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Andrea and Emily are delighted to be wearing dresses from Coast and tfnc

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ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

Once in royal David's 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.

He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in Heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

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!

"For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold.
Most highly favour'd lady," Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"My soul shall laud and magnify His Holy Name."
Most highly favour'd lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
"Most highly favour'd lady," Gloria!

MAGNIFICAT QUINTI TONI (CHRISTMAS)

Magnificat anima mea Dominum,
My soul doth magnify the Lord,
Et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo.
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae. Ecce enim ex hoc
beatam me dicent omnes generationes.
*For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold,
from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed,*
Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est, et sanctum nomen eius.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his Name.
Et misericordia eius a progenie in progenies timentibus eum.
And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.
Fecit potentiam in brachio suo, dispersit superbos mente
cordis sui.
*He hath showed strength with his arm, he hath scattered the
proud in the imagination of their hearts.*
Deposuit potentes de sede et exaltavit humiles.
*He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted
the humble and meek.*
Esurientes implevit bonis et divites dimisit inanes,
*He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath
sent empty away.*
Suscepit Israel puerum suum recordatus misericordiae suae,
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,
Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros, Abraham et semini eius
in saecula.
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.
Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula
saeculorum. Amen.
*As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen.*

O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM

O magnum mysterium,
et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent
Dominum natum,
jacentem in praesepio!
Beata Virgo, cuius viscera
meruerunt portare
Dominum Christum.
Alleluia.

*O great mystery,
and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see
the new-born Lord,
lying in a manger!
Blessed is the Virgin, whose
womb was worthy to bear
Christ the Lord.
Alleluia.*

AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger, no crib for a 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.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

DING DONG! MERRILY ON HIGH

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!"

E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And io, io, io,
By priest and people sungen,
"Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!"

Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime
Your evetime song, ye singers:
"Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!"

I WONDER AS I WANDER

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
Why Jesus the Saviour came down from on high,
For us lowly people to suffer and die,
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Jesus was born it was in a cow's stall,
Came angels and shepherds and wisemen and all,
And from the high heaven a star's light did fall,
The wonderful promise of God to recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any one thing;
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heaven to sing,
He surely could have it, for He was the King.

I wonder as I wander out under sky,
Why Jesus the Saviour came down from on high,
For us lowly people to suffer and die,
I wonder as I wander...

TOTUS TUUS

Maria!
Totus tuus sum, Maria,
Mater nostri Redemptoris,
Virgo Dei, virgo pia
Mater mundi Salvatoris.
Tutus tuus sum, Maria.

*Mary!
I am completely yours, Mary,
Mother of our Redeemer,
Virgin Mother of God, blessed virgin,
Mother of the world's Saviour.
I am completely yours, Mary!*

COVENTRY CAROL

Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child,
By by, lully lullay,
Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child,
By by, lully lullay,

O sisters too,
How may we do
For to preserve this day
This poor youngling,
For whom we do sing,
By by, lully lullay?

Herod, the king,
In his raging,
Charged he hath this day
His men of might,
In his own sight,
All young children to slay.

That woe is me,
Poor child for thee!
And ever morn and day,
For thy parting
Neither say nor sing
By by, lully lullay!

ANDREA HAINES

Soprano

Emily Dickens

Soprano

Chris Wardle

Countertenor

Barnaby Smith

Countertenor

Charles MacDougall

Tenor

Robert Smith

Tenor

Paul Smith

Baritone

Dingle Yandell

Bass

JESU, SWETE SONE DEAR

Jesu, swetë sonë dere,
On porful bed list thou here,
And that me greveth sore;
For thy cradel is a bere,
Oxe and assë beeth thy fere:
Weepe ich may therefore.

*Jesu, dear sweet son,
You lie here on a poor bed,
And that grieves me sorely;
For your cradle is like a litter,
Ox and ass are your companions:
Therefore may I weep.*

Jesu, swetë, be not wroth,
Though ich nabbë clout ne cloth
Thee on for to folde,
Thee on to foldë ne to wrappe,
For ich nabbë clout ne lappe;
But lay thou thy feet to my pappe,
And wite thee from the colde.

