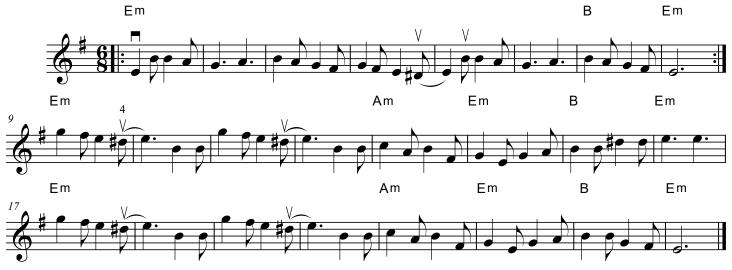
## **Masters in This Hall**



In 1860, William Norris wrote English lyrics to this French dance tune to make this Christmas Carol. These are the lyrics from 1914 as published by Edith Rickert in Ancient English Christmas Carols 1400-1700.

1. Masters in this Hall, Hear ye news to-day Brought from over sea, And ever I you pray

## Chorus

Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell, sing we clear! Holpen are all folk on earth, Born is God's son so dear: Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell, sing we loud! God to-day hath poor folk raised, And cast a-down the proud.

2. Going o'er the hills, Through the milk-white snow, Heard I ewes bleat, While the wind did blow **Chorus** 

3. Shepherds many an one, Sat among the sheep, No man spake more word, Than they had been asleep **Chorus** 

4. Quoth I, "Fellows mine, Why this guise sit ye? Making but dull cheer, Shepherds though ye be? **Chorus** 

5. "Shepherds should of right, Leap and dance and sing, Thus to see ye sit, Is a right strange thing" **Chorus** 

6. Quoth these fellows then, "To Bethlem town we go, To see a mighty lord, Lie in manger low" **Chorus** 

7. "How name ye this lord, Shepherds?' then said I, "Very God," they said, "Come from Heaven high" **Chorus** 

8. Then to Bethlem town, We went two and two, And in a sorry place, Heard the oxen low. **Chorus** 

9. Therein did we see, A sweet and goodly may And a fair old man, Upon the straw she lay. **Chorus** 

10. And a little child, On her arm had she, "Wot ye who this is?" Said the hinds to me. **Chorus** 

11. Ox and ass him know, Kneeling on their knee, Wondrous joy had I This little babe to see. Chorus

12. This is Christ the Lord, Masters be ye glad! Christmas is come in, And no folk should be sad. **Chorus**