

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!

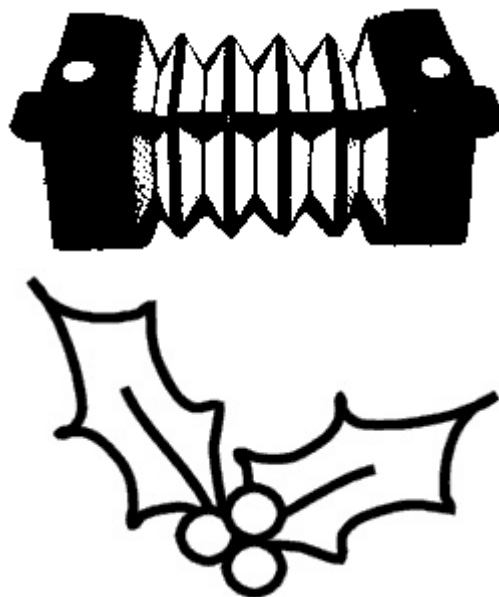
This tunebook has been prepared using the abcm2ps software, with help from abcmus, EasyABC, and ABCexplorer. A big thank you goes to those creative and dedicated people who give their time to create and maintain low-cost or free and open source software for abc music editing and output.

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first line of the melody, starting with a repeat sign. Above the notes are the chords D, A, Bm, G, and A. The second staff contains the second line of the melody, ending with a double bar line and repeat dots. Above the notes are the chords D, G, D, A7, D, A, and 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

The musical score is written on two staves in G major and 3/4 time. The first staff contains the first eight measures, and the second staff contains the final four measures, which are enclosed in repeat signs. Chord symbols are placed above the notes on each staff.

Staff 1 Chords: G, D, G, Am, D7, G, G, D, G, Am, D7, G

Staff 2 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 wrapped 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*

Am Em Am Em Am F G D Em

Am Em Am Em C F C F E

Am G C F D7 G Em C G

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*

The musical score consists of four staves. The first two staves are treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The first staff has a G chord above the first measure, and D and G chords above the second and third measures respectively. The second staff has G, D, G, D, and G chords above its measures. The third and fourth staves are bass clef and contain a sequence of chords: G, Em, Am, D7, G, C, D, G, D, G, C, G, D, 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

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'As With Gladness, Men of Old'. It consists of two staves of music in G major and 4/4 time. 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 chords G, C, G, Em, and D are indicated. Above the second staff, the chords G, D, G, C, D7, and G are indicated. The melody is written in eighth and quarter notes, with a repeat sign at the end of the first staff.

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 a single melodic line 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 110 beats per minute. The score consists of two staves of music. Above the first staff, the following chords are indicated: G, D7, G, Em, Am, D, G, A7, D7. Above the second staff, the following chords are indicated: G, D7, G, Em, Am, D, G, Am, D7, G. The melody is a simple, flowing line of eighth and quarter notes.

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 consists of four staves of music in 4/4 time. The melody is written in treble clef. Above the notes, guitar chords are indicated: C, G, C, G, F, G, C on the first staff; C, G, C, G, F, G, C on the second staff; C, G, C, G, F, G, C on the third staff; and C, G, C, G, F, G, C on the fourth staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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

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 image shows two staves of musical notation for 'The Cherry Tree Carol'. The first staff has a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes and eighth notes. Above the staff are the following chords: G, Em, C, Am, G, D, Em. The second staff also has a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 4/4 time signature. The melody continues with quarter notes and eighth notes. Above this staff are the following chords: G, Em, D, G, C, D, G. The piece ends with a double bar line.

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

The musical score is written in treble clef with a 2/2 time signature. It consists of three staves of music. Above each staff are chord symbols: C, Am, Em, F, C, Am, F, G, C for the first staff; C, Am, F, G, Em, Am, E, Am, E7, Am for the second staff; and F, C, F, G, Am, E, Am, F, G, C for the third staff. The music is a march in the key of C major.