*Jesu, sweet, be not angry,
Though I have neither patch nor cloth
In which to fold you,
In which to fold or to wrap you,
For I have neither patch nor crasse;
But lay your feet to my breast,
And keep you from the cold.*

AT THE MANGER MARY SINGS

O shut your bright eyes that mine must endanger
With their watchfulness; protected by its shade
Escape from my care: what can you discover
From my tender look but how to be afraid?
Love can but confirm the more it would deny.
Close your bright eye.

VIDENTES STELLAM

Videntes stellam
When they saw the star
magi gavisi sunt gaudio magno,
the wise men were greatly delighted,
et intrantes domum
and they entered the house
obtulerunt Domino
and offered to the Lord
aurum, thus et myrrham.
gold, frankincense and myrrh.

IN DULCI JUBILO

In dulci jubilo
nun singet und seid froh!
Unsers Herzens Wonne
leit in praesepio,
und leuchtet als die Sonne,
matris in gremio.
Alpha es et O!

*With sweet rejoicing
now sing and be glad!
Our hearts' delight
is lying in a manger
and shines forth like the sun
on His mother's lap.
You are the Alpha and Omega.*

O Jesu parvule,
nach dir ist mir so Weh!
Tröst mir mein Gemüte,
O puer optime
durch alle deine Güte,
O princeps gloriae,
trahe me post te.

*O tiny baby Jesus
I so long for You!
comfort my soul,
O peerless boy;
by all your goodness,
O Prince of Glory,
draw me to you.*

O patris caritas,
O nati lenitas!
Wir wären all verloren
per nostra crimina,
so hat er uns erworben
coelorum gaudia:
eia wären wir da!

*O love of the Father,
O leniency of the Son!
We were all lost
through our sins
until You gained for us
the joys of heaven:
O that we were there!*

Ubi sunt gaudia,
nirgends mehr denn da!
Da die Engel singen,
O nova cantica,
und die Schellen klingen,
in Regis curia:
eia wären wir da!

*Joys are there
as in no other place!
There the angels sing
a new song
and the bells ring out
in the court of the King:
O that we were there!*

BETHELEHEM DOWN

"When he is King, we will give him the Kings' gifts,
Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,
Beautiful robes," said the young girl to Joseph,
Fair with her first-born on Bethlehem Down.

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

When he is King they will clothe him in grave-sheets,
Myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown,
He that lies now in the white arms of Mary,
Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.

Here he has peace and a short while for dreaming,
Close-huddled oxen to keep him from cold,
Mary for love, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

THERE IS NO ROSE

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu.
Alleluia. *Alleluia!*

For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space;
Res miranda. *Wonderous thing!*

By that rose we may well see
That he is God in persons three,
Pari forma. *Equal in form!*

The angels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis Deo:
Gaudeamus. *Let us rejoice!*

Leave we all this worldly mirth,
And follow we this joyful birth;
Tranreamus. *We will go!*

NESCIENS MATER

Nesciens mater virgo virum
The Virgin Mother who knew not a man
peperit salvatorem seculorum;
bore the Saviour of the world;
ipsum regem angelorum
the Virgin alone suckled
sola virgo lactabat,
the very King of the angels,
uber a de celo plena.
her breasts were filled from heaven.

THE THREE KINGS

Three Kings from Persian lands afar
To Jordan follow the pointing star:
And this the quest of the travellers three,
Where the new-born King of the Jews may be.
Full royal gifts they bear for the King:
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

How brightly shines the morning star!
With grace and truth from heaven afar
Our Jesse tree now bloweth.

The star shines out with a steadfast ray;
The kings to Bethlehem make their way,
And there in worship they bend the knee,
As Mary's child in her lap they see;
Their royal gifts they show to the King;
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

Of Jacob's stem and David's line,
For thee, my Bridegroom, King divine,
My soul with love o'erfloweth.

Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem
The Kings are travelling, travel with them!
The star of mercy, the star of grace,
Shall lead thy heart to its resting place.
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;
Offer thy heart to the infant King.

Thy word, Jesu, Inly feeds us,
Rightly leads us, Life bestowing.
Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing.

WHAT CHEER?

What cheer? Good cheer!
Be merry and glad this good New Year!

"Lift up your hearts and be glad
In Christ's birth," the angel bade,
Say each to other, if any be sad:
"What cheer?"

Now the King of heav'n his birth hath take,
Joy and mirth we ought to make;
Say each to other, for his sake:
"What cheer?"

I tell you all with heart so free:
Right welcome, welcome, ye be to me;
Be glad and merry, for charity!

