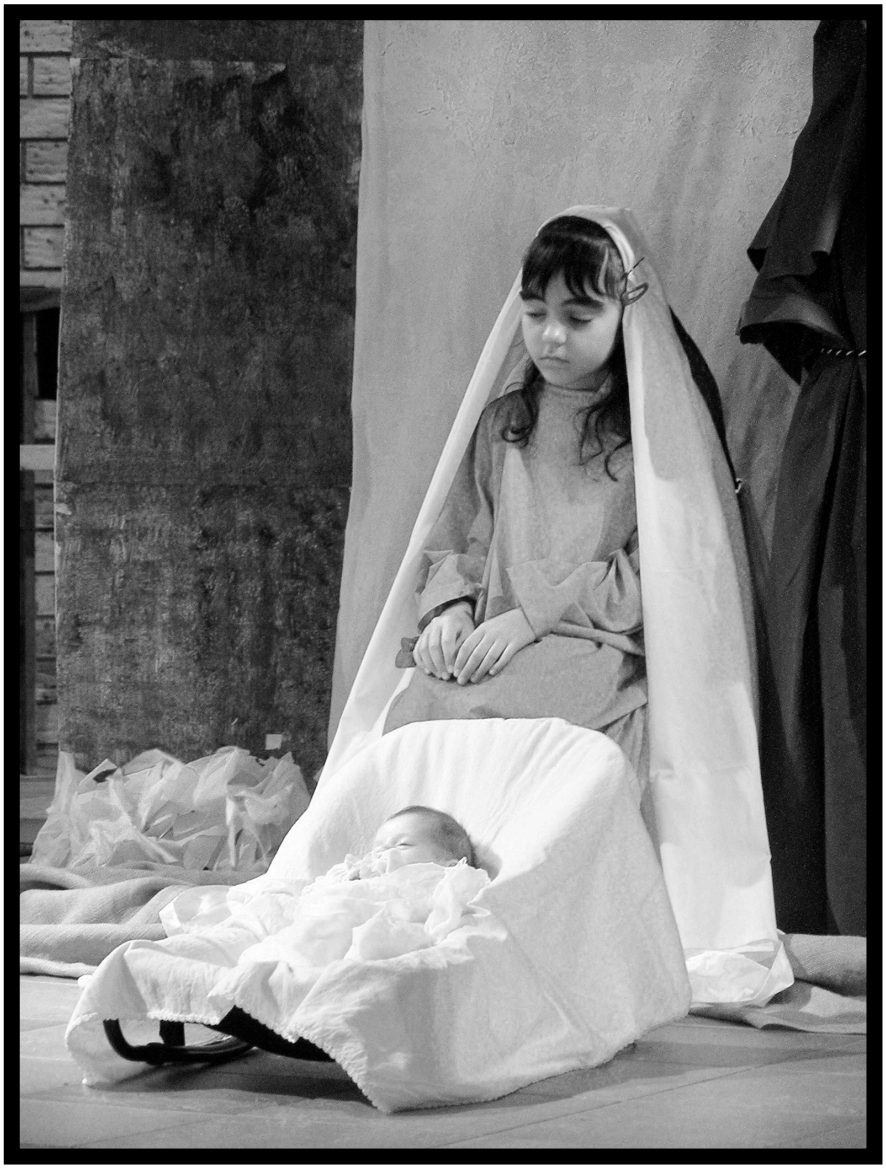
Deep Love

The Story of Christmas



Notes About the Songs

Putting the Christ Back in Christmas

One morning when I was doing playground duty as a teacher at my school, one of our parents, a disc jockey for a local radio station, walked through the school grounds with a tape recorder. He was recording the children's responses to his questions about Christmas to broadcast on his radio programme. As I listened to the responses I was a bit perturbed that there was little acknowledgement from some of the children that Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus. Last year I began to write a Christmas play that would allow children to reflect on St Luke's infancy narratives. This song is placed at the beginning of the play and recalls the playground incident with the disc jockey.

Tell Me Story of Christmas

A child acknowledges that Christmas is a wondrous time of the year and expresses a desire to know the Christmas story.

A Voice Cries in the Wilderness

This is a song for the Advent season and is an exhortation to "prepare the way" for "the coming of our God". The song suggests that preparing for God's coming requires a readiness to participate in God's integrity and justice.

Maid of Galilee

The angel Gabriel announces to Mary that God has chosen her to be the mother of Jesus

My Soul is Singing.

Mary's song of joy to Elizabeth praising God's justice and mercy. Luke's Gospel abounds in imagery where the expected order of things is turned upside down…the mountains are made low, the valleys are raised high, the blind see, the deaf hear… Mary sings about the upheaval in society that God's salvation brings: the hungry are fed, the lowly are lifted up, the mighty and the proud are laid low.

Caesar Augustus

Caesar Augustus decrees a census be taken throughout the Roman Empire.

Mary Rode Upon a Donkey

Mary and Joseph find no room in the inn.

I Can Almost Hear the Angels Sing

Anticipates the birth of "the new born King".

Deep Love

The birth of Jesus.

See the Stars Shine Bright

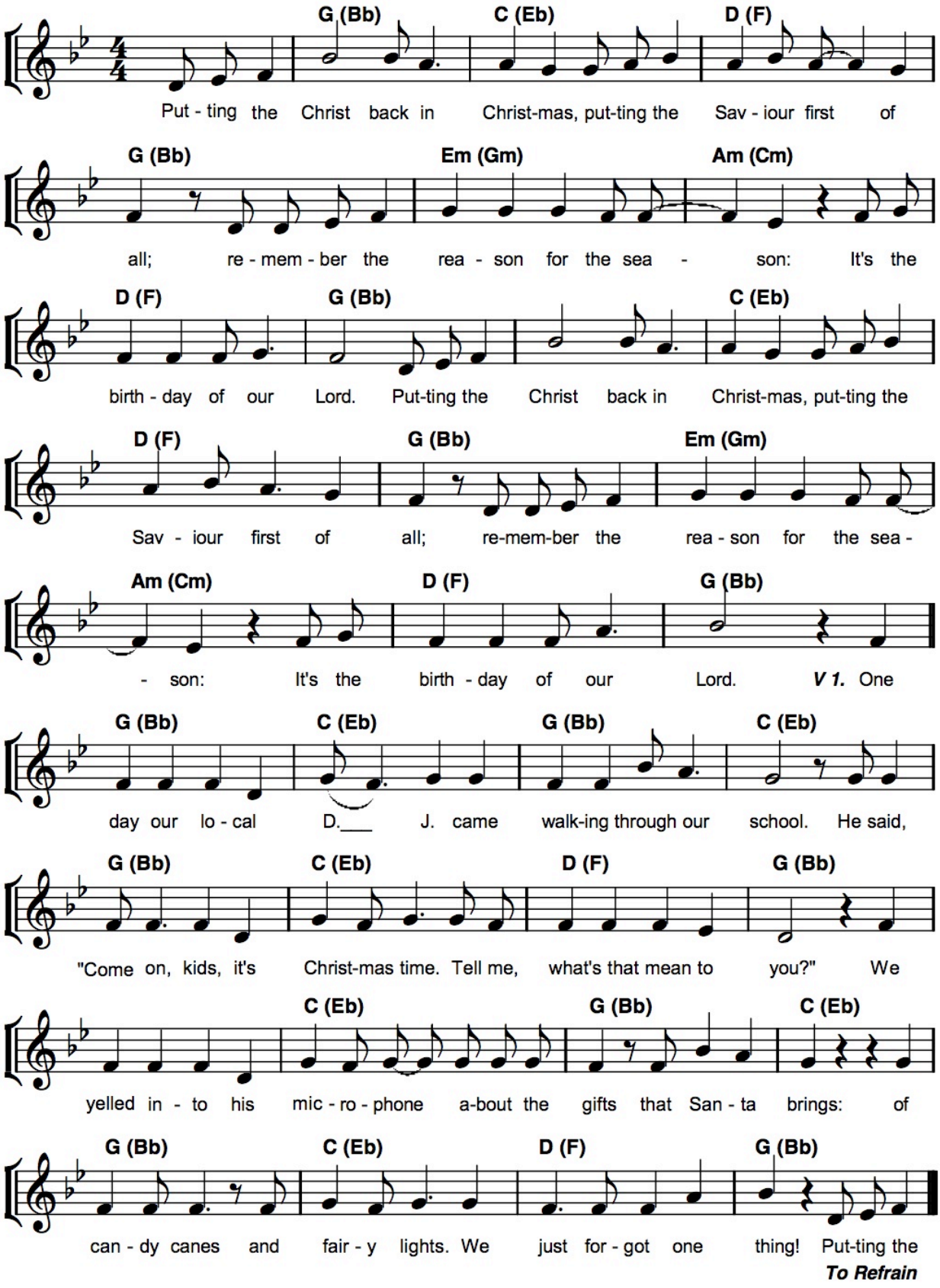
Old Testament prophecies are fulfilled… the poor have good news proclaimed to them. Luke's concern for the oppressed and marginalized in society is one of the distinctive features of his Gospel. This

concern is evidenced in Mary's song and the favour shown to the shepherds… the poor and the lowly are the first to hear the good news.

Putting the Christ Back in Christmas

Richard Cootes

Capo 3: G/C/D/G (Bb/Eb/F/Bb)



To Refrain

Putting the Christ Back in Christmas Richard Cootes

PUTTING THE CHRIST BACK IN CHRISTMAS
PUTTING THE SAVIOUR FIRST OF ALL
REMEMBER THE REASON FOR THE SEASON
IT'S THE BIRTHDAY OF OUR LORD.
PUTTING THE CHRIST BACK IN CHRISTMAS
PUTTING THE SAVIOUR FIRST OF ALL
REMEMBER THE REASON FOR THE SEASON
IT'S THE BIRTHDAY OF OUR LORD.

