Never Mind the Reindeer

Traditional Carols, Songs and Music for Winter, Christmas and New Year

Transcribed for ukulele by George Hinchliffe, from the album by THE UKULELE ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN
“Never Mind the Reindeer”

Traditional Carols, Songs and Music for Winter, Christmas and New Year
Transcribed by George Hinchliffe of The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain

“Never Mind the Reindeer” was an all instrumental CD released by The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain in 1996.

In 2020 the Orchestra is releasing this song book of transcriptions for ukulele of the pieces from the original album, with the addition of some extra music. These arrangements for ukulele are copyright but they are being given free in December 2020.

In this winter of Covid, amid restrictions and economic difficulties all over the world, when so many people are feeling the economic pinch, the Orchestra is offering this music as a Christmas present to the world.

If anyone who finds this music useful is solvent or still working they can of course make a donation via the donation page at UkuleleOrchestra.com. The Orchestra in common with many freelance performers, workers and musicians has had no live work since February 2020. Any donations would be much appreciated but if you are under pressure do feel free to take this as a gift.

Most of these pieces are given here with English words, the melody in musical notation, the melody in ukulele tablature for GCEA tuned Ukulele, the chord names and the chord window diagrams for GCEA tuned ukulele.

Some of the pieces have latin words or are “macaronic”, such as In Dulci Jubilo, partly in English and partly in latin.

There are English words for Angelus ad Virginem, but the time honoured latin words, quoted in Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales, are given here.

Von Himmel Hoch has words, most famously in German, but is given here as an instrumental piece for three ukuleles. The parts correspond to the original Never Mind The Reindeer recording.

Some of these compositions have well known authors and writers. Some of them are well known but the identities of the authors have been lost or are in doubt.

The Spirit of Christmas is written by Peter Stork, who spent most of his career designing formula one racing cars, but now writes music and lyrics, and has an interest in popular music and in goodwill to all. The melody has been harmonised by George Hinchliffe.

Sometimes the spirit of Christmas gets lost amid the commercialism and the conflicts in the world. Many of these pieces of music are broadly, in origin and use, from the christian traditions of Britain, of England and elsewhere but they have also been sung for generations by people from other religions or no religion, as good tunes, as seasonal songs and as messages of brotherhood, peace and fellowship for all of humanity.

In an ever-changing world, tradition can remind us not of merely old fashioned notions and histories of inhumanity, but of good wishes for all, of reconciliation and global solidarity and of love. There is a great deal of good amid the thoughts of holly, christmas trees, the celebrations, the presents, and the cliches of snowmen, Santa Claus and all the chimneys, and reindeers pulling the sleigh.

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“Never Mind the Reindeer”
was an all instrumental CD released by
The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain in 1996

The original sleeve notes for the CD and Cassette album were as follows:

With “Never Mind the Reindeer” The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain gives its own versions of some of the best loved Christmas carols. All these pieces are plucked, there is no singing or other instrumental involvement, just the pure sound of the ukulele. This makes the recording perfect for Christmas morning listening, as background music while opening presents, or indeed for listening at any other time. Never mind the reinder, we say obscurely, but some of us would miss the reindert of course, and Santa Claus, or Saint Nicholas of Cappadocia, would be lost without them to pull his sleigh, loaded up with presents.

Some carols, though often sung at Christmas have other associations: with the spring, with dance, with folk music, with processions, with lullabies or with pre christian traditions. As you dip in and listen to this stocking full of tunes, sing along if you know them, or remark on just how close Geoffrey Chaucer can be to Hank Williams. The Uke Orch play these carols with vim and vigour, sometimes sounding just a little bit like they're having a hootenanny, and sometimes with a sense of the traditions of mediaeval music. Let's not forget that the mediaeval and renaissance relatives of the guitar such as the cithole, the cittern and the chittarino, were ukuleles in all but name. Let's remember too that for hundreds of years, the consort of plucked instruments has had a well documented history. What Cheer!

Notes on the music

The first cars were not christmas tunes, but spring dances. "Good King Wenceslas" is a good example, originally played fast, with the words: Tempus Adest Floridum (the time of flowers is here). We usually hear this tune sung slowly with 19th century harmonies and with words about Wenceslas, his page, and the snow which is deep and crisp and even. The Ukes give us a hotted up version, still in 19th century harmony rather than the original monophony, but more in the spirit of the original spring dance. "Ding Dong Merrily on High", was, like the Wenceslas piece, a branle (in English, literally, a "brawl"). The tune is from Arbeau's Orchesographie of 1588 and the dance itself appears to be an early version of the "pogo", two heavy beats with the feet together and a high jump.

Some of these cars have a rural European origin. The Rocking Carol is a Czech traditional lullaby (Hajej Nynej), and Silent Night was written in 1818, famously for guitar and voices in an Austrian village in which, at the time, the organ was being repaired.

