

Coventry Carol

Words: Anonymous; based on Matthew 2:16-18; revised in 1534 by Robert Croo; in "The Coventry Nativity Play of the Company of Shearmen and Tailors", *Everyman and Other Plays* (London, 1909), p. 102; altered

Music: Anonymous; revised in 1591 by Thomas Mawdyke; in *A Dissertation on the Pageants or Dramatic Mysteries Anciently Performed at Coventry* (London, 1825), p. 116-117

Tune name: COVENTRY CAROL

Arrangement: Jason Hunsaker, © 2002 by Jason Hunsaker

S
A
Unison
Lul - ly, lul - lay, Thou lit - tle child, By, by, lul - ly lul - lay!_____

S
mp tenderly
Oh sis - ters too, How may we do For to pre - serve this day_____

A
mp tenderly
Oh sis - ters too, How may we do For to pre - serve this day_____

S
17
This poor young - ling, For whom we sing? (ng)_____ By, by, lul - ly, lul - lay!_____

A
This poor young - ling, For whom we sing? (ng)_____ By, by, lul - ly, lul - lay!_____

T
mf non legato
Her - od the king, In his rag - ing,_____ Com - mand - ed he this day,_____ (Lul - ly, lul - lay!)

B
mf non legato
Her - od the king, In his rag - ing,_____ Com - mand - ed he this day,_____

By, by: As in *by and by*; immediately, right now (cf. KJV:Mark 6:25). Also as a variant of *bye*, as in *goodbye*.

Lully, lullay: To lull, calm, pacify, or soothe; to cause to sleep. Also slang (ca. 15th & 16th centuries) for *I saw* or *I see*, possibly as in *until I see you again*.

Like all nativity poems, the poet often imagines a dialogue between Mary and the infant Jesus. Such dialogues often foreshadow the events to follow: the events of the Crucifixion. It appears that lullabies unrelated to Christmas and to the Slaughter of the Holy Innocents are a comparatively recent development.

34

S
A
T
B

Lul - ly, lul - lay.

Lul - ly, lul - lay.

with intensity
His men of might In his own sight All chil-dren young to slay!
hollow, no vibrato

with intensity
His men of might In his own sight All chil-dren young to slay!
hollow, no vibrato

S
A
T
B

ff with anguish
Then woe is me Poor child for thee! And ev-er mourn this day. For thy part-

ff with anguish
Then woe is me Poor child for thee! And ev-er mourn this day. (Lul-lay!) For thy part-

ff with anguish
Then woe is me Poor child for thee! And ev-er mourn this day. For thy part-

ff with anguish
Then woe is me Poor child for thee! And ev-er mourn this day. For thy part-

S
A
T
B

-ing Nor say nor sing (ng) (Lul - lay!) By, by, lul - ly, lul - lay!

-ing Nor say nor sing (ng) (Lul - ly!) (Lul - ly, lu...) By, by, lul - ly, lul - lay!

-ing Nor say nor sing (ng) (Lul - lay!) By, by, lul - ly, lul - lay!

-ing Nor say nor sing (ng) (Lul - ly, lu...) By, by, lul - ly, lul - lay!

rit. al fine hollow, no vibrato f mf mp > pp