

# Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

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## A Christmas Carol

A Christmas Carol

Sung To The King In The Presence At Whitehall

(Robert Herrick 1591-1674)

Cho: What sweeter music can we bring,  
than a carol for to sing  
The birth of this our heavenly King ?  
Awake the voice! awake the string !  
Heart, ear, and eye, and everything  
Awake! the while the active finger  
Runs division with the singer.

Dark and dull night, fly hence away  
And give the honor to this day  
That sees December turned to May.

If we may ask the reason, say  
The why and wherefore all things here  
Seem like the spring-time of the year.

Why does the chilling winter's morn  
Smile like a field beset with corn ?  
Or smell like to a mead new shorn  
Thus, on the sudden ?

Come and see  
The cause, why things thus fragrant be:  
'Tis he is born, whose quickening birth  
Gives life and luster, public mirth,  
To heaven and the under-earth.

We see him come, and know him ours,  
Who with his sunshine and his showers,  
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.

The darling of the world is come,  
And fit it is we find a room  
To welcome him.

The nobler part  
Of all the house here is the heart,

Which we will give him; and bequeath  
This holly and this ivy wreath,

To do him honour; who's our King  
And Lord of all this revelling.

TO  
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