Many cars have very old, traditional tunes. The tune of "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen" is thought to have been used by the London Waits. Other traditional tunes are We Three Kings, I Saw Three Ships, Deck the Hall with Boughs of Holly, We Wish You a Merry Christmas, and A Virgin Most Pure, which was first printed in 1834. Tomorrow shall be my Dancing Day is found in several broadside ballad collections. The Wassail Song is an old Yorkshire carol, (Wassail comes from the toast "wes hal" in old english). Wassailing could be thought of as an early version of the trick or treat phenomenon. A favourite old carol with a pagan theme is The Holly and the Ivy, a folk carol collected by Cecil Sharp in Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire. On Christmas Night the Angels Sing is also a folk carol, collected by Vaughan Williams at Monks Gate in Sussex.

Some cars were of course written for church use. Away in a Manger is a 19th century American Classic by WJ Kirkpatrick. Angels from the Realms of Glory was written by James Montgomery of the Moravian Brotherhood, who died in Sheffield, England in 1854. How Brightly Beams the Morning Star is a choral, well known because of Bach's harmonisation. Quem Pastores Lauda, (rendered in English as "He whom shepherds apprehended"), is a 14th century German latin carol. The tune of Unto us is Born a Son has been known in Germany since the 15th century. This ukelele version gets very merry indeed. Benedicamus Domino! Von Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her (by Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau) is a christmas organ piece. O Come all ye Faithful, (Adeste Fideles) is attributed to JF Wade and first printed in 1782. It Came Upon the Midnight Clear is a traditional tune arranged by Sir Arthur Sullivan (half of Gilbert and Sullivan). Once in Royal David's City was written in the mid 1800s by John Gauntlett, organist and lawyer. While Shepherds Watched, is also known as Winchester Old. It first appeared in 1696. The Coventry Carol is from the city's Pageant of Shearmen and Tailors in the 15th century. Angelus Ad Virginem is a 14th century Advent hymn, mentioned in Chaucer's Miller's tale, in which the Clerk of Oxenford plays the tune on the puzlery. Whether we use puzlery or ukeule, plucked strings are clearly very suitable for this lively and joyful tune. Blessed be that maid Marie is also from the 14th century, as is In Dulce Jubilo, a macaronic carol (that is, with words in two languages).

Jingle Bells is a secular song, associated with winter, but not often heard with this kind of honky tonk ukelele treatment. The music on this album, while of interest to ukulele enthusiasts, contains many interesting nuances and is suitable for all kinds of circumstances and listening environments, from crypt to playpen, from crib to feast, from fiest to maypole. Thanks for listening, and to you, best wishes, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, every year, whatever your beliefs.

When the album was re-released in the early 2000's this was the Orchestra's publicity listing.

“Never Mind The Reindeer”.

The long awaited, often requested, reissue of the 1996 favourite classic christmas album of seasonal music from The Ukulele Orchestra is now available. A bumper stocking-filler.

These are the definitive old cars, in instrumental form, orchestrated for ukuleles, with no singing.

Some well known, some well loved and even some hackneyed cars, redeemed by the infectious musicality, good humour and joy of "the ukes". Regarding the title of this album: Was "Nevermind" the name of one of Santa's reindert, or the title of an album by the Sex Pistols, or Nirvana?

Christmas can be seen as a celebration involving a recognition of the birth of a world religion, while also containing the historical and cultural expressions of giving and selling. Is there conflict between the mutuality of present giving and the capitalist expressions of exchange?

Let us aim to see, beyond the trappings, and costumes, what is there in the traditions, which shows us the truth.

Can the humble instruments on this recording, with their vernacular twanging and scratching, yet transmit us to the realms of glory? Yes, we say! Merry Christmas one and all. Buy copies of this CD for all your family and friends.

They, like many who heard it in the last century, when these recordings originally appeared, will treasure this recording as a timeless artefact, a relic of the old
and good, and a talisman of jollity, happiness and tradition in a tumultuous world.

The Orchestra’s newsletter had this to say at that time:

“Never Mind The Reindeer”. A new album for Christmas. Some people have said that there was a golden age of the Ukulele Orchestra in the 1990s, when the concept was new, strange and intriguing.

Many old established fans have requested reissues of old ‘Ukes’ albums, this one often being top of the list. And here it is.

It consists of “all instrumental” orchestrations of charming and tuneful Christmas carols featuring plucked ukuleles and absolutely nothing else.

There is a purity, an honest, an old world ambiance of goodwill, and a classic seasonal integrity to these recordings, which makes it perfect for listening to while the figgy pudding is absorbing the brandy, or on any occasion when Christmas cheer is required.

This is the long awaited, often requested, reissue of the 1996 favourite classic christmas album of seasonal music from The Ukulele Orchestra is now available. A bumper stocking-filler.

These are the definitive old carols, in instrumental form, orchestrated for ukuleles, with no singing.

