

CHRISTMAS SONGS OF SPAIN

Recorded by Laura Boulton FOLKWAYS FP 6836



M
1999
C555
1955

MUSIC LP

Cover Design by Ronald Clyne

CHRISTMAS SONGS OF SPAIN

FOLKWAYS FP 6830

CHRISTMAS SONGS OF SPAIN

Descriptive Notes are inside pocket

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- ESTA NOCHEBUENA
(This night is Christmas Eve)
LA VIRGEN VA CAMINANDO
(The Virgin goes a-walking)
LOS PASTORES A BELEN
(The Shepherds in Bethlehem)
EN EL PORTAL DE BELEN
(In the gate of Bethlehem)
EN BELEN HOY HA NACIDO
(In Bethlehem this day was born)
CAMPANAS DE BELEN
(Chimes of Bethlehem)
LOS PASTORES A BELEN
(The shepherds rush to Bethlehem)
EL NINO
(The Child)
ESTA NOCHE ES NOCHEBUENA
(The night is Christmas Eve)
ESTA NOCHE NACIO UN NINO
(Tonight a Child was born)
A BELEN, PASTORES
(To Bethlehem, shepherds)
EN EL PORTAL DE BELEN
(At the gate of Bethlehem)
PASTORES, VENID
(Come ye shepherds)
MADRE, A LA PUERTA HAY UN NINO
(Mother, at the door there is a Child)
PASTORCITOS, VENID
(Come along, shepherds)
LA VIRGEN LLAMABA
(The Virgin kept calling)

FOLKWAYS FP 6836

CHRISTMAS SONGS of SPAIN

recorded by LAURA BOULTON



Notes by Laura Boulton

In the villages and towns of Spain the Christmas-time celebration begins on "Nochebuena" (Christmas Eve). When the Midnight Mass is over, where the "villancicos" (carols) are sung, the family goes home for a special supper. Although they do not have Santa Claus, presents are left for the children on January 6th, Three Kings' Day (Epiphany), by the Three Good Kings, Melchar, Gaspar and Baltasar.

There is no Christmas tree tradition. Instead the Nativity Scenes ("Nacimientos") are made with loving care and can be seen everywhere -- in homes, churches, and public places. Competitions are held in each village and town, and prizes distributed for the most effective of the nativity cribs. The most spectacular ones are in the cathedrals, but some homes have extremely elaborate Nacimientos, and these are generally open for the community to visit.

New Year's Eve is a time of festivity. It is lucky to eat one grape at every stroke of the clock at midnight; one grape for each month of the year, an ancient tradition having to do with a good harvest of grapes for the coming year.

"Los villancicos," the Christmas carols, are both secular and religious. The symbolic texts are concerned with the birth of the Christ Child in poverty, the shepherds learning of the birth, the caravans of The Three Kings who came to adore the Child. Sometimes the carols begin by honoring the birth of Christ, and then rollicking dance tunes enumerate the good things that these feast days bring. Birds and animals are frequently mentioned and are personified in honoring the Christ Child. Sometimes the carols are sung to the accompaniment of musical instruments such as tambourines and castanets. But always the singers identify themselves very personally with the Christ Child and Mary.

OTHER RECORDS BY LAURA BOULTON

- FE 4434 Folk Music of Yugoslavia
- FE 4444 The Eskimos of Hudson Bay and Alaska
- FW 6805 Songs and Dances of Yugoslavia
- FW 6807 Songs and Dances of Switzerland
- FW 6828 Ukrainian Christmas Songs
- FW 8801 Songs and Dances of Turkey
- FW 8850 Indian Music of the Southwest
- FW 8851 Indian Music of Mexico
- FW 8852 African Music

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SIDE I, BAND 1THIS NIGHT IS CHRISTMAS EVE

CHORUS:

Ya-ya -ya-ya-ya-ya
 Ya-ya-ya-ya -ya -ya-ya-ya-ya-ya-ya
 Ya-ya -ya-ya-ya-ya-ya
 Ya-ya-ya-ya - Ya-ya-ya-ya

This is the night of Christmas Eve -
 And tomorrow is Christmas
 Ya-ya-ya-ya-ya-ya, etc.
 Sing to Him on your guitar,
 And let us all begin to sing - Ya-ya...