One day our local D.J.
Came walking through our school.
He said, "Come on kids it's Christmas time,
Tell me, what's that mean to you?"
We yelled into his microphone
About the gifts that Santa brings,
Of candy canes and fairy lights.
We just forgot one thing !

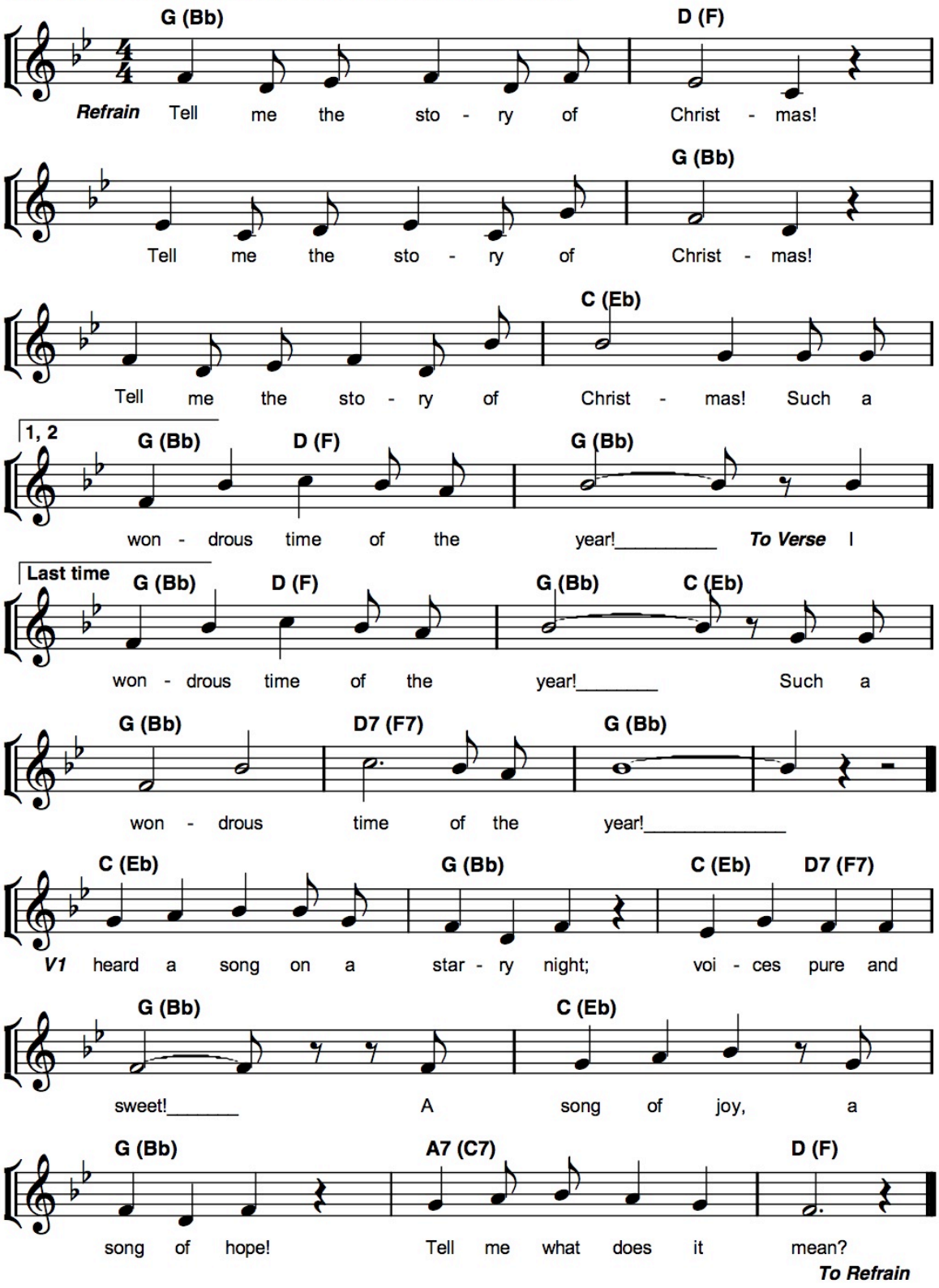
We won't forget this Christmas time
To honour Christ our King
The baby born in Bethlehem
Of whom the angels sing.
He is the hope of all the world.
He is the Prince of Peace.
He brings the saving love of God
To the likes of you and me.

©

Tell Me the Story of Christmas

Richard Cootes

Capo 3: G2/Cmaj7/Gmaj7/D7sus (Bb2/Ebmaj7/Bbmaj7/F7sus)



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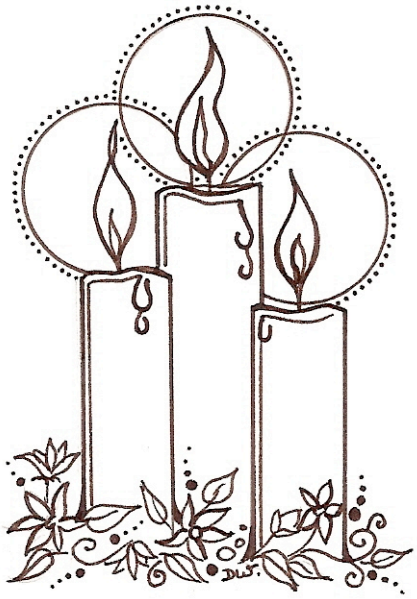
Tell Me the Story of Christmas ***Richard Cootes***

TELL ME THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS!
TELL ME THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS!
TELL ME THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS!
SUCH A WONDROUS TIME OF THE YEAR

I heard a song on a starry night;
Voices pure and sweet!
A song of joy, a song of hope!
Tell me what does it mean?



Chorus

I heard the church bells ringing out.
So joyfully did they peal!
As if some wonder has transpired!
Tell me what can it be?

(*LAST)* SUCH A WONDROUS TIME OF THE YEAR

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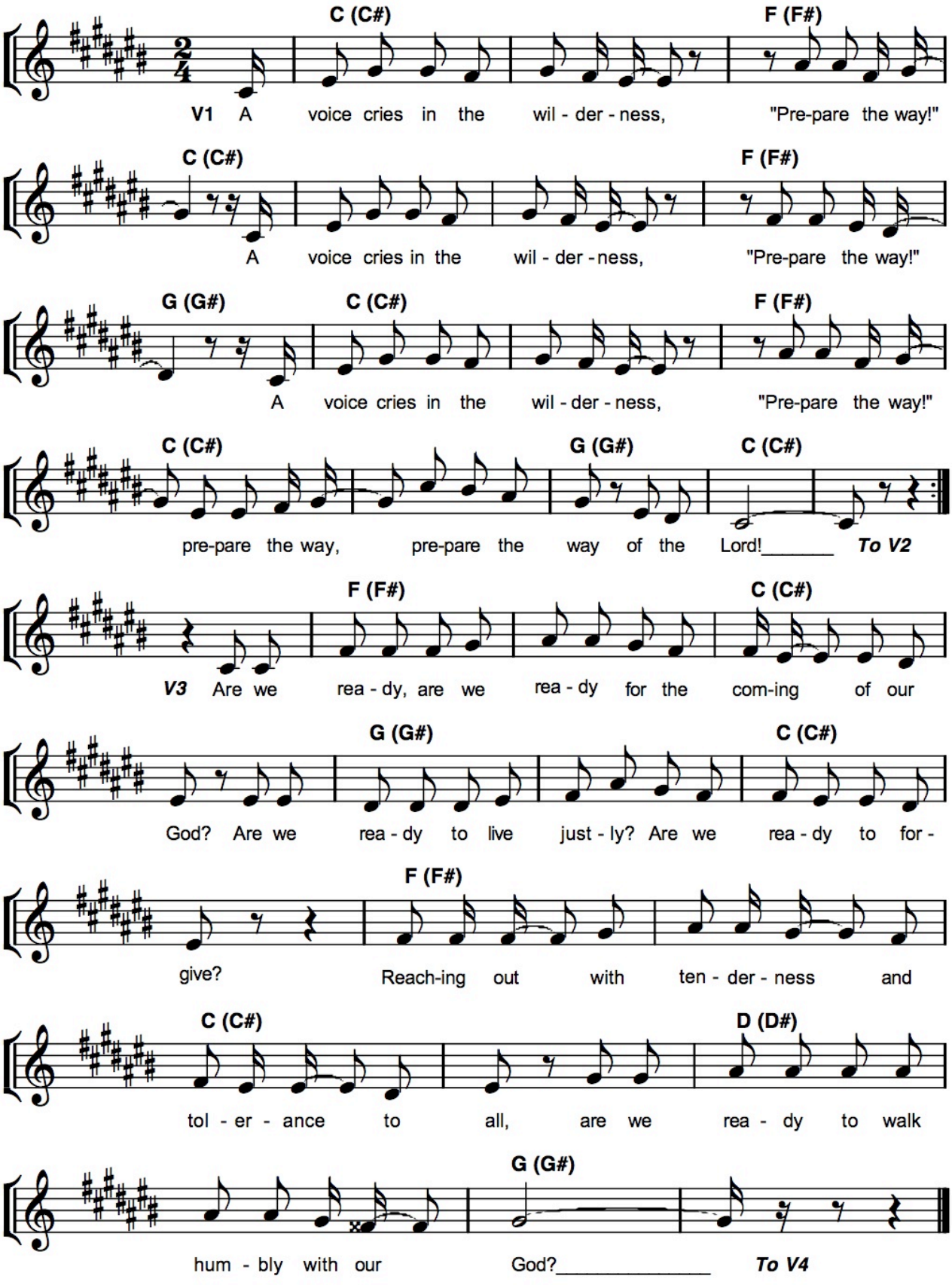
A Voice Cries in the Wilderness

Capo 1

Richard Cootes



A Voice Cries In The Wilderness Richard Cootes

A voice cries in the wilderness,
"Prepare the way!"
A voice cries in the wilderness,
"Prepare the way!"
A voice cries in the wilderness,
"Prepare the way!"
Prepare the way, prepare the way of the Lord!