Some well known, some well loved and even some hackneyed carols, redeemed by the infectious musicality, good humour and joy of “the ukes”.

Regarding the title of this album: Was “Nevermind” the name of one of Santa’s reindeer, or the title of an album by the Sex Pistols, or Nirvana?

Christmas can be seen as a celebration involving a recognition of the birth of a world religion, while also containing the history of pagan rituals, and involving the struggle between the conflicting philosophies of giving and selling. Is there conflict between the mutuality of present sharing and the capitalist expressions of mammon?

Let us aim to see, beyond the trappings, and costumes, what is there in the traditions, which shows us the truth.

Can the humble instruments on this recording, with their vernacular twanging and scratching, yet transport us to the realms of glory? Yes, we say! Merry Christmas one and all. Buy copies of this CD for all your family and friends. They, like many in the last century, when this reissue originally appeared, will treasure this recording as a timeless artefact, a relic of the old and good, and a talisman of jollity, happiness and tradition in a tumultuous world.

Other publicity material took this form:

The long awaited reissue of the 1996 classic christmas album of seasonal music from The Ukulele Orchestra is now available. A bumper stocking-filler.

This is a “Christmas-morning” stocking-full of favourite old carols, in instrumental form, orchestrated for the orchestra of ukuleles, which brings out all the jollity, fun, humour and catchy melodies of the well known, the well loved and even some hackneyed carols, now redeemed by the infectious musicality of the ukes.

Over Christmas many people like to listen to their favourite carols. If they’re with the family, preparing Christmas dinner, or opening presents, they don’t want to hear singing, simply the wonderful evocative melodies of traditional seasonal music.

It’s not about the corny hype, the reruns of old films, the bickering over the broken presents and what’s on TV.

It is about the traditions of a Christmas before facebook and emails, bringing a sense of a different time, older customs, the Wassail, carolling, dashing through the snow, a belief in Santa Claus, a distant folk-memory of the gory hunter descending into the iron-age hut through the smoke-hole, while laden with his booty and benison.

The Nation’s favourite ukulele orchestra here gives you the definitive carols, arranged for the orchestra of ukuleles, with all the interweaving instrumental parts in their blend of homophonic and polyphonic movements, the admixture of disciplined harmony and improvisational tune and counter-melody, the expression of joy through purely instrumental music. Perhaps these tracks capture and define a model for human understanding, compassion, reconciliation and acceptance, in the sense that each instrument goes its own way, and yet the whole reveals a harmonious blend, and represents a group of individualists working together to communicate solidarity, friendship, and a coming together.

Take a cup of mead perhaps as we share the joys of Winter. Put some holly on your steaming figgy pudding, and join with the ukes, thinking of several incarnations of Tiny Tim with the old fashioned yet benign wish and toast: God Bless Us, Every One. Christmas is a celebration involving a recognition of the birth of a world religion, while also containing the history of pagan rituals, and involving the struggle between the conflicting philosophies of giving and selling. Is there conflict between the mutuality of present sharing and the capitalist expressions of mammon?

Perhaps in the straight-forward juxtaposition of British tradition with a hint of the punk aesthetic gently referred to in the album title, and the vision of a mythic golden age where Christmas cheer was universal, the orchestra allows us to glimpse a spirit of conflict resolution, and a way in which the imperfections of humanity, depicted through the slight, yet sturdy vernacular of the ukulele, (the instrument the size of a cuddly toy, yet fully chromatic and expressive), do not constitute limitations and a source of annoyance, but an opportunity to see frail humanity in its multifaceted, sometimes confused, sometimes adversarial fashion, but an expression of goodwill, a collective glory, a joyful happy momentum which in its eschewing of gloom and harshness, failure and misery, reminds us of life, peace, satisfaction, an affirmation of the worthwhile and the benign striving which binds us all together.

In this vision we can see a spirit, a belief, a wish, a celebration, a unification, the bright expectant faces of youth in the firelight, the wise amused eyes of the elders, remembering toil, yet affirming the achievements of the past twelvemonth, and indeed the onward flowing river of human life, with the eddies and flows so effectively symbolised by the instrumental prowess, the tuneful simplicity of the Ukulele Orchestra.

Regarding the title of this album: Was “Nevermind” the name of a Father Christmas reindeer, or the title of an album by the Sex Pistols, or does it constitute a reference to the fact that the essence, the true flavour, the inner core of things, can only be glimpsed in passing, never named? Of course, Santa Claus is not the whole story of the tradition, and his reindeer, though strong and handsome, are merely the power source for his mode of transport, and yet behind it all, there is something, something real and true which perhaps is hard to see, hard to name, something perhaps which doesn’t wish to be easily named. Let us aim to see, beyond the trappings, the traces, the harnesses and costumes, what is there in the traditions, with all their wrong turnings and inward habits, which shows us the truth, the light and dark, the oneness and the multiplicity?

