give their time to create and maintain low-cost or free and open source software for abc music editing and output.

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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Original version of 16 December 2009, this version of 13 November 2019.



March
♩ = 140

A Child this Day is Born

Trad. Sandys 1833
England

Musical notation for 'A Child this Day is Born' in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff shows the melody with chords D, A, Bm, G, A. The second staff continues the melody with chords D, G, D, A7, D, A, D.

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

Musical notation for 'A Virgin Most Pure' in G major, 3/4 time. The first staff shows the melody with chords G, D, G, Am, D7, G, G, D, G, Am, D7, G. The second staff continues the melody with chords D, Am, G, A7, D, G, D, G, Am, D7, 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 wrappèd us in.
And therefore be merry, set sorrow aside; Christ Jesus our Savior was born on this tide.

Air
♩ = 110

Adam Lay Ybounden

Trad, 15th Century
England

Musical notation for 'Adam Lay Ybounden' in G major, 3/4 time. The first staff shows the melody with chords Am, Em, Am, Em, Am, F, G, D, Em. The second staff continues with Am, Em, Am, Em, C, F, C, F, E. The third staff continues with Am, G, C, F, D7, G, Em, C, G. The fourth staff continues with C, G, Am, G, Am, G, Am, 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

Musical score for 'Angels from the Realms of Glory' in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of four staves. The first two staves show the melody with chords G, D, G, D, G above the notes. The last two staves show the bass line with chords G, Em, Am, D7, G, C, D, G, D, G, C, G, D and G, Em, Am, D7, G, C, D, 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

Musical score for 'As With Gladness, Men of Old' in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of two staves. The first staff has chords G, C, G, Em, D above the notes. The second staff has chords G, D, G, C, D7, G.

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

Musical score for 'Away in a Manger' in G major, 3/4 time. The score consists of two staves. The first staff has chords G, D7, G, Em, Am, D, G, A7, D7 above the notes. The second staff has chords G, D7, G, Em, Am, D, G, Am, D7, G.

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 notation for 'Boar's Head Carol' is presented in four staves. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written on a treble clef. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: C, G, C, G, F, G, C, C, G, C, G, F, G, C, C, G, C, G, F, G, C.

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 musical notation for 'Brightest and Best Morning Star' is presented in two staves. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/2. The melody is written on a treble clef. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: G, D7, G, D, G, Em, D, A7, D, G, D, G, C, G, Em, D7, G.

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 musical notation for 'The Cherry Tree Carol' is presented in two staves. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written on a treble clef. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: G, Em, C, Am, G, D, Em, G, Em, D, G, C, D, G.

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

Musical notation for the first piece, consisting of three staves of music in 2/2 time. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Chords are indicated above the notes: C, Am, Em, F, C, Am, F, G, C; C, Am, F, G, Em, Am, E, Am, E7, Am; F, C, F, G, Am, E, Am, F, G, C.

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
♩ = 100

Christmas is Coming

Trad. England

Musical notation for the second piece, consisting of two staves of music in 2/2 time. The key signature has two sharps (D major). Chords are indicated above the notes: D, G, A, D, G, A7, D; D, G, A, 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

Musical notation for the third piece, consisting of two staves of music in 3/4 time. The key signature has one sharp (F major). Chords are indicated above the notes: Em, B, Em, B, Em, B, Em, B, Em, D, B, Em, B; D, Em, B, Em, B, Em, B, 1 Em, B, Em, D, B, E, 2 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

Musical notation for 'While Shepherds Watched' in 4/4 time. The piece consists of three staves of music. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half). The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half). The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The notes are: C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half).

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

Musical notation for 'Deck the Halls' in 4/4 time. The piece consists of three staves of music. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The notes are: D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C#5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The notes are: A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C#5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C#5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The notes are: D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C#5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half).

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

Musical notation for 'Ding Dong Merrily on High' in 2/2 time. The piece consists of three staves of music. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The notes are: G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The notes are: E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half).

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

Musical notation for 'The First Nowell' in G major, 3/4 time. The first staff has chords: A7, D, A, G, D, G, A7, D, A7, D. The second staff has chords: A7, D, 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

Musical notation for 'Gabriel's Message' in G major, 9/8 time. The first staff has chords: Em, D, Em, C, D, B7. The second staff has chords: Em, D, Em, C, D, Em. The third staff has chords: G, Em, D, G, D. The fourth staff has chords: Am, B7, Em, C, Am, D, Em.