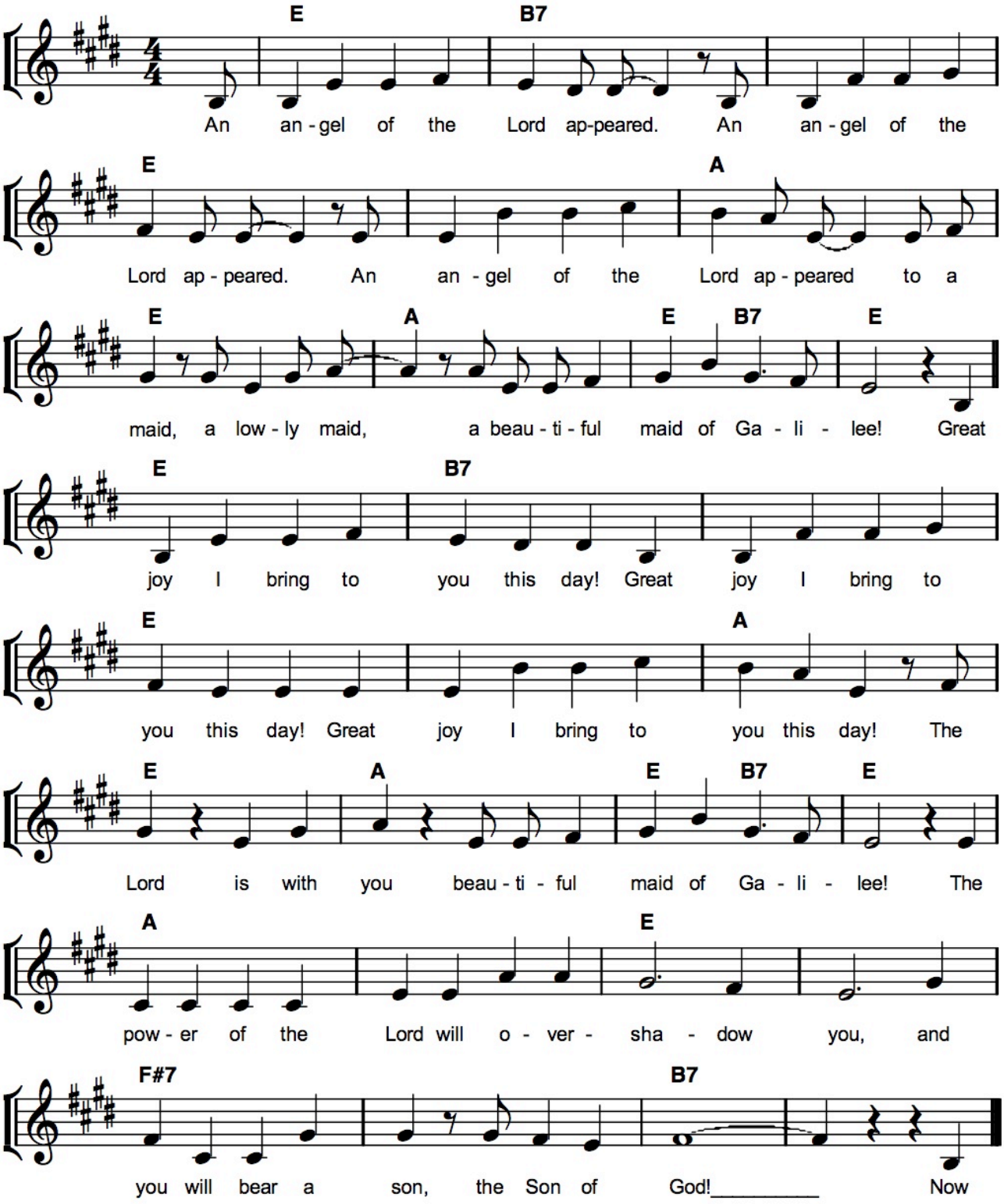
Tear down every mountain high!
Prepare the way!
Raise up every valley floor!
Prepare the way!
Make his highway straight and smooth!
Prepare the way!
Prepare the way, prepare the way of the Lord!

Are we ready, are we ready for the coming of our God?
Are we ready to live justly? Are we ready to forgive?
Reaching out with tenderness and tolerance to all,
Are we ready to walk humbly with our God?

Open up your hearts to him!
Prepare the way!
God's justice and integrity!
Prepare the way!
Compassion and fidelity!
Prepare the way!
Prepare the way, prepare the way of the Lord!
Prepare the way, prepare the way of the Lord!

Maid of Galilee

Richard Cootes



Maid of Galilee ***Richard Cootes***

An angel of the Lord appeared.
An angel of the Lord appeared.
An angel of the Lord appeared,
To a maid, a lowly maid,
a beautiful maid of Galilee!

Great joy I bring to you this day!
Great joy I bring to you this day!
Great joy I bring to you this day!
The Lord is with you,
beautiful maid of Galilee!

The power of the Lord will overshadow you,
And you will bear a son, the Son of God!

Now Mary don't you be afraid!
Mary don't you be afraid!
Oh, Mary don't you be afraid!
The Lord is with you, beautiful maid of Galilee!
The Lord is with you, beautiful maid of Galilee!

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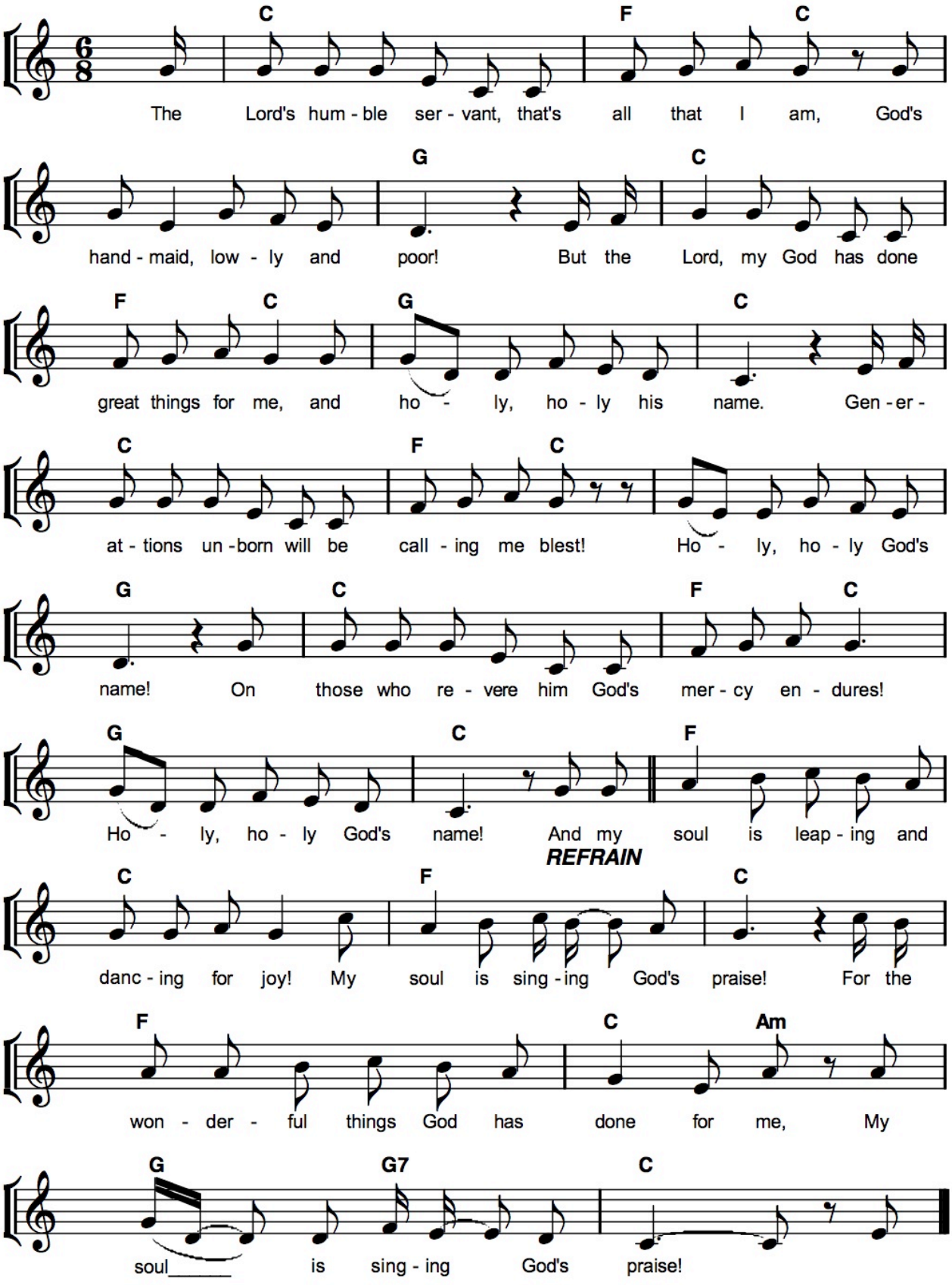
My Soul is Singing

C / C / F / C / C / G / C / C

Richard Cootes



My Soul is Singing ***Richard Cootes***

The Lord's humble servant, that's all that I am,
God's handmaid, lowly and poor!
But the Lord, my God, has done great things for me,
And holy, holy his name!

