

MY PLAYLIST FOR

THE NATIVITY



My Playlist for The Nativity

Listen to the music and read the story!

Can you hear the music? Do you hear it play?
It's telling you the story of the first Christmas Day.

Listen – it's beginning! We start in Nazareth,
A little town in Israel, with Mary and Joseph.

1. **John Rutter** (b. 1945)
Nativity carol 4:25
Martin Ford (organ), Vasari Singers, Jeremy Backhouse
Original disc: 8.573030

An angel comes to Mary, saying "You will have a son!
Your little new born baby will be God's chosen one."

2. **Traditional**
The Angel Gabriel 1:23
(arr. L. Strand)
Bo Westman (keyboards), Jonkoping Sinfonietta, Leif Strands Ladies Choir, Leif Strand
Original disc: 8.570430

There is to be a census – they must go to Bethlehem.
But the baby's nearly here – hurry, hurry, quick, hasten!

3. **Witold Lutosławski** (1913–1994)
20 Polish Christmas Carols Hurrying to Bethlehem 0:51
(sung in Polish)
Olga Pasichnyk (soprano), Polish Radio Choir, Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, Antoni Wit
Original disc: 8.555994

8.578348

They travel along dusty roads, steep and winding tracks,
Joseph walks, and Mary rides upon a donkey's back.

4. **Joaquín Rodrigo** (1901–1999)
Album for Cecilia No. 6. Little Donkeys in Bethlehem 1:13
Artur Pizarro (piano)
Original disc: 8.557923

Finally, they get there, but there is no place to sleep!
They end up in a stable, with cows, and goats, and sheep.

5. **Lewis H. Redner** (1830–1908)
O Little Town of Bethlehem 3:19
(lyricist: P. Brooks, arr. L. Strand)
Göran Marcussen (flute), Tobias Sjögren (guitar), Leif Strand Chamber Choir, Jerker Johansson
Original disc: 8.503182

Jesus is born! The baby's here! What a special night.
Mary lays him in the manger, swaddled all in white.

6. **Traditional**
The Virgin Mary had a Baby Boy 1:54
(arr. P. Breiner for orchestra)
Nicolaus Esterházy Sinfonia, Peter Breiner
Original disc: 8.550670

7. **Traditional**
Mary had a baby 2:50
(arr. L. Strand)
Göran Marcussen (flute), Tobias Sjögren (guitar), Leif Strand Chamber Choir, Jerker Johansson
Original disc: 8.503182

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8. **John Ireland** (1879–1962)
4 Preludes No. 3. The Holy Boy 2:59
(version for cello and piano)
Julian Lloyd Webber (cello), John Lenehan (piano)
Original disc: 8.572902

9. **William J. Kirkpatrick** (1838–1921)
Away in a Manger 2:27
(lyricist: Traditional, arr. D. Willcocks)
Ann Hoyt (soprano), Trinity Church Choir, New York
Original disc: 8.555886

The cattle are lowing, and the sheep and goats are bleating.
Mary sings a lullaby – shhh! The baby's sleeping.

10. **Johannes Brahms** (1833–1897) 2:12
Wiegenlied Guten Abend, gut Nacht, Op. 49, No. 4 (Lullaby)
(arr. for orchestra)
Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra, Peter Breiner
Original disc: 8.553843

In the night sky up above, a big, bright star appears,
To tell the people all around – rejoice! The Saviour's here!

11. **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** (1756–1791)
12 Variations on Ah, vous dirai-je, maman, K. 265 (excerpt) 5:03
Balázs Szokolay (piano)
Original disc: 8.578207

12. **George Frideric Handel** (1685–1759)
Joy to the World 1:32
(lyricist: I. Watts)
Worcester Cathedral Choir, Donald Hunt
Original disc: 8.503157

8.578348

Look – a host of angels! Can you hear them singing?
The shepherds on the hillsides can – what joyful news they're bringing!

13. Traditional
While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks 2:25
(arr. D. Willcocks)
Tewkesbury Abbey Choir, Andrew Sackett
Original disc: 8.553077

14. Leroy Anderson (1908–1975)
Suite of Carols I. Angels in our Fields..... 2:28
BBC Concert Orchestra, Leonard Slatkin
Original disc: 8.559382

Hey! Here come the shepherds - they hurry to the stable,
Rushing down the hillsides just as fast as they are able.

15. Percy Grainger (1882–1961)
Shepherd's Hey..... 2:07
Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra, Keith Brion
Original disc: 8.554263

Three wise men called Gaspar, Melchior and Balthazar,
Travel through the desert, following the star.

16. John Henry Hopkins Jr. (1820–1891)
We three kings of Orient are..... 3:08
(arr. A. Pitts)
Tonus Peregrinus, Antony Pitts
Original disc: 8.557330

Listen closely – can you hear the camel's bells that ring?
The three wise men are bringing gifts to give the new born King.

17. **Lisan Wang** (1933–2013)
Capriccio of Animals II. Camel's Bells in the Desert..... 1:26
Yiming Zhang (piano)
Original disc: 9.70248-50

18. **Hilding Rosenberg** (1892–1985)
The Holy Night IX. March of the Wise Men..... 2:14
Swedish Chamber Orchestra, Petter Sundkvist
Original disc: 8.225123

Sleeping sweetly in the manger, baby Jesus lies,
Wise men and shepherds round him, and angels in the skies.

19. **Felix Mendelssohn** (1809–1847)
Kinderstücke, Op. 72, "Christmas Pieces" Andante sostenuto..... 1:48
Benjamin Frith (piano)
Original disc: 8.550940

Could you hear the music? Did you hear it play?
What a special story - the first Christmas Day.

20. **Franz Xaver Gruber** (1787–1863)
Silent Night..... 3:14
(lyricist: J. Mohr)
Michael Bloss (organ), Elora Festival Singers, Noel Edison
Original disc: 8.554179

Total Timing: 49:51

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Perfect for children of all ages, this album of classical and traditional works is a charming and engaging retelling of the nativity through music, song and rhyme.

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1 Rutter Nativity carol	4:25	11 Mozart 12 Variations on Ah, vous dirai-je, maman (Twinkle, Twinkle)	5:03
2 Traditional The Angel Gabriel	1:23	12 Mason Joy to the World	1:32
3 Lutosławski Hurrying to Bethlehem	0:51	13 Traditional While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks	2:25
4 Rodrigo Little Donkeys in Bethlehem	1:13	14 Anderson Angels in our Fields	2:28
5 Redner O Little Town of Bethlehem	3:19	15 Grainger Shepherd's Hey	2:07
6 Traditional The Virgin Mary had a Baby Boy (instrumental)	1:54	16 Hopkins Jr. We three kings of Orient are	3:08
7 Traditional Mary had a baby	2:50	17 Wang Camel's Bells in the Desert	1:26
8 Ireland The Holy Boy	2:59	18 Rosenberg March of the Wise Men	2:14
9 Kirkpatrick Away in a Manger	2:27	19 Mendelssohn Christmas Pieces Andante sostenuto	1:48
10 Brahms Lullaby	2:12	20 Gruber Silent Night	3:14

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