

Canite Tuba

Canite tuba in Sion,
quia prope est dies Domini,
ecce venit ad salvandum nos.
Erunt prava in directa,
et aspera in vias planas:
veni Domine, et noli tardare.
Alleluja.

Rorate cœli de super,
et nubes pluant justum;
aperiatur terra,
et germinet salvatorem.
Ostende nobis Domine,
misericordiam tuam,
et salutare tuum da nobis.
Veni Domine, et noli tardare.
Alleluja.

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

*Sound the trumpets in Zion,
for the day of the Lord is at hand.
Lo, he comes to save us.
The straight paths have become crooked,
the smooth paths rough.
Come, Lord, and do not tarry.
Alleluia.*

*Drop from above, oh heavens,
and let the skies rain justice;
let the earth open,
and bring forth salvation.
Show us, oh Lord,
Your mercy,
and give to us your bounty.
Come, Lord, and do not tarry.
Alleluia.*

Alma Redemptoris Mater

Alma Redemptoris Mater,
quae per via coeli porta manes
et stella maris, succure cadenti
surgere qui curat populo:
Tu quae genuisti, natura mirante,
Tuum sanctum genitorem:
Virgo prius ac posterius,
Gabrielis ab ore
sumens illud Ave,
peccatorum miserere.

*Loving Mother of the Redeemer,
open door to heaven and star of the sea,
come quickly to the aid of your people,
fallen, indeed, but striving to rise again.
To nature's astonishment
You were the mother of your Holy Creator
without ceasing to be a virgin,
and heard from Gabriel
that greeting, "hail."
Have pity on us sinners.*

Ein Kind ist uns geboren

Heinrich Schütz

Ein Kind ist uns geboren,
ein Sohn ist uns gegeben,
welches Herrschaft ist auf seiner Schulter,
und er heißt: Wunderbar,
Rat, Kraft, Held, Ewigvater,
Friedefürst,
auf daß seine Herrschaft
groß werde, und des Friedens
kein Ende,
auf dem Stuhle David,
und seinem Königreiche,
daß er's zurihte und stärke
mit Gericht und Gerechtigkeit,
solches wird tun der Eifer
des Herren Zebaoth.

*Unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given,
whose government is upon His shoulder,
and His name is: Wonderful,
Counselor, Might, Hero, Father Eternal,
Peace-Prince,
so that His government might
grow great, and of peace
there shall be no end,
upon the throne of David,
and his kingdom
that He will ordain and strengthen it
with judgement and justice,
So shall do the zeal
of the Lord.*

Isaiah IX: 6-7

~ translation by Bernard Greenberg

O Magnum Misterium

John Harbison

O magnum misterium,
et admirabile sacramentum
ut animalia viderent
Dominum natum
jacentem in praesepio.
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera
meruerunt portare Dominum.
Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum, Amen.

*O great mystery
and wondrous sacrament
that animals should witness
the Lord's birth,
cast down in a manger.
Blessed Virgin, whose womb
is worthy to bear our Lord.
Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord be with you, Amen.*

Sei, lieber Tag, willkommen

Johann Michael Bach

Sei, lieber Tag, willkommen,
willkommen sei du heut!
Heut freuen sich die Frommen,
die Frommen, die allzeit,
allzeit den großen Gott,
Gott, ihren Schöpfer, loben,
ihn loben hoch dort oben,
erlöst aus aller Not.

*Welcome, beloved day,
be welcome today!
Today, true believers rejoice,
true believers who always,
always praise God in his greatness,
God, their creator,
praising him there on high,
freed from any danger.*

Denn an dem Tage brachte
der liebste Gottessohn,
was Freude bei uns machte,
aus seinem Himmelsthron:
Ein schönes neues Jahr,
Glück, Heil und allen Segen
zu Wegen und zu Stegen
der ganzen Christenschar!

*For, on that day,
the dearest Son of God
brought from his heavenly throne
the cause of our rejoicing.
A fine new year,
happiness, salvation, and every blessing
at each step along the way
For the whole company of Christians!*

Drum kommt, ihr Christenbrüder,
kommt her an diesem Tag,
kommt, fallt für Jesu nieder,
damit es euch behag!
Kommt, dankt und bittet ihn,
daß er in diesem Jahre
euch väterlich bewahre
und tue wie vorhin!

*Come, therefore, Christian brethren,
come here on this day,
come fall prostrate before Jesus
to your delight!
Come, give thanks,
and beseech his fatherly protection
this year, and ask that
He should look after you as before.*

Laßt eure Stimmen hören,
laßt klingen Saiten drein,
lobt ihn mit vollen Chören,
laßt alles fröhlich sein!
Singt, singet eurem Gott,
singt, lobet, danket, betet,
vor euren Jesu tretet,
er schützt vor Not und Tod!

*Let your voices be heard,
let your harmonies resound,
sing the chorus of His praise,
let everyone rejoice!
Sing, sing to your God
sing, praise, give thanks and pray,
come before your Jesus,
Your shield from death and danger.*

Hodie Christus Natus Est

Hodie Christus natus est; noe, noe.
Hodie Salvator apparuit; noe, noe.
Hodie in terra canunt angeli,
laetantur archangeli; noe, noe.
Hodie exultant iusti, dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo; noe, noe.