A drum with a good brass rat-a-tat-tat
 I don't know just where it's going,
 ya-ya-ya
 It's marching right to Bethlehem -
 Just beyond is the morning watch. - Ya-ya...

In the gate at Bethlehem
 Yesterday was seen Sun and Moon,
 And the Virgin and Don Joseph
 And the Child who is in the
 manger.

The mule is grumbling,
 Turns around and kicks its feet;
 And the Son of God
 Remains a-sleeping.

Carnation and roses
 The manger adorn.
 And meanwhile their names
 To Him they keep repeating.

CHORUS:

SIDE I, BAND 2THE VIRGIN GOES A-WALKING

The Virgin keeps walking
 Walking with tiny steps
 On her way to Bethlehem;
 Since the way is so long,
 The child has grown thirsty.
 Don't ask, my darling,
 For water to drink
 For muddy is the brook
 That usually brings it

Come down from the mountains
 and don't delay;
 Come down, Pascual...
 And gather herbs and honey -

ESTA NOCHE ES NOCHEBUENA
(Madrid)

Esta noche es Nochebuena
 Y mañana es Navidad.

Cantadle con la guitarra
 Y empecemos a cantar. -Ya-Ya...

Una pandareta buena-
 Yo no sé por donde irá -
 Ya-ya-ya
 Camina para Belén -
 Mas arriba la alborada. - Ya-ya...

En el portal de Belén
 Ayer se vió a Sol y Luna
 La Virgen y San José
 Y el Niño que está en la cuna.

La mula regruñe,
 Se vuelve y patea.
 Y el Niño de Dios
 Dormido se queda.

Claveles y rosas
 La cuna adorna...
 Y en tanto su nombre
 Diciéndole está.

LA VIRGEN VA CAMINANDO
(Santillana)

La virgen va caminando,
 Caminito va,
 Caminando hacia Belén.
 Como el camino es tan largo,
 Que tiene que andar
 Al Niño le he dado sed.
 No pidas, bien mió,
 Agua de beber
 Que turbia el arroyo
 La suele traer.

Baja del monte y no tardes,
 Baja, Pascual...
 Y coge romero y miel -

So that before the night falls...
Come down, Pascual
I want to get to Bethlehem -
Herbs and honey -
I want to get to Bethlehem.

Que antes la noche llegue.
Baja, Pascual...
Quiero llegar a Belén -
Romero y meil -
Quiero llegar a Belén.

SIDE I, BAND 3

THE SHEPHERDS IN BETHLEHEM

(The whole song is sung twice)

The Shepherds in Bethlehem
Run on in excitement
And in a sad state run in file
With their shoes in tatters.

Ay-ay-ay-con la pan - con la de
Con la pan dereta -
And the Galician hornpipes.

LOS PASTORES A BELEN
(Santillana)

Los pastores a Belén
Corren presurosos;
Y todos se van al
Con zapatos rotos.

Y gaita gallega.

SIDE I, BAND 4

IN THE GATE OF BETHLEHEM

In the gate at Bethlehem
There is a star, a moon and sun
The Virgin and Saint Joseph
And the Child who is in the manger.

CHORUS: (Sung Through Twice)
Shepherds, come ye,
Shepherds, come over here
To worship the Child
Who has been born already.

In the gate at Bethlehem
The shepherds light up their lamps
To warm up the Child
Who has been born among the flowers.

CHORUS: (Sung Through Twice)

In the gate at Bethlehem
Was born a blood red carnation
That to redeem the world
Has turned into a purple iris.

