THE LIFE TREASURY OF
CHRISTMAS MUSIC
A SUPPLEMENT TO THE LIFE BOOK OF CHRISTMAS
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SIDE I

Volume One
The Glory of Christmas

Prelude
Joy to the World
Walter Baker, organ.

CHAPTER I
Jerusalem Gaudé: Gregorian chant, or plainsong, is dated from about 600 A.D., when Pope Gregory had the magnificent liturgical music of the time collected. Here we hear the words of Zechariah—"Jerusalem rejoiceth... there shall come unto thee a savior." It is sung as part of the vespers service—an antiphon, or response—is sung before and after two verses of Psalm 110 (Douay version) and the Gloria Patri.

CHAPTER II
Angels We Have Heard on High: Luke does not specify that the heavenly host "sang" to the shepherds, but legend has turned the exultant Gloria in excelsis Deo of the angels into a mighty song. This version is an old French noël.

CHAPTER III
Rocking Carol: With Christ's birth, the mood of the Nativity story shifts from one of heavenly glory to human tenderness. This lullaby is a traditional Czech carol. Boy Choristers accompanied by accordion, guitar, clarinet and celesta.

CHAPTER IV
Gloria Patri: As Christmas approaches, bagpipers from the hills come down into Naples and play carols like this one in the streets. The carol performed here tells of the miraculous signs that led shepherds and kings to the Holy Birth. Chorus accompanied by guitar, accordion and marimba.

CHAPTER V
The Carol of the Bagpipers: As Christmas approaches, bagpipers from the hills come down into Naples and play carols like this one in the streets. The carol performed here tells of the miraculous signs that led shepherds and kings to the Holy Birth. Chorus accompanied by guitar, accordion and marimba.

CHAPTER VI
Joy to the World: Christ's birth is joyfully proclaimed in these resounding words by the great hymnist Isaac Watts. His verses, published in 1719, paraphrase the 98th Psalm ("... let the hills be joyful together"). The music is an imitation of Handel's style by a 19th Century American, Lowell Mason.

SIDE II

Volume Two
The Pageantry of Christmas

Prelude
Adeste Fidelis
Walter Baker, organ.

CHAPTER I
Hodie Christus Natus Est: This Gregorian chant is sung at vespers on Christmas Day.

CHAPTER II
The Boar's Head Carol: Gigantic feasts in the drafty halls of old England's castles became a Christmas tradition in the early medieval period. A boar's head was often the finest delicacy served. This carol originated at Queen's College, Oxford. Robert Sand, tenor.

CHAPTER III
Coventry Carol: The words of this carol come from a miracle play presented in the town of Coventry in 1534. In it the women of Bethlehem sing a lament for their children, about to be slaughtered by Herod's soldiers. Shirley Love, alto.

CHAPTER IV
Masters in This Hall: The lyrics are 19th Century words by the poet William Morris, using the language of the Elizabethan period to recreate the spirit of the manor house Christmas. The old French tune came from Chartres.

CHAPTER V
Huron Indian Carol: A French Jesuit missionary to the Hurons in Canada wrote this carol in a translation of the language of his flock, and set it to the tune of an old French noël.

CHAPTER VI
God Rest You Merry: This was probably England's favorite carol during the Victorian era, when it was often sung in the streets of London. But it dates from an earlier period, having first been printed in 1790. Robert Spire, baritone, accompanied by soprano recorder, harpsichord and cello.

Volume Three
The Merriment of Christmas

CHAPTER I
Deck the Halls: An old Welsh carol, with both words and music traditional.

CHAPTER II
Here We Come a-Wassailing: In the tradition of Christmas hospitality, waits who once came singing to the door with empty cups were given a bit of wassail. Shakespeare may have heard an early version of these words. Robert Spire, baritone.

CHAPTER III
Hark! the Herald Angels Sing
Walter Baker, organ.

POSTLUDE
Hark! the Herald Angels Sing
Walter Baker, organ.

Chorus and orchestra under the direction of Lehman Engel.
Boy Choristers from the Church of the Transfiguration, New York, N.Y.; Stuart Gardner, conductor.
Musical arrangements by Joseph Byrd and Dorothy Moskowitz.
A production of Project Records, a department of Capitol Records, Inc.
Musical supervision, Donald Nelson
Simon Rady, producer


English translation of lyrics for "Twas in the Moon of Wintertime" (Huron Indian Carol) used by permission of the copyright owner, the Frederick Harris Music Co., Limited, Oakville, Ontario.

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A supplement to 
THE LIFE BOOK 
OF CHRISTMAS 

Walter Baker, organ - Boy choristers conducted by Stuart Gardner 
Choirs and orchestra under the direction of Lehman Engel

1. Organ Prelude: Joy to the World 
2. Jerusalem Gaude (Gregorian chant) 
3. The Angel Gabriel 
4. Rocking Carol 
5. Angels We Have Heard on High 
6. The Carol of the Bagpipers 
7. The Golden Carol of the Three Wise Men 
8. Joy to the World 

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