Generations unborn will be calling me blessed!
Holy, holy God's name!
On those who revere him God's mercy endures!
Holy, holy God's name!

Chorus:
And my soul is leaping and dancing for joy!
My soul is singing God's praise!
For the wonderful things God has done for me,
My soul is singing God's praise!

God scatters the proud with a sweep of his hand!
Holy, holy God's name!
He pulls down the mighty from their lofty thrones!
Holy, holy God's name!

Chorus

He fills up the hungry with many good things!
Holy, holy God's name!
But those who are rich he sends empty away!
Holy, holy God's name!

Chorus

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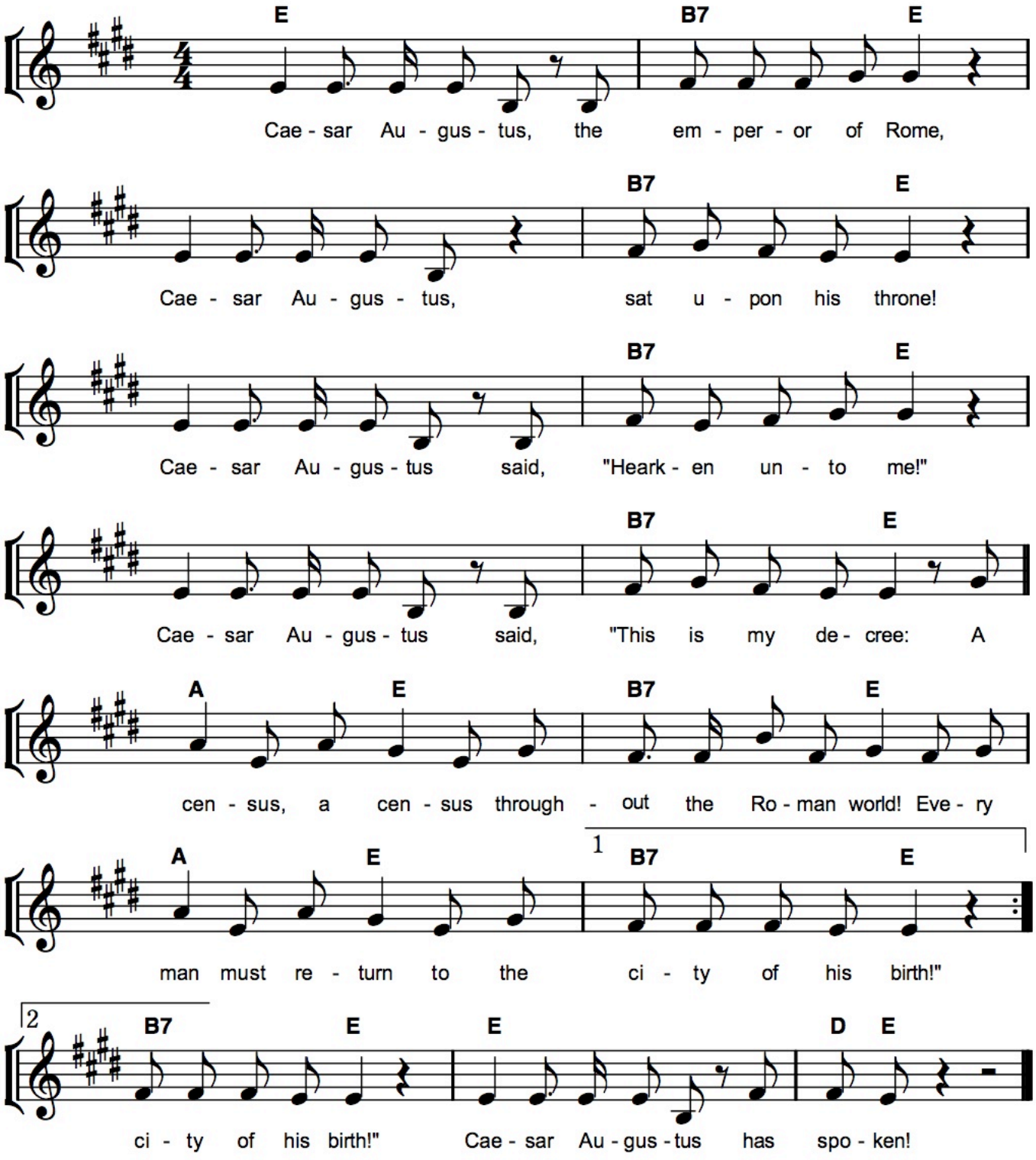
Caesar Augustus

Richard Cootes

E / / B7 / E / / / B7 / E



Caesar Augustus! ***Richard Cootes***

Caesar Augustus,
The emperor of Rome,
Caesar Augustus,
Sat upon his throne!

Caesar Augustus,
Said hearken unto me!
Caesar Augustus,
Said this is my decree:

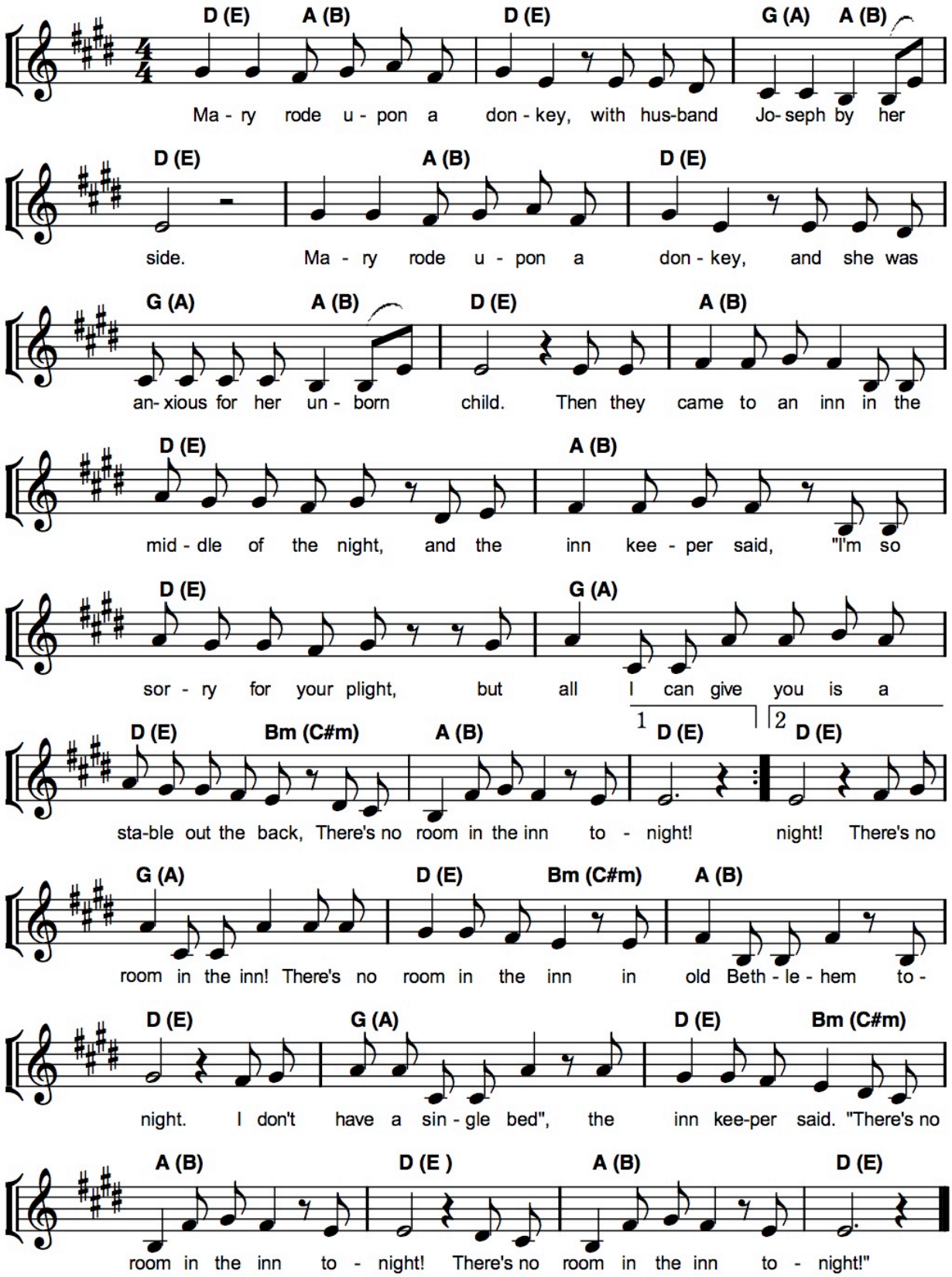
A census, a census,
Throughout the
Roman world!
Every man must return
To the city of his birth!

© Richard Cootes 2006

Mary Rode Upon A Donkey

Richard Cootes

Capo 2: D A D/ /G A D/ / (E B E/ /A B E/ /)



Mary Rode Upon A Donkey ***Richard Cootes***

Mary rode upon a donkey,
With husband Joseph by her side.
Mary rode upon a donkey,
And she was anxious for her unborn child.

Then they came to an inn in the middle of the night,
And the inn keeper said I'm so sorry for your plight,
But all I can give you is a stable out the back
There's no room in the inn tonight!

Mary rode upon a donkey,
With husband Joseph by her side.
Mary rode upon a donkey,
And she was anxious for her unborn child.

Then they came to an inn in the middle of the night,
And the inn keeper said I'm so sorry for your plight,
But all I can give you is a stable out the back
There's no room in the inn tonight!

There's no room in the inn!
There's no room in the inn
In old Bethlehem tonight.
I don't have a single bed
The inn keeper said.
There's no room in the inn tonight!
There's no room in the inn tonight!