CHORUS: (Sung Through Twice)

EN EL PORTAL DE BELEN
(Santillana)

En el portal de Belén
Hay estrella, sol y luna,
La Virgen y San José
El Niño que está en la cuna.

Pastores, venid,
Pastores, llegad, a
Adorar al Niño
Que ha nacido ya.

En el Portal de Belén
Hacen lumbre los pastores
Para calentar el Niño
Que ha nacido entre las flores.

En el Portal de Belén
Nació un clavel encarnado,
Que por redimir al mundo,
Se ha vuelto lirio morado.

SIDE I, BAND 5

IN BETHLEHEM THIS DAY WAS BORN

In Bethlehem this day was born
He Who our salvation is;
This Child you will within a manger
Find your way to through your love.

EN BELEN HOY HA NACIDO
(Mallorca)

En Belén hoy ha nacido
El que es nuestra salvación;
Hecho Niño en un pesebre
Lo hallareis por vuestro amor.

By the light of the Holy Messenger
(I now dedicate in His honor)
Peace to all that's good on earth here } Repeat
And up on High, Glory to God.

A la luz del nuncio santo
('Ora dedico en tu honor)
Conocer y cuento no
Paz al bueno acá en la tierra
Y en la altura gloria a Dios.

SIDE I, BAND 6

CHIMES OF BETHLEHEM

Chime upon chime -
Add to that chime another -
Stand up against this window
And you'll see a Child in a crib.

Bethlehem, chimes of Bethlehem -
May the angels play them;
What new ones bring ye for me?

Walking in the dark of night,
Whither goest thou, oh shepherd?
I bear unto the Child a-borning
As unto God my very heart.

CAMPANAS DE BELEN (Santander)

Campana sobre campana,
Y sobre campana una,
Asómate a esa ventana,
Veras al Niño en la cuna.

Belen, campanas de Belén -
Que los ángeles tocan -
Qué nuevas me traéis?

Recogido tu rebaño
A donde vas pastorcito?
Voy a llevar al portal
Requesón, manteca y vino.

SIDE I, BAND 7

THE SHEPHERDS RUSH TO BETHLEHEM

The shepherds to Bethlehem come
rushing
And behind them come tumbling a mob
With shoes all torn, all of them gay -
With a pan - pan - pan -
With a dey - dey - dey -
With a pan - with a dey - with a
Tripping dance of Galicia...

LOS PASTORES A BELEN (Santillana)

Los pastores a Belén corren presurosos
Y de zaga le es un tren con zapatos rotos..
Ay - ay - ay! que alegres van!
Con la pan - pan - pan -
Con la de - de - de -
Con la pan - con la de -
Con la pandereta
Y (la) gaita gallega.

SIDE I, BAND 8

THE CHILD

Unto us today was born
A Child that is God;
He is the King of Heaven,
Who weeps with love

Come ye and adore Him
For He is all Love;
Give thanks unto Him,
Give your very heart.

(Repeat both verses)

SIDE I, BAND 9

THIS NIGHT IS CHRISTMAS EVE

Tonight is Christmas Eve,
And it is no night for sleeping -
For Jesus Christ has been born,
We must go to cheer Him.

EL NIÑO (Mallorca)

Hoy nos ha nacido
Un Niño que es Dios,
Es el Rey del cielo
Que llora de amor.

Venid a adorarle
Pues que es todo amor;
Dadle agradecidos,
Vuestro corazón.

ESTA NOCHE ES NOCHEBUENA (Santillana)

Esta noche es Nochebuena,
Y no es noche de dormir.
Ya ha nacido Jesucristo,
Hay que irle a divertir.

Come ye shepherds, come,
He must here by now,
And you will see the Child } Repeat
Who was born just now.

At this door a Child is calling.
More beautiful than the bright sun.
He says that he feels very cold,
And the poor Child is all naked.

Then tell Him to come in,
Let Him warm Himself,
Since upon this Earth
There is no Charity.