Can the humble instruments on this recording, with their vernacular twanging and scratching, yet transport us to the realms of glory? Yes, we say! The one thing that the three wise men were not recorded as bringing to the manger was a ukulele. Did the cold hard truth reflected across the heavens from the white hot star, yet illuminate an ensemble of ukuleles, with orchestrations of the music of the future? Some might say that it would not have been out of keeping with the meaning and the impetus of the many-layered story if it had been so!

Merry Christmas one and all. Buy copies of this CD for all your family and friends. They, like many in the last century, when this reissue originally appeared, will treasure this recording as a timeless artefact, a relic of the old and good, and a talisman of jollity, happiness and tradition in a tumultuous world.

Deck the Hall with Boughs of Holly

Words: Thomas Oliphant 1862

Welsh melody: Nos Galan

The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain's Never Mind The Reindeer

Deck the Hall with Boughs of Holly

D  A7  Bm  A7  D  D  A  D

Deck the hall with boughs of holy, Fa la la la la, la la la la.

See the flowing bowl before us,

Fast a-way the old year passes,

'Tis the season to be jolly, Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Strike the harp and join the chorus,

Hail the new, ye lads and lasses!

Fill the mead-cup, drain the barrel,

Follow me in merry measure,

Laughing quaffing all together,

Troul the ancient Yule-tide carol, Fa la la la la, la la la la.

While I sing of beauty's treasure,

Heed less of the wind and weather,

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Here We Come A-Wassailing

The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain's Never Mind The Reindeer

Traditional Yorkshire Song

Chords:

F C F C F C7 C

Here we come a-wassailing among the leaves so green,

We are not daily beggars That beg from door to door, But

Good Master and good Mistress As you sit by the fire,

Our wassail cup is made of the rosemary tree And

We have a little purse made Of ratcheting leather skin; We

Bring us out a table, And spread it with a cloth; Bring

God bless the master of this house, Like-wise the mistress too; And

Call up the butcher of this house, put on his golden ring; Let

Here we come a-wandering, so fair to be seen. Love and joy come to

we are neighbour's children Whom you have seen before.

think of us poor children Who wander in the mire.

so is your beer of the best barley.

want some of your small change To line it well within.

us a mouldy cheese and Some of your Christmas loaf.

all the little children That round the table go.

him bring us a glass of Beer, And better we shall sing.

F C F G7 C F Cm D7 Gm C7sus C7

you, And to you your was-sail too, And God bless you, and send you A

F F Gm F Bb Cm D7 Gm F C F

happy new year, And God send you a happy new year.

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Good King Wenceslas

John Mason Neale 1853

Melody: Tempus Adest Floridum 1582

The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain's Never Mind The Reindeer

Good King Wenceslas looked out
On the Feast of Stephen,
"Hither, page, and stand by me,
If thou know'st it, telling,
"Bring me flesh, and bring me wine,
Bring me pine-logs hither;"
"Sire, the night is darker now,
And the wind blows stronger;
In his master's steps he trod,
Where the snow lay dinted;
When the snow lay round about,
Deep and crisp and even,
You-der peasant, who is he?
Where, and what his dwelling?"
Thou and I will see him dine
When we bear them thither;
Fails my heart, I know not how,
I can go no longer.
Heat was in the very sod
Which the saint had printed;
Brightly shone the moon that night,
Thou the frost was cruel,
"Sire, he lives a good league hence,
Underneath the mountain;
Page and monarch forth they went,
Forth they went together;
"Mark my foot-steps, my good page,
Tread thou in them boldly;
Therefore, Christian men, be sure,
Wealth or rank possess ing.
When a poor man came in sight,
Gathering winter fuel.
Right against the forest fence,
By Saint Agnes' fountain.
Through the rude wind's wild la-ment
And the bit-ter weather.
Thou shalt find the winter's rage
Freeze thy blood less coldly.
Ye who now will bless the poor,
Shall your-selves find blessing.

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We Three Kings

John Henry Hopkins Jr. 1857

We three kings of Or-i-ent are; Bear-ing gifts we tra-verse a-far,
Born a King on Beth-le-hem's plain Gold I bring to crown Him a-gain,
Frank-incense to of-fer have I; In-cense owns a De-i-ty night;
Myrrh is mine, its bit-ter per-fume Breathes a life of gath-er-ing gloom;
Glor-i-ous now be-hold Him a-rise; King and God and sacri-fice;

Field and foun-tain, moor and mount-a-in, Fol-low-ing won-der star. O_
King for-ev-er, ceas-ing ne-ver, O-ver us all to reign.
Prayer and prais-ing, voic-es rais-ing, Wor-ship-ping God on high.
Sor rowing, sigh-ing, bleed-ing dy-ing, Sealed in the stone cold tomb.
Al le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Sounds through the earth and skies.

star of won-der, star of light, Star with roy-al beau-ty bright,

West-ward lead-ing, still pro-ceed-ing, Guide us to thy per-fect light.