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
♩ = 110

Gaudete

Trad. - Pia Cantiones, 1582
Sweden

Musical notation for 'Gaudete' in G major, 2/2 time. The first staff has chords: Am, G, Am, G, Am, G, Am. The second staff has chords: Am, Dm, 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

Musical notation for 'God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen' in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of four staves of music. Chord progressions are indicated above the notes: Em, C, B7, Em, C, B, Am, G, Em, D, G, B7, Em, D, G, B, D, 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

Musical notation for 'Good King Wenceslas' in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of three staves of music. Chord progressions are indicated above the notes: G, C, D7, G, G, Em, C, D7, G, D, G, D7, G, Em, C, G.

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

Musical notation for 'Go Tell It On the Mountain' in G major, 2/2 time. The score consists of two staves of music. Chord progressions are indicated above the notes: G, D, G, D7, G, D7, G, G, D7, G, 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

Musical score for 'Hark The Herald Angels Sing' in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of five staves of music with corresponding chord symbols above each staff. The chords are: G, D, G, D, G, C, D, G; G, D, G, A, D, A, D; D, G, D7, G, D, G, D7, G, D; C, E7, Am, E, Am, D, G, C, D, G; C, E7, Am, E, Am, D, G, C, D, G.

Hark the herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King; (Charles Wesley 1839)
 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!

Irregular
 ♩ = 110

Here We Come A-Wassailing

Trad.

England

Musical score for 'Here We Come A-Wassailing' in G major, 6/8 time. The score consists of four staves of music with corresponding chord symbols above each staff. The chords are: D, A7, D; G, D, A7, Em, A7; D, G, D, 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.

Jig
♩ = 100**In Dulci Jubilo**
Good Christian Men Rejoice*Heinrich Seuse circa 1328*
Germany

Musical notation for 'In Dulci Jubilo' in G major, 6/8 time. The first staff shows the melody with chords G, D, G, D, D, Em, D, Em. The second staff shows the bass line with chords D, Em, Am, Em, C, D, G, D7, G.

In dulci jubilo; 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

Musical notation for 'In the Bleak Midwinter' in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff shows the melody with chords G, Em, Am, D, G, Em, Am, D7, G. The second staff shows the bass line with chords C, Am, Em, G, D, G, Em, Am, D, G.

In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan, (Christina Rossetti, 1872)
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.

Mazurka
♩ = 120**Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**
Złobie Leży*Trad.*
Poland

Musical notation for 'Infant Holy, Infant Lowly' in G major, 3/4 time. The first staff shows the melody with chords G, D, G, C, G, D, D, G, C, G. The second staff shows the bass line with chords C, D, G, C, D7, G, C, G, G, C, G.

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

Musical notation for 'I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In' in G major, 6/8 time. The first staff shows the melody with chords G, D, G, Am, G, D. The second staff shows the bass line with chords G, D, G, Am, G, D, 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
♩ = 200

Jingle Bells

James Lord Pierpont, 1857
USA

Musical notation for 'Jingle Bells' in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of four staves of music. Chord progressions are indicated above the notes: 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
♩ = 100

Joy to the World

Lowell Mason 1839 after Handel
USA after Germany

Musical notation for 'Joy to the World' in D major, 2/2 time. The score consists of three staves of music. Chord progressions are indicated above the notes: D, A, D, A7, D, A7, D, G, A7, D, D, A7, D, G, D, Em, 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

Musical notation for 'Love Came Down at Christmas' in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of two staves of music. Chord progressions are indicated above the notes: G, Em, G, D, G, D, G, D, G, Em, G, D, G, D, C, G.

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 'Mary Had a Baby' in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as ♩ = 130. The piece consists of two lines of music. The first line contains the following chords: G, D7, G, D7, G, D7, C, D. The second line contains: G, D7, C, G, D, G, D7, G. The piece ends with a double bar line.

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

Musical notation for 'My Dancing Day' in G major, 3/4 time. The melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as ♩ = 180. The piece consists of three lines of music. The first line contains the following chords: G, D, G, D, Em, D, G, D. The second line contains: G, C, A7, D, Em, G, D7, G. The third line contains: Am, D7, G, D, A7, D, Em, G, D7, G. The piece ends with a double bar line.

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

Musical notation for 'O Come, All ye Faithful' in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as ♩ = 130. The piece consists of three lines of music. The first line contains the following chords: G, D, G, C, G, D, Em, A, D, A7, D. The second line contains: G, C, G, D, A7, D, G, D, G, D, G. The third line contains: D, G, D7, G, D, G, D7, A7, D, G, C, G, D, G. The piece ends with a double bar line.