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the song 'Christmas is Coming'. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/2. The first staff contains the first six measures of the melody, with chords D, G, A, D, G, and A7 D indicated above the notes. The second staff contains the remaining six measures, with chords D, G A D, A7, and D indicated above the notes. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with a final double bar line at the end of the second staff.

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 | 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

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 with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The chord progression is as follows:

- Staff 1: D (measures 1-2), A (measures 3-4), D (measures 5-6), A (measures 7-8), D (measures 9-10).
- Staff 2: A (measures 1-2), D (measures 3-4), A (measures 5-6), D (measures 7-8), Bm (measures 9-10), E7 (measures 11-12), A (measures 13-14).
- Staff 3: D (measures 1-2), G (measures 3-4), D (measures 5-6), A (measures 7-8), D (measures 9-10).

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

The musical score is written on three staves in G major and 2/2 time. The first staff contains the first six measures with chords G, D, G, C, D7, and G. The second staff contains measures 7-12 with chords G, Em, Am, D7, G, Em, Am, and D7. The third staff contains the final six measures with chords Em, C, D, C, D7, and G. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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 piece consists of two staves of music. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second staff has a bass clef and the same key signature. The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style. Chords are indicated above the notes: A7, D, A, G, D, G, A7, D, A7, D on the first staff; and A7, D, F#m, G, D, G, A7, D, A7, D on the second staff. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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 notes are: Staff 1: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4; Staff 2: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4; Staff 3: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4; Staff 4: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: Em, D, Em, C, D, B7 (Staff 1); Em, D, Em, C, D, Em (Staff 2); G, Em, D, G, D (Staff 3); Am, B7, Em, C, Am, D, Em (Staff 4). Time signatures 9/8 and 12/8 are indicated above the staves.

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. - *Piae Cantiones*, 1582

Sweden

The musical score consists of two staves of music in treble clef. The first staff begins in 2/2 time and contains the first six measures. Above the notes are the chords: Am, G, Am, G, Am, G. The second staff contains the remaining six measures, with chords: Am, Dm, Am, G, Am. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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*

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

- Staff 1: G4, A4, B4, C5, G4, A4, B4, C5, G4, A4, B4, C5, G4, A4, B4, C5, G4.
- Staff 2: G4, A4, B4, C5, G4, A4, B4, C5, G4, A4, B4, C5, G4, A4, B4, C5, G4.
- Staff 3: G4, A4, B4, C5, G4, A4, B4, C5, G4, A4, B4, C5, G4, A4, B4, C5, G4.
- Staff 4: G4, A4, B4, C5, G4, A4, B4, C5, G4, A4, B4, C5, G4, A4, B4, C5, G4.

The guitar chords are: Em, C, B7, Em, C, B, Am, G, Em, D, G, B7, Em, D, 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 consists of three staves of music in G major and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written in quarter notes. Above the staff are the chords G, C, D7, and G. The second staff continues the melody with chords G, Em, C, D7, and G. The third staff concludes the piece with chords D, G, D7, G, Em, C, and 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 on two staves in G major and 2/2 time. The first staff contains the first line of music with chords G, D, G, D7, G, D7, and G. The second staff contains the second line of music with chords G, D7, G, G, A, D, and D7. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes.

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

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 130 beats per minute. The score consists of five staves of music. Above the first four staves, chord symbols are provided for each measure. 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. The melody features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests.

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 on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first three staves are in 6/8 time, and the fourth staff is in 2/2 time. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some dotted rhythms. Chord symbols are placed above the notes to indicate the accompaniment.

Staff 1: D, A7, D

Staff 2: G, D, A7, Em, A7

Staff 3: D, G, D, A7, D, G, D, A7, D, B7, Em, A7

Staff 4: 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 consists of four staves of music in G major and 3/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is written in eighth and quarter notes. Chords G, C, and D are indicated above the first three measures. The second staff continues the melody with chords Am, D, G, D, and G. The third staff continues with chords G, C, G, C, and D. The fourth staff concludes the piece with chords G, Am, D, G, D, and G. The score ends with a double bar line.