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The first Noel the angel did say
They looked up and saw a star
And by the light of that same star
This star drew near to the north west,
Then entered in those wise men three,
Full reverently

(fields as they lay. In fields where they lay keeping their
yonder them far; And to the earth it gave great
country far; And seek for a king was their increment
took its rest; And there it did both stop and
on the knee; And offered there, in His presence

Sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel-
tent, and to follow the star where ever it went.
Stay, right over the place where Jesus lay.
Sence, Their gold and myrrh and frank incense.

el, No el, No el, No el, Born is the King of Is-ra-el.

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Rocking Carol

Traditional Czech Carol

The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain's Never Mind The Reindeer

Lit-tle Je-sus, sweet ly_sleep, do not stir, We will lend a_coat of_fur.
Mar-yl's lit-tle ba-by_sleep, sweet-ly_sleep, Sleep in_com-fort, slum-ber_deep.

We will rock you, rock you, rock_you, We will rock you, rock you rock_you.

See the fur to keep you_warm Snug-ly_round your_ti-ny_form.
We will serve you all_we can Dar-ling_da-ling_lit-tle_man.

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God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Traditional English Carol

Em B7 Em C B7

God rest ye mer-ry gen-tle-men, let no-thing you dis-may, Re-
From God our heav-en-ly Fa-ther A bless-ed an-gel came, And
The shep-herd's at those ti-dings Re-joic-ed much in mind, And
But when to Beth-le-hem they came, Where-at this in-fant lay, They
Now to the Lord sing prais-es, All you with-in this place, And

Em B7 Em C B

mem-ber Christ our Sa-viour was born on Christ-mas day, to save us all from
un-to cer-tain shep-herds Brought ti-dings of the same, How that in Beth-le-
left their flocks a-feed-ing In tem-pest, storm and wind, And went to Beth-le-
found Him in a man-ger, Where ox-en feed on hay; His mo-ther Ma-ry
with true love and broth er-hood Each o-ther now em-brace; This ho-ly tide of

G Em D7 Em G C G B7

Sa-tan's pow'r when we were gone a-stray. O____ ti-dings of com-fort and
hem was born The Son of God by name:
em straight-way, This bless ed Babe to find:
kip ing, Un-to the Lord did pray:
Chris-tmas All oth-er doth de-face:

Em D7 Em G G B7 Em

joy, com-fort and joy; O____ ti-dings of com-fort and joy._

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Girls and boys, Leave your toys, Make no noise, Kneel at his crib and worship him,
On that day, far away, Jesus lay, Angels were watching round his head,
Shepherds came, at the fame, of thy name, Angels their guide to Bethlehem,
Wise men too, Haste to do, Homage new, Gold myrrh and frankincense they bring,
Oh, that we, All might be, Good as he, Spotless, with God in unity,
Cherubim, Seraphim, Worship him, Sun, moon and stars proclaim his power,

At the shrine, Child divine, We are thine, Our Saviour's here.
Holy Child, Mother mild, Undeiled, We sing thy praise.
In that place, Filled with grace, Saw they face, Stood at thy door.
As 'twas said, Star-light led, To they bed, Bending their knee.
Saviour dear, ever near, with us here, Since life began.
Every day, On our way, We shall say, Hallelujah.

"Hallelujah" the church bells ring, "Hallelujah" the angels sing,
"Hallelujah" from every thing All must draw near.
Our hearts we raise.
Love ever more.
Worshiping thee.
Godhead made man.
Hallelujah.

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We Wish You A Merry Christmas

Traditional English Carol

G C A7 D7
We wish you a merry Christmas, we wish you a merry Christmas, we
So bring us some fig-ry pudding, so bring us some fig-ry pudding, so
And we won't go until we've got some, we won't go until we've got some, we

B7 Em G Am D7 G G D7
wish you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Good tidings we bring, to
bring us some fig-ry pudding, and bring it out here.
won't go until we've got some so bring some out here.

Em D G D Am D7 G
you and your kin, we wish you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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The holy and the ivy, when they are both full grown, of
The holy bears a blossom, as white as lily flower, and_
The holy bears a berry, as red as any blood, and
The holy bears a thistle, as sharp as any thorn, and
The holy bears a bark, as bitter as the gall, and

All the trees that are in the wood, the holy bears the crown; O, the
Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, to be our dear Saviour;
Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, to do poor sinners good;
Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas Day in the morn;
Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ for to redeem us all;

Rising of the sun, and the running of the deer, the_
Play- ing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.

