

Smithsonian/Folkways Records
Office of Folklife Programs
955 L'Enfant Plaza, Suite 2600
Smithsonian Institution
Washington DC 20560
P © 1989 Smithsonian/Folkways Records

Printed in Canad

SMITHSONIAN FOLKWAYS SF 40024

# Traditional Christmas Carols PETE SEEGER



#### SMITHSONIAN/FOLKWAYS CD SF 40024 AAD

## **Pete Seeger** Traditional Christmas Carols

- 1. 'Twas On a Night Like This 3:28 (words by Pete Seeger, music trad./Stormking Music Inc.)
- 2 Mary Had a Baby 2:42
- 3. Glory To That New Born King 2:34
- 4. What Child Is This? 1:45
- 5. Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow 1:36
- 6. Carol of the Beasts 2:02
- 7. Carol of the Beasts-instrumental 1:44
- 8. The First Noël 5:4
- 9. Behold That Star 2:15
- 10. Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming 1:57
- 11. Masters In This Hall 1:23
- 12. Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming-instrumental 0:52
- 13. Twelve Gates To the City 3:24 (arranged and adapted by Marion Hicks/Stormking Music Inc.)

Recorded by Moses Asch All music notations and transcriptions © 1967 by Moses Asch. All Rights Reserved. Transcriptions by Jean Hammons. Cover design by Ronald Clyne.

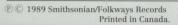
Originally issued in 1967 as Folkways FA 2311/FAS 32311.







Smithsonian/Folkways Records Office of Folklife Programs 955 L'Enfant Plaza, Suite 2600 Smithsonian Institution Washington DC 20560



Cover photograph by John Vachon.

Smithsonian Folkways Records

Several hundred Folkways, recordings are

Office supports cultural conservation and continuity, integrity, and equity for tradition-

Smithsonian's Office of Folklife Programs, Folkways Records is one of the ways the

order to ensure that the sounds and the genius of the artists would continue to be available to future generations. Every title is being kept in print and new recordings are being issued. Administered by the Tarris and the work of the artists of Explicit Department of the programment of the progra

including a great variety of American folk and traditional music, children's songs, world music, ilierature, poetry, stories, doc-umentaries, language instruction and sci-ence and nature sounds.

ed to making the world of sound available to the public. Nearly 2,200 titles were issued,

Folkways Records was one of the largest independent record companies of the mid-twentieth century. Founded by Moses Asch in 1947s and run as an independent company until its sale in 1987, Folkways was dedicated to the sale of some as a sale of some and the materiar the world of some assets.

The Smithsonian acquired Folkways in

al artists and cultures.

## Pete Seeger Traditional Christmas Carols

Smithsonian Folkways SF 40024 Cover photograph by John Vachon. Cover design by Ronald Clyne. Transcriptions by Jean Hammons.

Originally issued in 1967 as Folkways FA 2311/FAS 32311

To greet a better day. For we have found that star again And join us on our way, 0, come with us tonight,

If turned their glance within their Although throughout our land

Men searched the skies in vain;

Shining so truly, shining so brightly,

By following its light. A path to love and brotherhood, It leads us through the night; Guiding our footsteps from afar.

They would find this star again.

ph bete Seeger. traditional Italian carol with new words From "Twas On a Night Like This," a

> 2. Mary Had a Baby 2:42 trad./StormkingMusic Inc.)

3. Glory To That New Born King

1 Twas On a Night Like This 3:28

What Child Is This? 1:45

5. Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

(words by Pete Seeger, music

6. Carol of the Beasts 2:02

instrumental 1:44 7. Carol of the Beasts-

9. Behold That Star 2:15 8. The First Noël 5:41

10. Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

12. Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming-instrumental 0:52 11. Masters in This Hall 1:23

Hicks/Stormking Music Inc.) (arranged and adapted by Marion 13 Twelve Gates To the City 3:24

© 1967 by Moses Asch. All Rights Reserved. All music notations and transcriptions Recorded by Moses Asch

the Smithsonian Institution. For information and catalogs telephone SO2/387-3262 or write Folkways, Office of Folklife Programs, 955 L'Enfant Plaxa, Suite 2600, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, U.S.A. distributed by Rounder Records. The rest are available on cassette by mail order from the Smithsonian Institution.