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

The musical score is written in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Above the staff, the chords are labeled: Am, Em, Am, Em, Am. The second staff continues the melody, with chords labeled below: Em, G, Am, Em, Am, Em, Am, Em Am. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

'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 D 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, a 'G' chord is indicated. The melody continues through several measures, ending with a double bar line and repeat dots. Above the staff, a first ending box contains a 'D' chord, and a second ending box contains 'D' and 'G' chords. The second staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 4/4 time signature. The melody starts on G4. Above the staff, 'G', 'C', 'D', and 'G' chords are indicated. The melody continues through several measures, ending with a double bar line and repeat dots. Above the staff, a first ending box contains 'C' and 'D7' chords, and a second ending box contains 'C' and 'D' chords.

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the song 'In Dulci Jubilo'. The first staff contains the first line of music, and the second staff contains the second line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: G, D, G, D, D, Em, D, Em on the first staff; and D, Em, Am, Em, C, D, G, D7, G on the second staff.

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 two staves of musical notation for the piece 'In the Bleak Midwinter'. 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, with chords G, Em, Am, D, G, Em, Am, and D7 indicated above the notes. The second staff contains the next eight measures, with chords C, Am, Em, G, D, G, Em, Am, D, and G indicated above the notes. The notation includes quarter notes, eighth notes, and rests.

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
Złobie Leży

Trad.
Poland

Chords for the first staff: G, D, G, C, G, D, D, G, C, G

Chords for the second staff: 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

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the jig 'I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In'. 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 indicated above the notes. The second staff contains the remaining six measures, with chords G, D, G, Am, G, D, and G indicated above the notes. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, with a final double bar line at the end of the second staff.

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 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 120 beats per minute. The score consists of four staves of music. Above the notes, chord symbols are provided for each measure: G, Em, C, D, G, C, G (Staff 1); G, Em, C, D, G, D, G (Staff 2); G, B7, Em, A7, D (Staff 3); D, G, Em, C, D, G, D, G (Staff 4).

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the song 'I Wonder as I Wander'. 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 Bm, D, A7, Bm, F#m, and Bm written above it. The second staff contains the next six measures, with chords Bm, G, D, Bm, D, and Bm written above it. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, with a final measure in the second staff ending with a double bar line.

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

The musical score is written on two staves in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. Above the staff, the following chords are indicated: C, G, C, G, C, G, C, G, C, G. The second staff continues the melody with the following chords: C, F, C, G, C, G, C, F, C. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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

Musical score for Jingle Bells, featuring guitar chords (G, C, Am, D7, G, C, Am, G, D7, G, D7, G, C, G, A7, D7, G, C, G, D7, G) written above the notes on a treble clef staff.

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

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the song 'Love Came Down at Christmas'. The first staff contains the melody and the second staff contains the bass line. Above the first staff are the following chords: G, Em, G, D, G, D, G, D. Above the second staff are the following chords: G, Em, G, D, G, D, C, G. The music is in G major and 4/4 time.

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

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

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. Above the notes, guitar chords are indicated: G, D, G, D, Em, D, G, D; G, C, A7, D, Em, G, D7, G; Am, D7, G, D, A7, D, Em, G, D7, 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

The musical score is written on three staves in G major and 4/4 time. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: G, D, G, C, G, D, Em, A, D, A7, D, G, C, G, D, G, D, G, D, G, D7, G, D, G, D7, A7, D, G, C, G, D, G.

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

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

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of six staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes 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.