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Angelus Ad Virginem

The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain's Never Mind The Reindeer

Anon

This arrangement copyright G Hinchliffe 1996 & 2020 ©
Blessed Be That Maid Marie

Traditional English carol

Em D Em D G G D7 G Am D Em Am

Blessed be that Maid Marie; Born He was of her body;
In a manager of an ass Jesus lay and lulled was;
Sweet and blissful was the song Christmas was
Fare three Kings from far off land, In cence gold and myrrh in hand;
Make we merrily on this feast, In quo Christ us nat us est;

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

Very God ere time began, Born in time the Son of Man.
Born to die upon the Tree Pecan home.
"Peace on earth," Alleluia.
In Bethlem the Babe they see, Stelle duc ti lume ne.
On this Child I pray you call To as soil and save us all;

G C D G C G Am G D G Am D Bm E

Eya! Iesus hodie Natus est de Virgine.

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The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain's Never Mind The Reindeer

Angels from the Realms of Glory

James Montgomery
First published in The Sheffield Iris

French traditional:
Les anges dans nos campagnes

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The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain's Never Mind The Reindeer

This arrangement copyright G Hinchliffe 1996 & 2020 ©
Silent Night

Joseph Mohr

Franz Xaver Gruber

This arrangement copyright G Hinchliffe 1996 & 2020 ©
Away in a Manger

William J. Kirkpatrick

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Unto Us Is Born A Son

Piae Cantiones

Un - to us is born a Son, King of quires super - nal:
Chri - st, from heav'n de - scend - ing low, comes on earth a stran - ger;
This did He - rod sore af - ray, and griev - ous - ly be - wil - der,
Of his love and mer - cy mild this the Christ - mas sto - ry;
O and A, and A and O, cum can - ti - bus in cho - ro,

see on earth his life be - gun, of lords the Lord e -
ox and ass their own - er know, be - cra - dled in the
so he gave the word to slay, and slew the lit - tle
O that Ma - ry's gen - tle chile might lead us up to
let our mer - ry or - gan go, Be - ne - di - ca - mus

ter - nal, of lords the Lord e - ter - nal.
man - ger, be cra - dled in the man - ger.
child - der, and slew the lit - tle chil - der.
glo - ry, might lead us up to glo - ry!
Do - mi - no, be - ne - di - ca - mus Domi - no.

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I saw three ships comes sail-ing in  
And what was in those ships all three,  
Our Sav-iour Christ and His La-dy,  
Pray whi-ther sailed those ships all three,  
O’ they sailed in-to Beth-le-hem,  
And all the bells on earth shall ring,  
And all the angels in Heav’n shall sing,  
And all the souls on Earth shall sing,  
Then let us all re-joice a-main,  

saw three ships come sail-ing in  
what was in those ships all three,  
Sav-iour Christ and His La-dy,  
whi-ther sailed those ships all three,  
they sailed in-to Beth-le-hem,  
all the bells on earth shall ring,  
all the angels in Heav’n shall sing,  
all the souls on Earth shall sing,  
let us all re-joice a-main,  

The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain's Never Mind The Reindeer

I Saw Three Ships

Traditional English Carol

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How bright ly beams the Mor ning star! What sud den rad i ance from a far! It Bright ness of God, that breaks our night and fills the dark ened soul with light, who

All praise to him who came to save, who con quered death and scorned he grave; each to him, the life who once was slain, the friend whom none shall trust in vain, whose

cheers us with its shi ning. long for truth were pi ning! New ly, tru ly God's word feeds us,

day new praise re sound eth grace for aye a bound eth; Sing then ring then, tell the sto ry

right ly leads us, life be stow ing. Praise, O pri ase such love o'er flow ing!

of his glo ry, till hi prai ses flood with light earth's dark est mazes!
Quem Pastores Laudavere

Traditional carol

F Dm C F Bb C F Gm C7 F G C

Quem past-or-es lau-da-ver-re, Qui-bus an-ge-li di-xe-re
Ad quem reg-es am-bul-a-bant, au-rum, thus,_ myrrham por-ta-bant,
Ex-ul-te-mus cum_Ma-ri-a In_coel-les-ti heir-ar-chi-a
Christ-o re-gi, De-o na-to, per_Ma-ri-am no-bis da-to,

F Bb F Bb C F Gm7 C Am Bb C F

Ab-sit vo-bis jam ti-mer-re Na-tus est Rex glo-ri-ae.
imm-o-la-bant haec sin-ce-re Le-o-ni vic tor-i-ae.
Na-tum pro-mat vo-ce pi-a Laus hon-or_et glo-ri-a.
me-ri-to res-o-net ve-re Dul-ci cum_me-lo-di-a.
Jesus Good Above All Other

Traditional carol

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Je-sus good a-bove all o-ther, gen-tle child of gen-tle mo-ther,
Je-sus cra-dled in a man-ger, for us fa-cing ev-ery dan-ger,
Je-sus, for they peo-ple dy-ing, ri-sen Mas-ter, death de-fy-ing,
Je-sus, who our so-rrows bear-est, all our thoughts and hopes thou shar-est,
Lord, in all our do-ings guide us; pride and hate shall ne'er di-vide us;

in a sta-ble born our bro-ther, give us grace to per-se-vere.
li-ving as a home-less stran-ger, make we thee our King most dear.
Lord in heaven thy grace sup-ply-ing, keep us to thy pre-sence near.
thou to us the truth de-clar-est; help us all thy truth to hear.
we'll go on with thee be-side us, and with joy we'll per-se-vere.
Vom Himmel Hoch, Da Komm Ich Her