The Child came in and sat Him down,
And having warmed Himself,
The hostess asks Him
In what land is His Kingdom?

My Mother, she has come
From lands far away,
My Father is from Heaven,
I am from this Earth.

Pastores venid, (venir)
(Pastores llegad)
Zagales llegar,
Y vereis al Niño
Que ha nacido ya.

A esta puerta llama un Niño
Más hermoso que el sol bello.
Dice que tiene frío,
Y el pobrecito está en cueros.

Pues dile que entre,
Se calentará,
Ya que en esta tierra
Ya no hay caridad.

Entró el Niño se sentó,
Y estandose calentado,
Le pregunta la patrona,
De qué tierra es su reinado.

Mi madre ha venido
De lejanas tierras,
Mi Padre es del cielo
Yo soy de la Tierra.

SIDE II, BAND 1

COME YE LITTLE SHEPHERDS

CHORUS:

Come ye little shepherds
Come ye to worship
The Child Jesus
Who is in the gate,
Come slowly on tiptoe
Make no noise as you come in,
The Virgin Mary,
The Virgin Mary
Is putting Him to sleep.

So that He may sleep,
My child, who is God,
I am going to sing Him
A sweet little song;
A song that is gentle
All full of my love,
That beats with the throb
Of my own home and town.

CHORUS: (Repeats the chorus above... "Venid, pastorcitos," etc.)

SIDE II, BAND 2

TONIGHT A CHILD WAS BORN

Tonight a Child was born
Who is the flower of the beautiful sky
What hunger He suffers, my Child,
How cold is His skin.

VENID, PASTORCITOS
(Santillana)

Venid pastorcitos,
Venid a adorar
Al Niño Jesús,
Que está en el portal.
Venid despacito,
Sin ruido llegad,
Le Virgen María
Le Virgen María
Durmiéndole está.

Para que duerma
Mi Niño Dios,
Voy a cantarle
Dulce canción;
Canción suave
Llena de amor,
Que imita el ritmo
De mi región.

ESTA NOCHE NACIO UN NIÑO
(Madrid)

Esta noche nace el Niño
Entre la escarcha y el hielo.
Quien pudiera, Niño mío,
Vestirte de terciopelo.

CHORUS: (Twice)
Ayeri, etc.

Tonight a Child was born
In the gate of Bethlehem

The Virgin is washing
With a little soap
They pierced her hands
The hands of my heart.

REFRAIN: (Repeat the chorus above twice)

(Alerí, alerí, alería!
Alerí, alerí ay placer!)
Alegria, alegría, alegría,
Alegria, alegría, y placer!
Esta noche nace un (el) Niño
En el portal de Belén.

La Virgen está lavando
Con un poco de jabón
Se le picaron las manos,
Manos de mi corazón.

SIDE II, BAND 3

TO BETHLEHEM, OH SHEPHERDS

To Bethlehem, oh shepherds,
We must needs walk on,
For the King of Kings
Is already born.

Above the straw,
Tiny stretched lies He,
Ah! the poor wee Child,
How he must be crying!

Very cold is the snow
Which now is falling,
The King of Kings
Must be very very cold!

(First verse repeated)

A BELEN, PASTORES
(Mallorca)

A Belén, pastores,
Debemos marchar
Que el Rey de los Reyes
Ha nacido ya.

Encima de paja(s)
Tendidito está,
Ay! el pobrecito,
Como llorará!

Muy fría es la nieve
Que cayendo está.
El Rey de los Reyes
Que frío tendrá!

SIDE II, BAND 4

IN THE GATE OF BETHLEHEM

REFRAIN:
Shepherds, come ye!
Shepherds, come here!
To worship the Child (Repeat)
That is born here!

In the gate of Bethlehem
There are stars, the sun, and the moon,
The Virgin and St. Joseph,
and the Child in the Manger.