# PETE SEEGER "Traditional Christmas Carols"

The English Folk Carol by Leslie Shepard

Many people believe that Carols are simply the modern hymns sung in England at Christmas time—Anglican Church compositions of the last century. Such cheerful effusions hold pleasant memories for most of us, but this kind of carol is not essentially distinguished

for its music or words.

The true Carol, however, is a folk composition of great antiquity, notable for its extraordinary beauty and exquisite religious feeling. Some experts are of the opinion that the folk carol is even ancestor to the Ballad. In its early usage the word "Carol" seems to have indicated a ring dance, and there is every reason to believe that the folk ballads had their origin in stories sung to a dance, around the period of the 14th century in Europe. The Latin word "ballare" means "to dance" and the early song ballads were often called "Ballets," which is a word for special dances. In modern times, survivals of dance ballads have been observed in the Faroe Islands.

It is probable that there is no essential distinction between carols and bal-lads in their purest form, insofar as both express deep religious feeling. The carols are expressly Christian in subject, being concerned with the Nativity of Lord Jesus and the love of the Virgin Mother. The ballads arise from a pre-Christian period of religion, and their dark dramatic stories of love and death are profound allegories of the human situation. Whatever contemporary his-torical references have attached themselves to the ballads, there can be little doubt that the characters are supernat-ural beings. and the play of action springs from deep intuitive understand-ing of the meaning of life and the true nature of the Self. These profound archetypes are not immediately apparent to many people who take a limited literal view and consider that the stories and characters simply express secular human passions condemned by the religious life. This is a superficial view. In a similar way, purely formal religious students are sometimes unable to grasp the essential meaning and dignity of the Ras Lila sections of the Hindu scripture Srimad Bhagavata.

It should be noted that although the Carols have a directly Christian form they are also essentially *pre-Christian* stories onto which a Christian story has been superimposed at a later date—a familiar process in the development of all archetypes. It is this basic structure of early pre-Christian religion which gives strength and purity to the folk carol and preserves its meaning freshly in new circumstances.

As with the English Ballads, some of

the best traditional versions of folk carols have been recovered in America,



where they were taken by the early set-

From "Music Nectar," vol. 1, no. 4, 1958

Twas On a Night Like This [words by Pete Seeger, music traditional; (c) 1989 by Stormking Music Inc.]

Adapted from a famous traditional

Twas on a night like this A little Babe was born. The shepherds gathered 'round. To guard Him 'til the dawn.

Above them shone the star; A star so wondrous light. That never since in all these years Have we seen one half so bright

First chorus:

Shining so truly, shining so brightly, Guiding their footsteps from afar. It led them through the night; A path to love and brotherhood, By following its light.

O, come with us tonight. And join us on our way, For we have found that star again To greet a better day.

Although throughout our land Men searched the skies in vain: If turned their glance within their heart They would find this star again.

Shining so truly, shining so brightly, Guiding our footsteps from afar. It leads us through the night: A path to love and brotherhood, By following its light.

#### Mary Had a Baby

This and the following selection are examples of African-American carols.

Mary had a Baby, O, Lord Mary had a Baby, O, My Lord Mary had a Baby, O, Lord

The people keep a-comin' And the train done gone

What did she name Him? O, Lord What did she name Him? O, My Lord What did she name Him? O, Lord

She called Him Jesus, O, Lord Called Him Jesus, O, My Lord Called Him Jesus, O, Lord

(Chorus)

Now where was He born? O, Lord Where was He born? O, My Lord Where was He born? O. Lord

(Chorus)

Born in a stable, O, Lord Born in a stable, O, My Lord Born in a stable, O. Lord

Where did they lay Him? O, Lord Where did they lay Him? O, My Lord Where did they lay Him? O, Lord

Laid him in the manger, O, Lord Laid Him in the manger, O, My Lord Laid Him in the manger, O, Lord

(Repeat first verse)

#### Glory To That New Born King

O, Mary, what you gonna name that pretty little Baby? M-m-m, pretty little Baby M-m-m, pretty little Baby Glory to that new born King!

Some call him one thing, I think I'll call M-m-m, glory hallelujah M-m-m, pretty little Baby Glory to that new born King!

M-M-Mary, what you gonna name that pretty little Baby? M-m-m, glory hallelujah M-m-m, pretty little Baby Glory to that new born King!