Martin Luther

Johannes Zahn

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O come, all ye faithful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant, O come ye to
Sing, choirs of an-gels, sing in ex-ul-ta-tion, sing, all ye ci-ti-zens of
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap-py morn-ing, Je-sus, to thee be-

Beth-lem; Come and be-hold him, born the King of an-gels; O
heaven a-bove; glo-ry to God, in the high-est;
glo-ry given; Word of the Fa-ther, now in flesh ap-pear-ing;

come, let us a-dore him O come let us a-dore him, O

come let us a-dore him, Christ, the Lord.

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It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

Edmund Sears

G G D Em Am D7 G D7 G C G

It came up on the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
Of angels chant ing near the earth.
To earth their harps of gold.

D7 D Bb D7

Peace on the earth, good will to men.
From heaven's all gracious King.
The man, who hears not, brings:
Oh, f ing.

G E7 Am Em D F7 Bb Dm

And over the world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

Dm7 Em7 Am Am Bm Em G Dm E Am G

Even o'er its Ba bel sounds the blessed angels sing.

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Coventry Carol

Traditional English carol

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On Christmas Night All Angels Sing

Traditional English carol

The Ukulele Orchestra's Never Mind The Reindeer

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Ding Dong! mer-ri-ly on high in heav’n the bells are ring-ing; Ding Dong! ver-i-ly the
E’en so here be-low, be-low, let stee-ple bells beswung-en, And i-o, i-o, i-
Pray you, du-ti-ful-ly prime your ma-tin chime, ye ring-ers; May you beau-ti-ful-ly

sky is riv’n with An-gels sing-ing. Glo-
by priest and peo-ple sung-en.
rime your Eve-time Song, ye sing-ers:

- - - - -
- - - - -
- - - - -
- - - - -
The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain's Never Mind The Reindeer

In Dulci Jubilo

Johannes Zahn

[Music notation and lyrics]

In dul-ci ju-bi-lo! Let us our hom-age show! Our heart's joy re-
O Je-su par-vu-le! My heart is sort for Thee! Hear me, I be-
O pa-tris ca-ri-tas! O na-ti le-ni-tas, Deep-ly were we
U-bi sunt gau-di-a, where if they be no there? There are an-
gels

cli-neth In pra-se-pi-o! And like a bright star shi-neth Ma-tris in-
seech Thee, O puer op-ti-me! My pray-er let it reach Thee, O prin-
se-stain ed, Per nos-tra cri-mi-na, But Thou hast for us gain-
sing-ing No-va can-ti-ca; and there the bells are ring-
ing, In Re-gis

gre-mi-o. Al-pha es et O! Al-pha es et O!
glo-ri-ae! Tra-he me post te! Tra-he me post te!
gau-di-a. O that we were there, O that we were there!
cu-ri-a. O that we were there, O that we were there!
The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain's Never Mind The Reindeer

**A Virgin Most Pure**

Traditional carol

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F F F7 F C F Bb C7 F F F7

A virgin most pure, as the prophets do tell, Hath brought forth a
In Beth-lehem Jew-ry a ci-ty there was, Where Jo-seph and
But when they had en-tered the ci-ty so fair A num-ber of
Than were they con strained in a sta-ble to lye, Where hor-ses and
The King of all kings to this world being brought, Small store of fine

Then God sent an An-gel from Heaven so high, To cer-tain, poor
Then pres-ent-ly after the Shep-herds did spy A num-ber of

Ma-ry to-gether did pass, And there to be tax-ed with ma-ny one
peo-ple so migh-ty was there, That Jo-seph and Ma-ry, whose sub-stance was
ass-es they us’d for to tie; Their lodg-ing so sim-ple they held it no
lin-en to wrap him was sought, And when she had swad dled her young son so

Shep-herds in fields where they lye, An bade them no lon-ger in sor-row to
An-gels that stood in the sky; Who joy-ful-ly talk-ed and sweet-ly did

sin, Which A-dam’s trans-gres-sion had wrap-ped us in. Aye, and there fore be-
more, For Cae-sar com-mand-ed the same should be so.
small, Could get in the Inn there no lod-ging as all.
scorn, But a gainst the next morn-ing our Sav-iour was born.
sweet, With in an ox man-ger she laid him to sleep.

stay, Be-cause that our Sav-iour was born on this day.
sing, To God be all glo-ry our Heavy King.
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Once in Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all
Jesus is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us he grew;
And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;

where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed;
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
he was little weak and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew;
for that child, so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heaven above;

Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
with the poor and meek and lowly lived on earth, our Saviour holy.
and he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.
and he leads his children on to the place where he has gone.