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

Musical notation for 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel' in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of three staves of music with corresponding chord symbols above the notes. The chords are: Em, Am, D, G, Em, D, Em; Am, C, D, Em, Am, D, G; D, B7, Em, Am, D, G, Em, 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

Musical notation for 'O Holy Night' in G major, 6/8 time. The score consists of six staves of music with corresponding chord symbols above the notes. The chords are: 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, A, 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 by John Dwight, of Minuit Chrétien by Placide Cappeau, 1847)

March
♩ = 120

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Trad. = Forest Green
England

Musical notation for 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of three staves of music. The first staff has chords D, G, Em, Am, G, C, D, G. The second staff has chords G, Em, A7, D. The third staff has chords D, G, Em, Am, G, C, D, G.

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

Musical notation for 'Once In Royal David's City' in G major, 2/2 time. The score consists of two staves of music. The first staff has chords D7, G, D7, G, Em, G, Am, D7, G. The second staff has chords C, G, Am, D7, G, C, G, Am, D7, G.

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

Musical notation for 'O Tannenbaum' in G major, 3/4 time. The score consists of three staves of music. The first staff has chords D, A7, D, Em, A7, D. The second staff has chords D, A, D. The third staff has chords A7, D, A7, D, Em, A7, D.

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

Musical notation for 'Past Three O'Clock' in 3/4 time, key of G major. The score consists of three staves of music with corresponding chord symbols: G, Em, C, D7, G, D, G, Em, C, D7, G, D, G; Em, Am, D, G, Em, Am, D, Em; G, Em, C, D7, G, D, G, Em, C, D7, G, D7, G.

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

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.

(George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1924)

March
 ♩ = 120

Patapan

Bernard de La Monnoye 1720
 France

Musical notation for 'Patapan' in 2/2 time, key of G major. The score consists of two staves of music with corresponding chord symbols: Em, D, Em, B7, B7, Em; Am, B7, B7, Em, Am, B7, Em.

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!

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.

March
 ♩ = 120

Rocking Carol
 Little Jesus, Sweetly Sleep

Trad.
 Czech

Musical notation for 'Rocking Carol' in 2/2 time, key of G major. The score consists of three staves of music with corresponding chord symbols: G, C, G, C, G, Am, G, D, G; G, C, Am, D, G, C, Am, D; G, C, G, Am, G, D, G.

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

Musical notation for 'The Holly Bears a Berry' in 3/4 time, key of G major. The piece consists of three staves of music. Chords are indicated above the notes: G, D7, G, G, D7, G, D, G, D, D7, G, D, D, G, D7, 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
♩ = 75

See, Amid The Winter's Snow

John Goss, 1871
England

Musical notation for 'See, Amid The Winter's Snow' in 2/2 time, key of G major. The piece consists of two staves of music. Chords are indicated above the notes: G, Em, C, D, G, C, G, D, G, Em, C, D, G, C, D, G, G, C, Am, D, G, C, Am, D, G, Em, C, D, G, C, D7, 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

Musical notation for 'The First Good Joy that Mary Had' in 6/8 time, key of G major. The piece consists of three staves of music. Chords are indicated above the notes: G, D, G, D, D, G, C, G, D, 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

Musical notation for Silent Night, featuring three staves of music with chord symbols C, G, F, G7, and C.

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

Musical notation for Sussex Carol, featuring two staves of music with chord symbols G, C, G, D, G, Am, D, G, D, G, C, D, Am, D, G.

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

Musical notation for Sweet Chiming Bells, featuring three staves of music with chord symbols G, D, G, Am, G, D, G, Am, G, D7, G, C, G, C, G, D, G, C, G, C, 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

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

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
 ♩ = 130

What Child Is This?

Trad. (Greensleeves, 16C)
 England

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
 ♩ = 120

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Trad. - Winchester Old, 1592
 England

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

(Nahum Tate, 1700)

March
♩ = 120

Winter Wonderland

Felix Bernard, 1934
England

Musical notation for 'Winter Wonderland' in 4/4 time, featuring four staves of music with various chords and a 'FINE' ending.

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

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.

(Richard B. Smith 1934).

Irregular
♩ = 60

Zither Carol

Trad.
Czech

Musical notation for 'Zither Carol' in G major, featuring two staves of music with various chords and irregular time signatures (2/4 and 3/4).

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.

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