What cheer? Good cheer!
Be merry and glad this good New Year!

Finally, we come to the festive season full of expectation. The sense of anticipation of the Epiphany journey is illustrated by Francis Poulenc in two motets, *O Magnum Mysterium* and *Videntes Stellam*, both taken from his Quatre Motets pour le temps de Noël. Poulenc's writing is gloriously evocative of the magic of the Magi on a starlit night and of the rich aroma of frankincense and myrrh.

The origins of this melody must have played just as important a part. Let steeple bells be swungen.

More familiar is *Once in Royal David's City*, which first achieved its iconic place in 1919 when it was sung at the opening of the first Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College, Cambridge, and now heralds the beginning of Christmas for people all around the world. Since that performance it has become tradition for the first verse to be sung by a solo chorister and the second verse by the choir. VOCES8's arrangement pays homage to this, but develops the carol in a capella style with a close-harmony final verse and descent written by Composer-in-Residence, Thomas Hewitt Jones. *Ding Dong Merrily on High* first appeared as a brail melody, a secular dance tune from twelfth-century France, named for its characteristic side-to-side movement (from the French branler, 'to sway'). It is often stated that the carol's lyricist, George Woodward (1848-1934), found inspiration for the text in his keen interest in church bell ringing, but in-Residence, Thomas Hewitt Jones. *Ding Dong Merrily on High* first appeared as a brail melody, a secular dance tune from twelfth-century France, named for its characteristic side-to-side movement (from the French branler, 'to sway'). It is often stated that the carol's lyricist, George Woodward (1848-1934), found inspiration for the text in his keen interest in church bell ringing, but

In contrast the more grand and theatrical nature of *What Cheer?* hints at Walton's mastery in the genres of oratorio and symphony and really appeals to VOCES8's passion for the theatrical. More subtle and discrete are three carols dependent on the marriage of text and song, and written by composers of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries: Warlock, Cornelius and Walton. The song-like nature of *Bethlehem Down* and *The Three Kings*, the latter featuring a solo bass-baritone, is unsurprising given the accomplishments of both Warlock and Cornelius as solo song writers.

There can hardly be a more strident and glorious setting of the most famous Marian text of all than Michael Praetorius's Christmas *Magnificat Quinti Toni*, found in the second volume of Cantiones Sacrae (1599), alongside *In Dulci Jubilo*. These rich and exuberant double-choir settings allow the eight voices of the ensemble to shine in resplendent choral interplay.

these is an arrangement of the mediæval *Coventry Carol*, which, although a lullaby, is full of foreboding and woe at the future of the new-born infant king.

harmless of carols such as this, must have influenced Graham Lacy, whose Lullabie, *Jesu, Swete Sone Dear* and *At the Manger Mary Sings* are intimate monologues of Mary. In opposition to featured. Many carols of the middle ages use the rose's precious holiness as a symbol of Mary, but none more beautifully than *There is no Rose of such virtue*. This symbolism, and the sweet modal written in 1867 to celebrate Pope John Paul II's pilgrimage to his native Poland (of which Mary is the patron saint). Alongside these two giants, three more intimate carol contemplations of Mary are associated with Christmas. The first of these, the child-like tender lullaby *Away in a Manger*, is amongst the most famous of all carols. *I Wonder as I Wander* started life as a fragment of a song collected in 1933: oldfoster and singer J. J. Niles heard a girl sing just a single line of the song and extemporised on it to give us the tune we know and love today. In first arrangement, this beautiful undulating melody sung first by itself, opens up into broad and warm harmony, drawn along by some of the most beautiful lyrics in all of the English language. Towards the end of the carol is a Basque Christmas folk carol about the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary. The sonorous opening chords and expansive accompaniment to each solo suggest the angelic nature of the announcement. Jim

chooses the final word of the chorus, 'Gloria', to open the carol, as the arrival of Gabriel is heralded by the angelic choir. The members of VOCES8 perform this carol with particular fondness as it comes from the Basque region of Spain, where the ensemble spent much time in the early years of the group and cherish many memories.

VOCES8: Christmas was conceived as a heart-warming selection of the ensemble's favourite seasonal music. Drawing on the themes of the Virgin Mary, the Wise Men, the Nativity, jubilation and festive cheer, VOCES8 chooses to present an array of works influenced by the group's inimitable zest for performance and love of all periods and styles of music.