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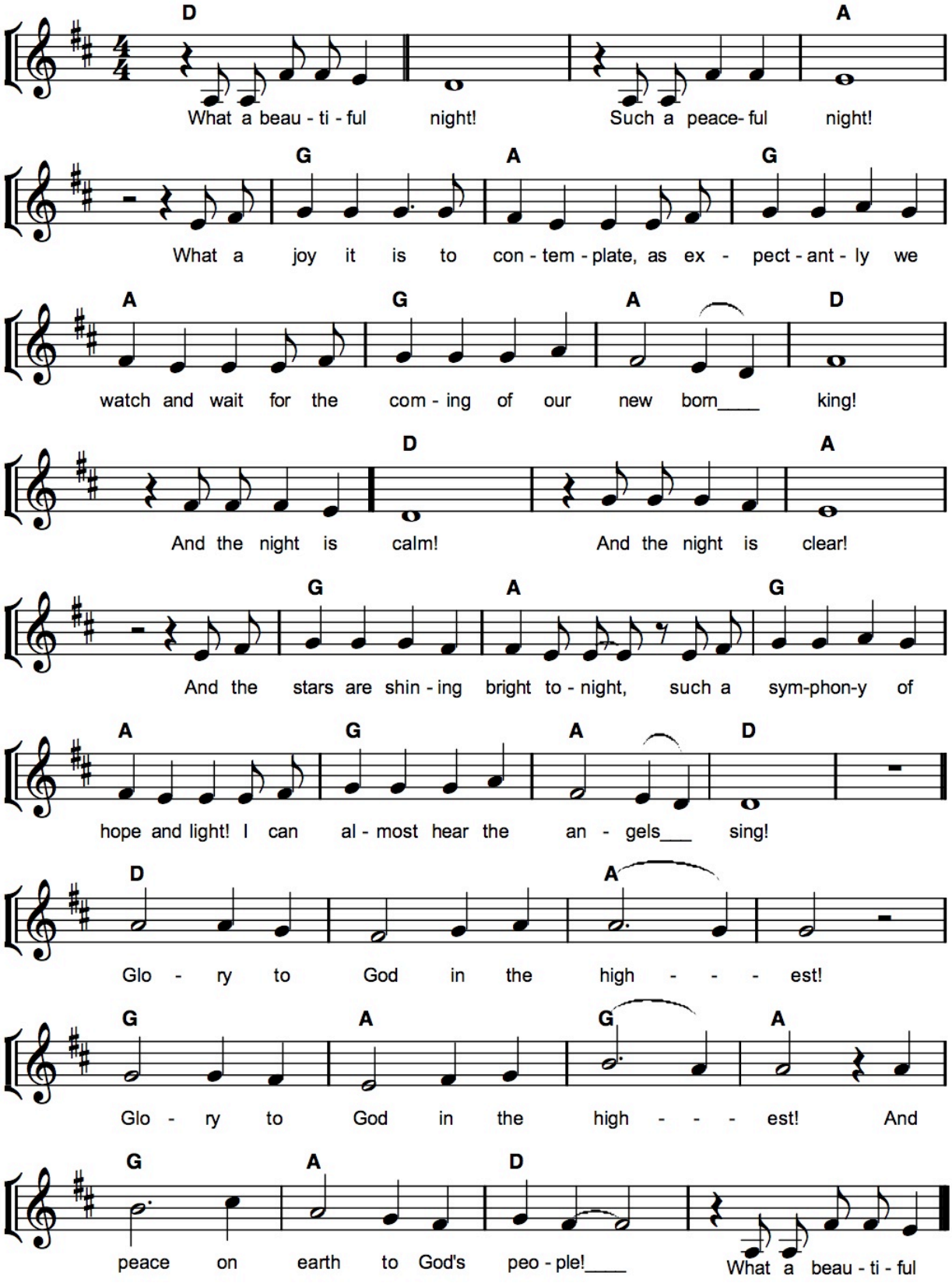
I Can Almost Hear The Angels Sing

Richard Cootes



I Can Almost Hear the Angels Sing ***Richard Cootes***

What a beautiful night!
Such a peaceful night!
What a joy it is to contemplate,
As expectantly we watch and wait
For the coming of our new born king!

And the night is calm!
And the night is clear!
And the stars are shining bright tonight,
Such a symphony of hope and light!
I can almost hear the angels sing!

Glory to God in the highest!
Glory to God in the highest!
And peace on earth to God's people!

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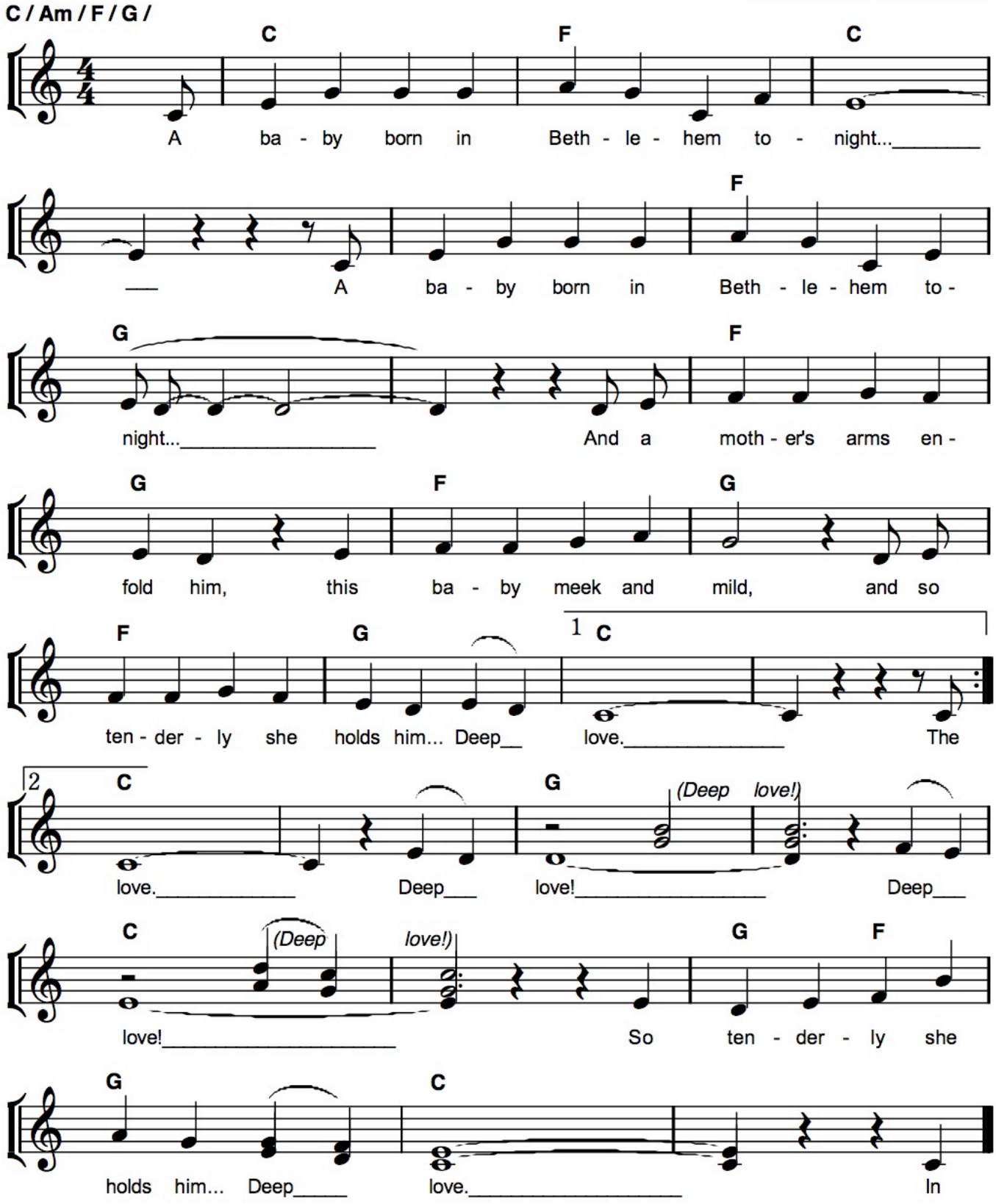
Deep Love

Richard Cootes



Deep Love ***Richard Cootes***

A baby born in Bethlehem tonight…
A baby born in Bethlehem tonight…
And a mother's arms enfold him,
This baby meek and mild,
And so tenderly she holds him…
Deep love.

The night is clear, the stars are shining bright,
As Mary softly sings her lullaby,
And with wonder she beholds him,
This baby meek and mild,
And so tenderly she holds him…
Deep love.

Deep love! Deep love!
So tenderly she holds him, deep love.

In time this child will grow to be a man.
In the service of our God he'll walk the land,
And he'll call the poor ones to him,
The weary and the lame,
And he'll lay his hands upon them… deep love

A baby born in Bethlehem tonight…
A baby born in Bethlehem tonight…
And a mother's arms enfold him,
This baby meek and mild,
And so tenderly she holds him…
Deep love.

Deep love! Deep love!
So tenderly she holds him, deep love.