REFRAIN

Listen, Mr. Joseph,
Do not bring your face near
Lest the Child be frightened
By such long whiskers as yours.

REFRAIN

EN EL PORTAL DE BELEN
(Santander)

Pastores venid -
Pastores llegad -
A adorar al Niño (Repeat)
Que ha nacido ya.

En el portal de Belén
Hey estrellas, sol y luna,
La Virgen y San José
Y el Niño que está en la cuna.

Oiga usted, Señor José,
No le arrime usted la cara
Que se va a asustar el Niño
Con esas barbas tan largas.

SIDE II, BAND 5

COME YE SHEPHERDS (Sing through twice)

Come ye shepherds,
Hurry ye hither
To worship the wee Child (Repeat)
That was born here just now.

PASTORES, VENID
(Santillana)

Pastores, venid,
Pastores, llegad
A adorar al Niño
Que ha nacido ya.

SIDE II, BAND 6

MOTHER, AT THE DOOR THERE IS A CHILD

Mother, at the door is a child,
More fair than the Noble King
Who says that he is cold,
And seeks to warm himself
Where are you from, my child?
Where are you from, my darling?
My mother comes from Heaven,
And so does my father.
My mother - she is Mary,
And my father - he is Joseph.

MADRE, A LA PUERTA HAY UN NIÑO

Madre, a la puerta hay un niño
Más bonito que el Rey Bello,
Que dice que tiene frío,
Y se quiere calentar.
¿De dónde eres tú, mi niño?
¿De dónde eres tú, mi bien?
Yo soy de Belén.
Yo soy de Belén.
Mi madre es del cielo
Y mi padre también;
Mi madre es María
Y mi padre José.

SIDE II, BAND 7

COME YE LITTLE SHEPHERDS

Come ye little shepherds,
Hurry hither, little shepherds
To worship the Child
That was born here just now. } Repeat

PASTORCITOS, VENID
(Santillana)

Pastorcitos, venid,
Pastorcitos, llegad,
A adorar al Niño
Que ha nacido ya.

All of them carry the Child -
I don't have to carry Him,
I will carry Him in my heart
That will serve as his swaddling-clothes

Todos le llevan al Niño,
Yo no tengo que llevarle.
Le llevare el corazón
Que le sirva de pañales.

Come along, shepherds, come along,
Let's go to Bethlehem,
To worship the Messiah, } Repeat
The Glory of Eden.

Vamos, Pastores, vamos
Vamonos a Belén
A adorar al Mesías
La Gloria del Edén

SIDE II, BAND 8

COME ALONG, SHEPHERDS

Come along, shepherds, come along,
Let us go to Bethlehem.
For there is born a Messiah
The Glory of Eden.
For there is born a Messiah
The Glory of Eden - yes
The Glory of Eden - yes
The Glory of Eden.

VAMOS, PASTORES
(Santillana)

Vamos, pastores, vamos -
Vámonos a Belén
Que ha nacido el Mesías,
La Gloria del Edén.
Que ha nacido el Mesías,
La Gloria del Edén - sí,
La Gloria del Edén - sí,
La Gloria del Edén.

THE VIRGIN KEPT CALLING

(The song as a whole is repeated twice)

The Virgin kept calling the Child;
The Child keeps saying, "I'm coming;
I'm gathering papitas
For the mule and the ox."

Hurry hither, little shepherds,
Come ye to worship
The King of Kings
Who already is born.

This love-filled breast
He grasps with a will.
Holy! Holy! Holy!
Long live the Child Manuel!

LA VIRGEN LLAMABA
(Santillana)

La Virgen llamaba al Niño,
El Niño dice, "Ya iré
Estoy cogiendo pajitas
Para la mula y el buey."

Corred, pastorcitos,
Corred, a adorar
Al Rey de los Reyes
Que ha nacido ya.

Con pecho amoroso
Confiesas muy bien.
Santo - Santo - Santo - El!
Viva, viva el Niño Manuel!

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