



COUNTERPOINT

SINGS NOEL

twenty  
RARE AND  
WONDERFUL  
CAROLS

DIRECTED BY  
ROBERT DE CORMIER

WITH DIVERS  
INSTRUMENTS  
AND ORGAN





## NOEL WE SING

*The early 18th-century French composer Daquin wrote many Noels for organ. This arrangement by Robert De Cormier and the late organist E. Power Biggs adds chorus and an original English text. Chorus and organ answer and echo throughout, until all join in the glorious final verse.*

**Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772), arr. Robert De Cormier, E. Power Biggs; English text, Louise Dobbs. Organ: Gregory Hayes. (Lawson-Gould, Alfred)**

# DORMI, DORMI O BEL BAMBINO

*(Lullaby)*

Sleep, my darling baby, sleep. You are King, this I sing.  
Sleep, oh sleep, my darling child, watch I will keep. Please don't weep.  
Close your eyes, my darling, and sleep.

*Slumber softly, infant so lovely,  
Sleep now gently, dear baby mine.*

Oh, my darling baby dear, why do you weep? Can't you sleep?  
Close your eyes now, hush-a-by. Holy are you, it is true.  
Sleep, oh sleep, my darling baby.

*Slumber softly, infant so lovely,  
Sleep now gently, dear baby mine.*

Italian carol, arr. Robert De Cormier. Solo: Claire Hungerford. (Lawson-Gould, Alfred)

# MARI LUYD

*This lovely old Welsh carol in praise of the Blessed Mary is sung by women  
in Grace Williams' most unusual arrangement.*

All hallow the Maiden, most blessed, most holy.

Welsh carol, arr. Grace Williams. Zither: Roger Grow. Sung by Colleen Flynn Campbell, Melissa Chesnut-Tangerman, Amy Frostman, Linda Radtke. (Gwynn Music Publishers, Llagollen, N. Wales)

# CHILDREN, GO WHERE I SEND THEE

*The African-American contribution to the music celebrating Christmas is a most important one, whether it be the tender Virgin Mary Had A' One Son, the rousing Shout for Joy, or Children, Go Where I Send Thee, a cumulative song much like The Twelve Days of Christmas.*

Arr. Robert De Cormier. Lead solo: Eric K. Brooks. Percussion: D. Thomas Toner. (Hal Leonard Corp.)

# A BOY WAS BORN

*On this recording we are performing the opening theme from Benjamin Britten's choral theme and variations composed in 1932 while a student at the Royal College of Music. The words were taken from ancient Christmas carols, and Britten dedicated it to his father. It was broadcast by the BBC on Feb. 23, 1934, the day of Edward Elgar's death. Britten had a recording made from the second BBC broadcast in 1935 — the first discs he ever heard of his music. "They are lovely ... terribly exciting," he wrote, though he was afraid that the piece was too difficult to ever become popular.*

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976). (Oxford University Press)



# Écoutez donc LES AUBADES

*The first hymns in honor of the Nativity were written in the 5th century. They were in Latin, however, and it was not until the 13th century, when St. Francis inspired his companions to write in the vernacular, that songs celebrating the Nativity were written for the common people to sing. From Italy the carol spread rapidly to France and all of Europe and soon beautiful songs of the Nativity sprang up wherever people celebrated Christmas.*

1. Listen! Can't you hear the singing, sweetly sounding early morn;  
Golden trumpets clearly ringing, telling all a king is born!  
Trumpeting: Ta-ta-ra, ta-ta-ra tampoun!

2. Taking off our hats, we enter stable there to see Jesu:  
"Darling baby, we are singing sweet and gay noels for you!"  
We will play: Ta-ta-ra, etc.

3. Silver flutes and golden trumpets, drums and pipes and tinkling bells,  
Gaily now their music ringing, while the angels sing noels!  
Sing to him: Ta-ta-ra, etc.  
The newborn king, the sweet Jesu!


French carol (E. Henry David), arr. Robert De Cormier. Guitar: John Muratore. Flute: Karen Kevra.

# LO, HOW A ROSE E,ER BLOOMING

*Praetorius was a German composer, teacher and music historian who wrote many sacred and secular works, including dance music. He composed this melody to a text in which a rose is a metaphor for the Christ Child, sprung "from tender stem" (Mary) and "Jesse's lineage" (the House of David), blooming "amid the snows of winter."*

Michael Praetorius (1571-1621), arr. Robert De Cormier.  
Solo: Eric K. Brooks.





# La Virgen Lava Pañales

*This traditional Spanish carol sings of the virgin washing the swaddling while the infant Jesus sleeps. When Jesus was missing, "they sought him only to see the infant Jesus fishing by the shores of Galilee."*

Spanish carol, arr. Robert De Cormier; English text, John Dobbs. Guitar: John Muratore. (Lawson-Gould, Alfred)

# Patapan

*A lighthearted Burgundian carol written by Bernard de la Momoye in 1842. He composed many carols and songs, some of them quite indecorous.*

French carol, arr. Robert De Cormier. Organ: Gregory Hayes. Percussion: D. Thomas Toner. (Lawson-Gould, Alfred)

# Counterpoint

Directed by Robert De Cormier

Assistant Director: Roger Grow

Singers: Eric K. Brooks, Melissa Chesnut-Tangerman, Colleen Flynn Campbell, Amy Frostman, Roger Grow, David Horn, Claire Hungerford, Nathaniel G. Lew, Marybeth McCaffrey, Brett Murphy, Linda Radtke

Instrumentalists: Karen Kevra, flute; John Muratore, guitar;  
Gregory Hayes, organ; D. Thomas Toner, percussion; Roger Grow, zither

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