*Christ is born today; noel.
Today the Saviour has appeared; noel.
Today on Earth the angels sing,
archangels rejoice; noel.
Today the righteous exult, saying,
Glory to God in the highest; noel.*

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that greeting, "hail."
Have pity on us sinners.*

~ © 2002 John W. Ehrlich

A Boy was Born (*three excerpts*)

Benjamin Britten

Theme: A Boy was Born

A Boy was born in Bethlehem;
Rejoice for that, Jerusalem!
Alleluya.

He let himself a servant be,
That all mankind He might set free:
Alleluya.

Then praise the Word of God who came
To dwell within a human frame:
Alleluya.

*~ Text translated from 16th c. German
by N.S.T. in the Oxford Book of Carols*

Variation III: Jesu, as Thou art our Saviour

Jesu, Jesu, Jesu, Jesu,
Save us all through Thy virtue.

Jesu, as Thou art our Saviour
That Thou save us fro' dolour!
Jesu is mine paramour.
Bless'd be Thy name. Jesu!

Jesu was born of a may
Upon Christēmas Day,
She was may befornd and ay,
Blessed be Thy name. Jesu!

~ Anonymous (15th c.)

Variation V: In the Bleak Mid-Winter

In the bleak mid-winter
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 mid-winter
Long ago.

He bare him up, he bare him down,
He bare him into an orchard brown.

Lully, lulley, lully, lulley,
The falcon hath borne
my make away.

In that orchard there was an hall
That was hangēd with purple
and pall.
And in that hall there was a bed,
It was hangēd with gold so red.

Lully, lulley, lully, lulley,
The falcon hath borne
my make away.

In that bed there lieth a knight,
His woundēs bleeding, day
and night.
By that bedside kneeleth a may,
And she weepeth both night and day.

Lully, lulley, lully, lulley,
The falcon hath borne
my make away.

And by that bedside there
standeth a stone,
Corpus Christi written thereon.

~ Chorus verse: Christina G. Rossetti

~ Solo verse: Anonymous (15th c.)

Hymn to the Virgin

John Joubert

Of on that is so fayre and bright

Velut maris stella,

Brighter than the day is light,

Parens et puella:

Ik crie to the, thou see to me,

Levedy, preye thi Sone for me,

Tam pia,

That ic mote come to thee,

Maria.

Levedy, flour of alle thing,

Rosa sine spina,

Thu bere Jhesu, hevене king,

Gratia divina:

Of alle thu berst the pris,

Levedy, quene of paradys,

Electa:

Mayde milde, Moder,

es Effecta.

~Anonymous, 15th Century

Das neugeborne Kindelein

Dietrich Buxtehude

Das neugeborne Kindelein,

das herzeliebe Jesulein

bringt abermal ein neues Jahr

der auserwählten Christen Schar.

The new-born little child,

the dearly beloved little Jesus

brings once again a new year

to his favored Christian flock.

Des freuen sich die Engelein,

die gerne um und bei uns sein

und singen in den Lüften frei,

daß Gott mit uns versöhnet sei.

The little angels rejoice

who are happily around and with us

and singing freely in the heavens

that God may be reconciled with us.

Ist Gott versöhnt und unser Freund,

was kann uns tun der arge Feind?

Trotz Teufel, Welt und Höllenpfort!

Herr Jesu, du bist unser Hort!

Since God is appeased and our friend,

What can the wicked foe (Satan) do to us?

Despite the Devil, sin, and hell's portals,

Lord Jesus, you are our refuge.

Du bringst das rechte Jubeljahr.

Was trauern wir dann immerdar?

Frisch auf, es ist jetzt Singens Zeit:

Herr Jesu, du wendst alles Leid!

You bring us a true jubilee –

Why should we always be downcast?

Look alive! – it's now time for singing:

Lord Jesus, you turn away all barm.

~Cyriacus Scheegrass, 1597

~ © 2002 John W. Ehrlich

Deutsches Magnificat

Heinrich Schütz

Meine Seele erhebt den Herren,
und mein Geist freuet sich
Gottes, meines Heilandes.
Denn er hat die Niedrigkeit
seiner Magd angesehen;
siehe, von nun an
werden mich selig preisen
alle Kindeskind.
Denn er hat große Ding' an mir getan,
der da mächtig ist
und des Name heilig ist.
Er übet Gewalt mit seinem Arm
und zerstreuet, die hoffärtig sind
in ihres Herzens Sinn.
Er stößet die Gewaltigen vom Stuhl,
und erhöhet die Niedrigen.
Die Hungerigen füllet er mit Gütern,
und lasset die Reichen leer.
Er denket der Barmherzigkeit
und hilft seinem Diener Israel auf,
wie er gered't hat unsern Vätern,
Abraham und seinem Samen ewiglich.
Ehre sei dem Vater, und dem Sohn
und auch dem Heiligen Geiste.
Wie es war im Anfang, jetzt und immerdar
und von Ewigkeit zu Ewigkeit,
Amen.

*My soul doth exalt the Lord,
and my spirit doth rejoice in
God, my Saviour:
For He hath beheld the lowliness
of His handmaiden.
Behold, from now on
all generations
Shall praise me as blessed.
For He hath for me done great things,
He who is mighty,
and whose name is Holy.
He showeth power with His arm,
and scattereth the haughty
In their own minds' hearts.
He casteth the powerful down from their seat,
and raiseth up the lowly,
He filleth the hungry with goodly things,
And leaveth void the wealthy.
He thinketh of mercy,
and helpeth His servant Israel,
as He told our fathers,
Abraham and his seed, forever.
Glory be to the Father; and to the Son,
And also to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, now
And from eternity to eternity,
Amen.*

Luke 1: 46-55

~ translation by Bernard Greenberg