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
J = 120

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Trad. = Forest Green
England

The musical score is written on three staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: D, G, Em, Am, G, C, D, G on the first line; G, Em, A7, D on the second line; and D, G, Em, Am, G, C, D, G on the third line. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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 song '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 treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second staff has a bass clef and the same key signature. Above the first staff, the following chords are written: D7, G, D7, G, Em, G, Am, D7, G. Above the second staff, the following chords are written: C, G, Am, D7, G, C, G, Am, D7, G. The melody is written in eighth and quarter notes, with a repeat sign at the end of the first staff.

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

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

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

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

Chord symbols for the third staff: 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

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 gaïment.

March
 ♩ = 120

Rocking Carol
Little Jesus, Sweetly Sleep

Trad.
Czech

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 2/2 time. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 120. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: G, C, G, C, G, Am, G, D, G on the first staff; G, C, Am, D, G, C, Am, D on the second staff; and G, C, G, Am, G, D, G on the third staff.

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 consists of three staves of music in treble clef, 3/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written on the first staff, and the accompaniment is split between the second and third staves. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: G, D7, G, G, D7, G on the first staff; D, G, D, G, G, D7, G, D on the second staff; and D, G, D7, G on the third staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment in 2/2 time, G major. It consists of two staves of music. The first staff contains the first eight measures, and the second staff contains the remaining eight measures. Above each staff, the corresponding chords are indicated: G, Em, C, D, G, C, G, D, G, Em, C, D, G, C, D, G for the first staff; and G, C, Am, D, G, C, Am, D, G, Em, C, D, G, C, D7, G for the second staff. The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some dotted rhythms.

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 notation consists of three staves in treble clef, 6/8 time signature, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written on the first staff, and the accompaniment is written on the second and third staves. Chord symbols (G, D, C) are placed above the notes to indicate the harmonic structure. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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

Chords for the first staff: G, C, G, D, G, Am, D, G

Chords for the second staff: 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

The musical score is written on three staves in G major and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody with a repeat sign at the end. The second and third staves provide chord accompaniment. The chords are: G, D, G, G, 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
J = 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 seven 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 three measures, with chords: D, A7, D, G, C, 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 image shows two staves of musical notation for the song 'We Wish You A Merry Christmas'. The first staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. Above the staff, the following chords are indicated: G, C, A, D, B7, Em, C, D, G. The second staff is also in treble clef with the same key signature and time signature. Its melody is simpler, primarily using quarter notes. Above this staff, the following chords are indicated: G, D, A, D7, G, D, C, D, G. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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

The musical score consists of four staves of music in 6/8 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The chords and lyrics are as follows:

- Staff 1:** Em B7 Em B7 Em
- Staff 2:** D G D7 Am B7 Em D7
- Staff 3:** G C G C G
- Staff 4:** Em D G C D G C G

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

The musical score consists of four staves of music in 3/4 time, key of D major. The notes are: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. The chords are: Em, D, Em, B7, Em, D, Em, B7, Em, G, D, Em, B7, Em, G, D, Em, B7, 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
 ♩ = 120

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

*Trad. - Winchester Old, 1592
 England*

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, and D4. Chords G, D, G, C, G, D, G, A7, and D are indicated above the notes. The second staff contains the bass line with notes G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2, F#2, E2, and D2. Chords G, C, Am, D, G, Am, D7, and G are indicated above the notes.

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
J = 120

Winter Wonderland

Felix Bernard, 1934
England

The musical score is written on four staves in 4/4 time. The melody line is in treble clef. Chords are indicated above the notes. The piece ends with a double bar line and the word 'FINE'.

Chords: G7, C, G7, C, G7, C, FINE

Chords: Dm, E, A, E, E, A, E, D7

Chords: G, C, G, Em, D7, G, D.C.

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 notation consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and an irregular meter. The first measure is in 2/4 time, followed by a 3/4 measure, then another 2/4 measure, and finally a 3/4 measure. Chord symbols G, D7, A7, D, G, D7, and G are placed above the notes. The second staff continues the melody with chord symbols C, G, C, G, D, G, D7, and G placed above the notes.

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.