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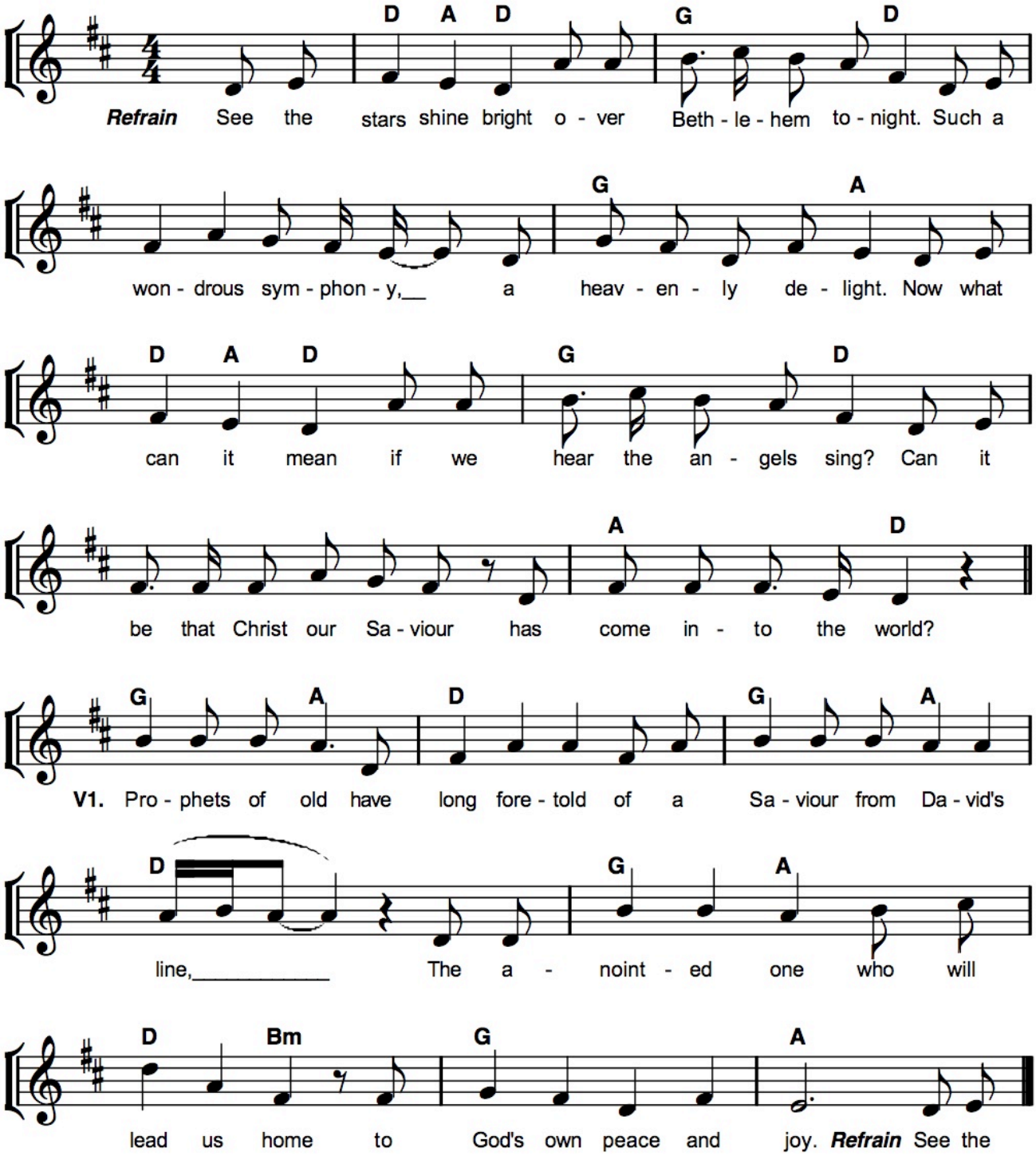
See The Stars Shine Bright

Richard Cootes



THE STARS SHINE BRIGHT *Richard Cootes*

Refrain

SEE THE STARS SHINE BRIGHT
OVER BETHLEHEM TONIGHT.
SUCH A WONDROUS SYMPHONY,
A HEAVENLY DELIGHT.
NOW WHAT CAN IT MEAN
IF WE HEAR THE ANGELS SING?
CAN IT BE THAT CHRIST OUR SAVIOUR
HAS COME INTO THE WORLD?

1. **Prophets of old have long foretold**
   Of a saviour from David's line,
   The anointed one who will lead us home
   To God's own peace and joy.

2. **Shepherds watching their sheep at night**
   Are the first to hear the good news.
   It's the little people, the poor and meek,
   Who are close to God's own heart.

3. **Out of Bethlehem, the least of towns,**
   Comes a shepherd to show us the way.
   And he will care for the weak and lame
   And search for those who stray.

© Richard Cootes 2002

DEEP LOVE
The Story of Christmas

Players *Youngest child and five other children.*
Luke. (The name of "Luke" for this character is used simply because this play derives from Luke's Gospel. The character could be an actual person from the local community who would make a good narrator of the Christmas story. We used our parish priest for this role. He enters riding on a bike because it was a common sight for the children in our community to see him ride by like that.)
Disc jockey.
Prophets Ezekiel, Micah, Zechariah, Isaiah.
Angel of the Lord.
Mary.
Elizabeth.
Caesar Augustus and two attendants.
Joseph
Baby Jesus.
Angels.
Shepherds.

Scene: *A school playground… children skipping…playing handball. Behind is an empty stable. Enter a disc jockey carrying a tape recorder and microphone.*

D.J. Hey kids! I'm your local Disc Jockey from radio 2KID. How are you? I've been visiting all the schools in the local area recording children's voices and broadcasting their thoughts about Christmas over the radio. Now it's your turn. There are just a few days to go till Christmas. Tell me, what does Christmas mean to you. Speak into the microphone.

Youngest Child
Christmas means Santa comes!

2nd Child Christmas means we get lots and lots of toys.

3rd Child Christmas means we get to decorate a Christmas tree.

4th Child Yeah, with candy canes… then we get to eat 'em.

5th Child We get to eat lots of great food… nuts and cherries and plum pudding and custard.

6th Child I like Christmas because my dad puts up thousands and thousands of fairy lights all over the house. He can't help himself. Every year he puts up more and more.

D.J. Hey that's great kids! I'm going to take this recording back to the studio. Don't forget to listen to radio 2KID this afternoon.

Exit disc jockey.

6th Child You know I just can't help but think we've forgotten to tell him something else about Christmas that's important.

5th Child Christmas stockings?

6th Child No…

4th Child Santa hats?

6th Child No…

3rd Child Glow sticks?

6th Child Now I remember. We forget to tell him about Jesus! Christmas is Jesus' birthday!

All Ooops!

Putting the Christ Back in Christmas Richard Cootes

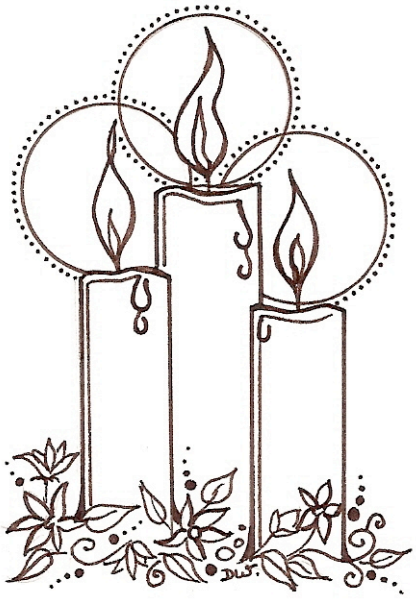
A/D/E/A

A D
PUTTING THE CHRIST BACK IN CHRISTMAS
E A
PUTTING THE SAVIOUR FIRST OF ALL
F#m Bm
REMEMBER THE REASON FOR THE SEASON
E A
IT'S THE BIRTHDAY OF OUR LORD.
A D
PUTTING THE CHRIST BACK IN CHRISTMAS
E A
PUTTING THE SAVIOUR FIRST OF ALL
F#m Bm
REMEMBER THE REASON FOR THE SEASON
E A
IT'S THE BIRTHDAY OF OUR LORD.

A D
One day our local D.J.
A D
Came walking through our school.
A D
He said, "Come on kids it's Christmas time,
E A
Tell me, what's that mean to you?"
A D
We yelled into his microphone
A D
About the gifts that Santa brings,
A D
Of candy canes and fairy lights.

E A
We just forgot one thing ! *chorus*

A D
We won't forget this Christmas time
A D
To honour Christ our King
A D
The baby born in Bethlehem
E A
Of whom the angels sing.
A D
He is the hope of all the world.
A D
He is the Prince of Peace.
A D
He brings the saving love of God
E A
To the likes of you and me.



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Youngest Child
Can someone tell me the story of Christmas? I get all mixed up about what happened.

Child 3 Here comes Luke riding on his bike. I'll bet he knows the story of Christmas.

All Luke! Luke! Tell us the story of Christmas. Please!

Enter Luke on pushbike. Through the following song he dismounts and sits stage left with the children gathered around him.

Tell Me the Story of Christmas Richard Cootes
C/F/C/G

C G
TELL ME THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS!
C
TELL ME THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS!
F
TELL ME THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS!
C G7 C
SUCH A WONDROUS TIME OF THE YEAR?

F C
I heard a song on a starry night;
F G7 C
Voices pure and sweet!
F C
A song of joy, a song of hope!

D7 G
Tell me what does it mean?

F C
I heard the church bells ringing out.
F G7 C
So joyfully did they peal!
F C
As if some wonder has transpired!
D7 G
Tell me what can it be?

C G7 C
(LAST) **SUCH A WONDROUS…TIME… OF THE YEAR….**
© Richard Cootes 2006

Luke Well, children… the story of Christmas is really the story of God's love for the whole world. And the story really begins many hundreds of years before Jesus was born. God's people were a people of promise. God had promised that he would always love them, and, in time he would send them a saviour. The great prophets, who were messengers of God, spoke about the Promised One God would send to save the world. Here is what the prophet Ezekiel said, 600 years before Jesus was born…

Each of the prophets approaches the stage, turns to face the audience, raises his arms high, and recites his prophecy in a booming voice.