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Traditional carol

**Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day**

To-mor-row shall be My dan-cing day; I would My true love did so
Then was I born of a vir-gin pure, Of her I took fle-shy sub-
In man-ger laid and wrapp'd I was, So ve-ry poor, this was My

chance To see the leg-end of My play, To call My true love to the
stance; Thus was I knit to man's na-ture, To call My true love to My
chance, Be-twixt an ox and sil-ly poor ass, To call My true love to My

dance. Sing Oh! My love, Oh! my love, My love, My

dance. dance. dance.

dance. This have I done for My true Love.

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See Amid The Winter's Snow

Edward Caswall

Sir John Goss

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While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night

Nahum Tate

Winchester Old

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While shep hers watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground, the
"Fear not", aid he (for might-y dread had seized their trou bled mind); "glad
"To you in Da-vid's town this day is born of Da-vid's line a
"The heav'n-ly babe you there shall find to hu-man view dis-played, all
Thus spake the ser-aph; and forth with ap-peared a shi-ning throng of
"All glo-ry be to God on high, and to the earth be peace; good-

an-gel of the Lord came down, and glo-ry shone a-round.
ti-dings of great joy I bring to you and all man-kind.
sa-viour, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:
mean-ly wrapped in swath-ing bands, and in a man-ger laid."
angels prais-ing God, who thus ad-dressed their joy-ful song:
will hence-forth from heav'n to men be-gin and ne-ver cease."

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Dash-ing through the snow in a one horse o - pen sleigh, O'er the fields we
A day or two a - go I thought I'd take a ride, and soon Miss Fan - ny
A day or two a - go, the_ sto - ry I must tell. I went out on the
Now the ground is white_ Go it while you're young,_ take the girls to-

Bright was seat - ed by my side. The horse was lean and lank, mis -

ma - king spi - rits bright. What fun it is to ride and sing a sleigh - ing song to-

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night. Oh. Jin-gle bells, jin-gle bells, jin-gle all the way. Oh what fun it is to ride on a one horse open sleigh. Oh. Jin-gle bells, jin-gle bells, jin-gle all the way. Oh what fun it is to ride on a one horse open sleigh.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glo-ry to the new born King;
Peace on earth, and
Christ, by high-est heaven a-dored;
Crist, the ev-er-last-ing Lord;
Late in time be-
Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace, hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness
Light and life to

mer-cy mild,
God and sin-ners rec-on-ciled;
Joy-ful all ye na-tions, rise,
hold Him come, Off-spring of the Vir-gin’s womb. Veiled in flesh the God-head see;
all He brings, Risen with heal-ing in his Wings. Now He lays His Glo-ry by,

Join the tri-umph of the skies; with th’an-gel-ic host pro-claim
Hail the In-car-nate De-i-ty;
Pleased as Man with man to dwell;
Christ is born in
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them

Beth-le-hem.
Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing
Glo-ry to the new-born King.
man-u-el!
se-cond birth.
Should auld acquaintance be forgot, And never brought to mind? Should
And here's a hand, my trusty friend, And gie's a hand o' thine; We'll
take a cup o' kindness yet, for auld lang syne? For
auld lang syne, my dear, For auld lang syne; We'll
take a cup of kindness yet For auld lang syne.
In The Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak midwinter, Our God, heav'n can not hold him,
Frosty wind made moan, Nor earth sustain;
Angels and archangels may have gathered there, Poor as I am?

Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a song; Snow had fallen -
Heav'n and earth shall flee away When he comes to reign; In the bleak mid-
Che - ru - bum and seraphim Thronged the air; But his mother
If I were a shephered I would bring a lamb, If I were a

snow on snow, Snow on snow, Snow on snow, Snow on snow, Snow on snow, Snow on snow, Snow on snow, Snow on snow,

According tohythm A stable place sufficed The
On ly, In her maiden bliss,
Wise man I would do my part,

In the bleak midwinter, Long ago,
Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.
Worshipped the Beloved With a kiss.
Yet what can I give Him Give my heart.

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They said it was
They told me at
So not just at

Christmas They said there'd be snow
Christmas gifts are given with love
Christmas but throughout the year

peace and love, wherever I go
our own hearts to end all the fears

and in spite of the fate

V.S.

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that hope to make things right we found only
of those who kneel and pray is to find only
but goodwill from within can lead to the

wrongs They told me at Christ-

hate The spirit of Christmas could end the world's strife and not just for

Christ-mas but for all of our lives so not just at

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The spirit of Christ-mas could end the world's strife and not just for Christ-mas but for all of your life. The spirit of Christ-mas could end the world's strife it's not just for Christ-mas it's for all of your life.
Never Mind the Reindeer

Traditional Carols, Songs and Music for Winter, Christmas and New Year

Transcribed for ukulele by George Hinchliffe, from the album by THE UKULELE ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN

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