

Masters in This Hall

The image shows a musical score for the Christmas carol 'Masters in This Hall'. It is written in G major and 6/8 time. The score consists of three staves of music. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 6/8 time signature. The melody begins with a repeat sign. Chords are indicated above the staff: Em, B, and Em. The second staff starts at measure 9 and includes a '4' above the first measure, indicating a four-measure rest. Chords are Em, Am, Em, B, and Em. The third staff starts at measure 17 and includes a '17' above the first measure. Chords are Em, Am, Em, B, and Em. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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**