Prophet Ezekiel
"I will give my people a king like my servant David, to be their one shepherd and he will take care of them."

Luke The prophet Micah spoke of Bethlehem as the birthplace of the Saviour…

Prophet Micah
Bethlehem, you are one of the smallest towns in Judah, but out of you I will bring a ruler for Israel.

Luke The prophet Zechariah lived about five hundred years before the birth of Jesus. This is what he said…

Prophet Zechariah
Shout for joy… look your king is coming to you! He comes triumphant and victorious, but humble and riding on a donkey.

Luke And this is what the prophet Isaiah said…

Prophet Isaiah
The Lord says…A maiden will have a son and call him Emmanuel.

Luke "Emmanuel" means "God is with us."

The prophets kept reminding the Israelites they were promised people and warned them to be ready and prepare for the coming of Emmanuel.

Perhaps the prophets could perform appropriate actions or hand movements to accompany the following song.

A Voice Cries In The Wilderness Richard Cootes

C F C
A voice cries in the wilderness, "Prepare the way!"
C F G
A voice cries in the wilderness, "Prepare the way!"
C F C
A voice cries in the wilderness, "Prepare the way!"
G C
Prepare the way, prepare the way of the Lord!

C F C
Tear down every mountain high! Prepare the way!
C F G
Raise up every valley floor! Prepare the way!
C F C
Make the highway straight and smooth! Prepare the way!
G C
Prepare the way, prepare the way of the Lord!

F C
Are we ready, are we ready for the coming of our God?
G C
Are we ready to live justly? Are we ready to forgive?
F C
Reaching out with tenderness and tolerance to all,
D G
Are we ready to walk humbly with our God?

C F C
Open up your hearts to him! Prepare the way!
C F G
God's justice and integrity! Prepare the way!
C F C
Compassion and fidelity! Prepare the way!
G C F
Prepare the way, prepare the way of the Lord!
G C
Prepare the way, prepare the way of the Lord!

© Richard Cootes 2006

Luke In the days of King Herod, in a town called Nazareth, their lived a maiden called Mary. One day a most amazing thing happened to Mary. God sent an angel to visit her.

Maid of Galilee ***Richard Cootes***

E/E

E B7
An angel of the Lord appeared.
E
An angel of the Lord appeared.
A
An angel of the Lord appeared,
E A E B7 E
To a maid, a lowly maid, a beautiful maid of Galilee!

E B7
Great joy I bring to you this day!
E
Great joy I bring to you this day!
A
Great joy I bring to you this day!
E A E B7 E
The Lord is with you, beautiful maid of Galilee!

A E
The power of the Lord will overshadow you,
F#7 B7
And you will bear a son, the Son of God!

E B7
Now Mary don't you be afraid!
E
Mary don't you be afraid!
A
Oh, Mary don't you be afraid!
E A E B7 E
The Lord is with you, beautiful maid of Galilee!
E A E B7 E
The Lord is with you, beautiful maid of Galilee!

© Richard Cootes 2005

Mary I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let what you have said happen.

Luke Then Mary travelled to the hill country to visit her cousin Elizabeth to tell her the wonderful news. When Elizabeth saw Mary approaching she was filled with God's spirit and she knew Mary's secret. She said…

Elizabeth Why should the mother of my Lord visit me?

Luke Mary was glad she could share her happiness.

Mary God has remembered me and he has remembered his promises to our people.

My Soul is Singing Richard Cootes
C/C/F/C/C/G/C/C

C F C
The Lord's humble servant, that's all that I am,
G
God's handmaid, lowly and poor!
C F C
But the Lord, my God, has done great things for me,
G C
And holy, holy his name!

C F C
Generations unborn will be calling me blessed!
G
Holy, holy God's name!
C F C
From age to age God's mercy endures!
G C
Holy, holy God's name!

F C
And my soul is leaping and dancing for joy!
F C
My soul is singing God's praise!
F C Am
For the wonderful things God has done for me,
G G7 C
My soul is singing God's praise!

C F C
God scatters the proud with a sweep of his hand!
G
Holy, holy God's name!
C F C
He pulls down the mighty from their lofty thrones!
G C
Holy, holy God's name!

F C
And my soul is leaping and dancing for joy!
F C
My soul is singing God's praise!
F C Am
For the wonderful things God has done for me,
G G7 C

My soul is singing God's praise!

C F C
He fills up the hungry with many good things!
G
Holy, holy God's name!
C F C
But those who are rich he sends empty away!
G C
Holy, holy God's name!

F C
And my soul is leaping and dancing for joy!
F C
My soul is singing God's praise!
F C Am
For the wonderful things God has done for me,
G G7 C
My soul is singing God's praise!
G G7 C
My soul is singing God's praise!
© Richard Cootes 2006

Luke Meanwhile, in the great city of Rome lived the Emperor Augustus. He ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire.

Enter Caesar Augustus with two attendants. Two attendants place chair centre stage for Caesar to sit on. Caesar holds two scrolls that he waves about during the course of the following song. He gives the scrolls to the attendants who scuttle off with them in different directions.

Caesar Augustus! Richard Cootes
E/B7/E/B7E/E
E B7 E
Caesar Augustus, the emperor of Rome,
E B7 E
Caesar Augustus, sat upon his throne!
E B7 E
Caesar Augustus, said hearken unto me!
E B7 E
Caesar Augustus, said "This is my decree:

A E B7 E
A census, a census, throughout the Roman world!
A E B7 E
Every man must return to the city of his birth!"
A E B7 E
A census, a census, throughout the Roman world!
A E B7 E

Every man must return to the city of his birth!"
(x2)

Exit Caesar Augustus.

Luke All the people went to their home towns to register their names on the roll. Mary's husband, Joseph, was from Bethlehem, the birthplace of King David. So Joseph and Mary set out from Nazareth in Galilee and travelled to Bethlehem in Judea.

Enter Mary and Joseph who slowly move about through the following. They knock on an imaginary door. The innkeeper steps forward shaking his head indicating there is no room. He points instead to the stable. All this may be acted out twice because the song is sung two times through.

Mary Rode Upon A Donkey ***Richard Cootes***

Capo 2

D A D
Mary rode upon a donkey,
G A D
With husband Joseph by her side.
D A D
Mary rode upon a donkey,
G A D
And she was anxious for her unborn child.

A D
Then they came to an inn in the middle of the night,
A D
And the inn keeper said I'm so sorry for your plight,
G D Bm
But all I can give you is a stable out the back
A D
There's no room in the inn tonight!

D A D
Mary rode upon a donkey,
G A D
With husband Joseph by her side.
D A D
Mary rode upon a donkey,
G A D
And she was anxious for her unborn child.

A D
Then they came to an inn in the middle of the night,
A D
And the inn keeper said I'm so sorry for your plight,
G D Bm
But all I can give you is a stable out the back
A D
There's no room in the inn tonight!

G
There's no room in the inn!
D Bm
There's no room in the inn

A D
In old Bethlehem tonight.
G
I don't have a single bed
D Bm
The inn keeper said.
A D
There's no room in the inn tonight!
A D
There's no room in the inn tonight
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Mary and Joseph take their places in the stable.

Luke For Mary, the journey to Bethlehem had been exhausting and she knew that soon she would be giving birth to her baby. A stable was the only shelter they could find for the night… but at least it would be warm and dry.
Not far away some shepherds were guarding their sheep. It was a cold but beautiful night…

Enter the shepherds who take their place stage right. They sit and gaze at the stars as the following is sung. Angels gather behind.

I Can Almost Hear the Angels Sing Richard Cootes
D 2 3 4/1

A
What a beautiful night! Such a peaceful night!
G A G A
What a joy it is to contemplate, as expectantly we watch and wait
G A D
For the coming of our new born king!

A
And the night is calm! And the night is clear!
G A G A
And the stars are shining bright tonight! Such a symphony of hope and light!
G A D
I can almost hear the angels sing!

A
Glory to God in the highest!
G A G A

Glory to God in the highest!
G A D
And peace on earth to God's people! ***© Richard Cootes 2006***
Luke During the night Mary gave birth to her son....

Mary cradles her baby in her arms throughout. Perhaps a child who studies ballet could dance.
Deep Love Richard Cootes
C/C/
C F C C F G
A baby born in Bethlehem tonight… A baby born in Bethlehem tonight…
F G F G
And a mother's arms enfold him, this baby meek and mild,
F G C
And so tenderly she holds him… Deep love.

C F C C F G
The night is clear; the stars are shining bright, as Mary softly sings her lullaby,
F G F G
And with wonder she beholds him, this baby meek and mild,
F G C
And so tenderly she holds him… Deep love.

G C
Deep love! Deep love!
G F G7 C
So tenderly she holds him, deep love.

C F C F G
In time this child will grow to be a man. In the service of our God he'll walk the land,
F G F G
And he'll call the poor ones to him, the weary and the lame,
F G C
And he'll lay his hands upon them… Deep love.

C F C C F G
A baby born in Bethlehem tonight… A baby born in Bethlehem tonight…
F G F G
And a mother's arms enfold him, this baby meek and mild,
F G C
And so tenderly she holds him… Deep love.

G C
Deep love! Deep love!
G F G7 C
So tenderly she holds him, deep love.
G C
Deep love! Deep love!
G F G7 C
So tenderly she holds him, deep love. *© Richard Cootes 2006*

Luke Meanwhile, the shepherds had been taking turns to watch their sheep during the night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of God shone around them. They were terrified.

Angel of the Lord steps forward from the gathered angels.

Angel of the Lord

"Don't be afraid. I bring you good news to share with all the people. Today, in the town of David, a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This is how you will know him; you will find him wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."
Then, suddenly, a host of angels appeared and began to sing praise to God: "Glory to God in the highest and peace to all people with whom God is pleased."

Hark The Herald Angels Sing *is an alternative song that could be sung here.*

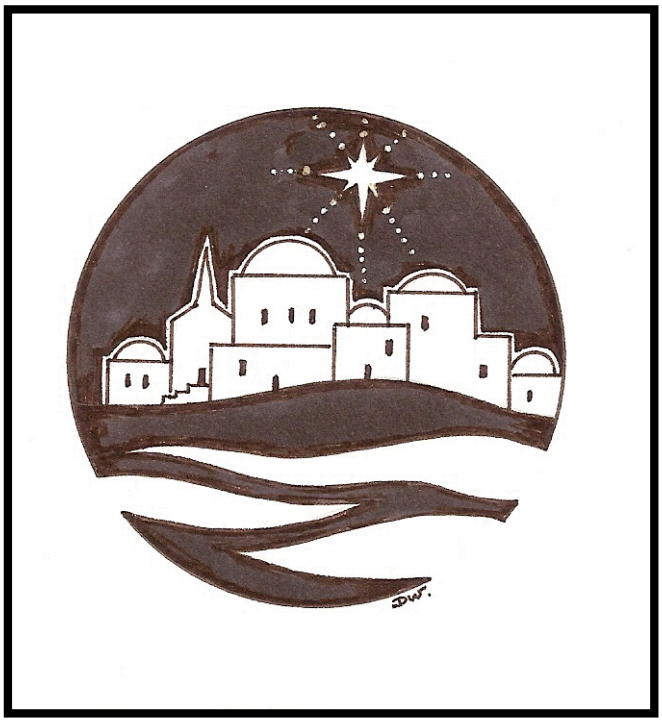
THE STARS SHINE BRIGHT Richard Cootes

D A D G D
SEE THE STARS SHINE BRIGHT OVER BETHLEHEM TONIGHT.
G A
SUCH A WONDROUS SYMPHONY, A HEAVENLY DELIGHT.
D A D G D
NOW WHAT CAN IT MEAN IF WE HEAR THE ANGELS SING?
A D
CAN IT BE THAT CHRIST OUR SAVIOUR HAS COME INTO THE WORLD?

G A D
Prophets of old have long foretold
G A D
Of a saviour from David's line,
G A D Bm
The anointed one who will lead us home
G A
To God's own peace and joy.

G A D
Shepherds watching their sheep at night
G A D
Are the first to hear the good news.
G A D Bm
It's the little people, the poor and meek,
G A
Who are close to God's own heart.

G A D
Out of Bethlehem, the least of towns,
G A D
Comes a shepherd to show us the way.
G A D Bm
And he will care for the weak and lame
G A



and search for those who stray.
© Richard Cootes 2002

Angels take their positions at back of stage.

Luke When the angels went away, the shepherds said to one another…

Shepherds Let us go to Bethlehem to see this thing which the Lord has made known to us.

Luke They hurried away and found Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus lying in a manger.

Shepherds gather around the Holy Family.

Luke When the shepherds saw the baby Jesus they repeated what the angels had said about him. Every one was astonished. And Mary treasured all these things and kept them in her heart.

And that is the story of Christmas.

Close with a carol: O Come All Ye Faithful, Silent Night, O Holy Night.

Notes About the Carols

Included on the Deep Love CD are four enduring Christmas carols. **O Holy Night** and **Silent Night** are two of the most beautiful of all Christmas carols, while **O Come All Ye Faithful** and **Hark the Herald Angels Sing** are two of the most stirring. The lyrics and chords used for the recording are reproduced here and I hope they are in a key that most people can manage to sing and play.

O Holy Night

The lyrics of this carol were written by Frenchman Placide Cappeau in 1847. He lived near the city of Avignon where he was associated with the wine industry and wrote the occasional poem. One day when he was about to embark on a business trip to Paris he was approached by his parish priest to write a Christmas poem. Inspiration came on the journey and while in Paris he took his poem to Jewish composer Adolphe Adam (1803-1856) who set the words to music. Adam had established his reputation as a composer of stage productions which included his masterpiece, *Giselle.* The song was translated into English by John Sullivan Dwight (1813-1893). Most recent recordings of the song focus on the first verse only.

Silent Night

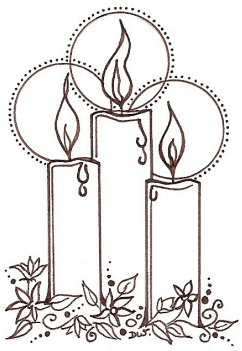
The background to this most cherished of carols makes for a cute story. Joseph Mohr, the parish priest of the alpine village of Oberndorf in Austria, wrote his poem, *Stille Nacht*, in 1816. The story goes that mice had eaten out the bellows of the church organ, and Mohr approached his friend Hanz Gruber to compose a guitar accompaniment for his poem to be performed that night at the Church of St Nicholas. The music was composed in time for midnight mass, Christmas Eve, 1818. The imagination conjures up the poignant image of a village church bedecked with snow, with the sound of gentle guitar, and the beautiful melody of *Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht* floating on the air… Ah, to have been there!

O Come All Ye Faithful

Authorship of this carol has been traced to John Francis Wade, an Englishman born around 1711. A Catholic fleeing religious persecution he eventually settled in France. The song was written in Latin and its alternative title is *Adeste Fidelis.* The song was translated into English by Frederick Oakeley and William Thomas Brooke.

Hark The Herald Angels Sing

Prolific Methodist hymn writer, Charles Wesley, wrote the words of this carol when he heard the bells chiming as he walked to church one Christmas morning. Later the words were set to music composed by Felix Mendelssohn. The song was first published in 1856.



O Holy Night

G/D7/G/C/G/D7/G/G/

G C G
O holy night the stars are brightly shining.
D G D
It is the night of our dear saviour's birth.
G C G
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Bm F#7 Bm
Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
D G
The thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices
D G
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Em Bm Am Em
Fall on your knees. O hear the angel voices.
G-D G-C G D G
O night divine! O night when Christ was born!
D G-Am G D G
O night divine! O night, O night divine!

G C G

D G D

G C G

Bm F#7 Bm
D G
The thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices
D G
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Em Bm Am Em
Fall on your knees. O hear the angel voices.
G-D G-C G D G
O night divine! O night when Christ was born!
D G-Am G D G
O night divine! O night, O night divine!

Silent Night

A E7 A E7

A
Silent night! Holy night!
E7 A
All is calm, all is bright!
D A
Round yon virgin, mother and child!
D A
Holy infant so tender and mild,
E7 A
Sleep in heavenly peace!
E7 A E7
Sleep in heavenly peace!

A
Silent night! Holy night!
E7 A
Shepherds quake at the sight!
D A
Glories stream from heaven afar!
D A
Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia"!
E7 A
Christ the Saviour is born!
E7 A E7
Christ the Saviour is born!

A
Silent night! Holy night!
E7 A
Son of God! Love's pure light!
D A
Radiant beams from thy holy face
D A
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
E7 A
Jesus Lord at thy birth!
E7 A D
Jesus Lord at thy birth!
A E7 A

Jesus Lord at thy birth!

O Come All Ye Faithful

Capo 4

D2/GMaj7/D2/Asus

D A7
O come all ye faithful
D A D A7 D A
Joyful and triumphant,
Bm A E7 A
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
D G D
Come and behold him
Em7 A7
Born the King of angels;

D A D A7 D A
O COME LET US ADORE HIM,
D A D A7 D A
O COME LET US ADORE HIM,
G A G
O COME LET US ADORE HIM
D A D
CHRIST THE LORD!

D A7
Sing, choirs of angels,
D A DA7 D A
Sing with exultations
Bm A E7 A
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above;
D G D
Glory to God
Em7 A7
In the highest,

D A D A7 D A
O COME LET US ADORE HIM,
D A D A7 D A
O COME LET US ADORE HIM,
G A G
O COME LET US ADORE HIM
D A D
CHRIST THE LORD!

D A7
Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
D A D A7 D A
Born this happy morning
Bm A E7 A
Jesus to thee be glory giv'n;
D G D
Word of the Father,
Em7 A7
Now in flesh appearing,

D A D A7 D A
O COME LET US ADORE HIM,
D A D A7 D A
O COME LET US ADORE HIM,
G A G
O COME LET US ADORE HIM
D A D
CHRIST THE LORD!

Capo 2 D Bm7 Em7 A

D
Hark! The herald angels sing,
D G D A7 D
Glory to the new born king
Bm E7
Peace on earth and mercy mild
A E7 A
God and sinners reconciled!
D A7 D D A7
Joyful all ye nations rise,
D A7 D A7
Join the triumph of the skies
G B7 Em B7 Em
With the angelic hosts proclaim
A7 D A7 D
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
G B7 Em B7 Em
Hark! The herald angels sing,
A D A7 D
Glory to the new born King

D
Christ by highest heav'n adored;
D G D A7 D
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Bm E7
Late in time behold him come,
A E7 A
Offspring of the virgin's womb
D A7 D A7
Veiled in flesh the God-head see;
D A7 D A7
Hail the incarnate deity
G B7 Em B7 Em
Pleased as man with us to dwell

A7 D A7 D
Jesus, our Emmanuel
G B7 Em B7 Em
Hark! The herald angels sing,
A D A7 D
Glory to the new born King

D
Hail, the heav'n born Prince of Peace!
G D A7 D
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Bm E7
Light and life to all he brings,
A E7 A
Ris'n with healing in his wings.
D A7 D A7
Mild he lays his glory by,
D A7 D A7
Born that we no more may die,
G B7 Em B7 Em
Born to raise us from the earth,
A7 D A7 D
Born to give us second birth.
G B7 Em B7 Em
Hark! The herald angels sing,
A D A7 D
Glory to the new born King