Some call him Jesus, I think I'll call him Emmanuel M-m-m, glory hallelujah M-m-m, pretty little Baby Glory to that new born King!

If you follow that star you'd surely find a M-m-m, surely find a Baby M-m-m, surely find a Baby Glory to that new born King!

Now the Virgin Mary had-a one son M-m-m, glory hallelujah M-m-m, pretty little Baby Glory to that new born King

(Repeat first verse)

#### What Child Is This?

An 18th Century English carol.

What Child is this who, laid to rest On Mary's lap, is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds, their watch are

This, this is Christ the King; Whom shepherds guard and angels Haste, haste to bring Him laud. The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate, Where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christians fear: for sinners here The silent word is pleading.

Raise, raise this song on High, The Virgin sings her lullaby: Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The Babe, the Son of Mary!

#### Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

Rise up, shepherd, and follow

There's a star in the East on Christmas Morn, Rise up, shepherd, and follow. It will lead to the place where the Savior's born.

Leave your sheep and leave your lambs, Rise up, shepherd, and follow. Leave your ewes and leave your rams. Rise up, shepherd, and follow

Follow, follow, Rise up, shepherd, and follow, Follow the Star of Bethlehem, Rise up, shepherd, and follow

If you take good heed to the angel's

words, Rise up, shepherd, and follow, You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds.

Rise up, shepherd, and follow

#### (Chorus)

#### Carol of the Reasts

(Repeat second verse)

A 17th Century French carol, translated

And on that night it has been told These humble beasts so rough and rude Throughout the night of holy birth Drank no water, ate no food,

How many oxen and donkeys Now dressed in ermine, silk and such? How many oxen and donkeys you know At such a time would do as much?

As soon as to these humble beasts Appeared our Lord, so mild and sweet With joy they knelt before His Grace And gently kissed His tiny feet.

How many oxen and donkeys Now if they were there when first He came.

How many oxen and donkeys you know At such a time would do the same?

#### Carol of the Beasts

instrumental

#### The First Noël

A French carol translated in the mid-

The first Noël, the angels did say, Was to certain poor shepherds in field as they lay;

In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, On a cold winter's night that was so

deep.

Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël, Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star. Shining in the East, beyond them far; And to the earth it gave great light. And so it continued both day and night.

(Chorus)

And by the light of that same star. Three wise men came from country far; To seek for a king was their intent, And to follow the star wherever it went

This star drew nigh to the Northwest, O'er Bethlehem it took its rest. And there it did both stop and stay, Right over the place where Jesus lay.

#### (Chorus)

Then they did know assuredly, Within that house a king to see, They entered in for all to see. And found the Babe in poverty.

#### (Chorus)

Then entered in those wise men three, Fell reverently upon bended knee, And offered there in His presence, Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

If we in our good time do dwell, We shall be free from death and hell, For God hath prepared for us all, A resting place in general.

#### **Behold That Star**

Composed by a black musician in Tennessee about 1930.

Behold that star Behold that star up vonder Behold that star It is the star of Bethlehem. (2x)

There was no room in the inn. It is the star of Bethlehem. For Him who was born free from sin. It is the star of Bethlehem.

#### Second chorus:

Behold that star Behold that star up yonder Behold that star It is the star of Bethlehem.

The wise men came from the East, It is the star of Bethlehem. To worship Him, the Prince of Peace. It is the star of Bethlehem.

#### (Second chorus)

A song broke forth upon the night, It is the star of Bethlehem. From angel hosts all dressed in white. It is the star of Bethlehem.

#### (Second chorus)

(First chorus)

#### Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Lo. how a rose e'er blooming, From tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming As men of old have sung. It came a flow'ry bright. Amid the cold of winter, When half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it. The rose I have in mind, With Mary we behold it. The Virgin Mother kind. To show God's love aright. She bore to men a Savior, When half-spent was the night.

#### Masters In This Hall

A favorite of William Morris; learned from the singing of John Seeger.

Masters in this hall, hear ye news, I pray. Tidings we bring you, Christ is born

#### Chorus

today.

"Nowell, Nowell, Nowell," sing

God today hath raised up the poor and casted down the proud!

Going through the fields and through the ice and snow, I heard the lambs a-cryin' while the

wind did blow.

All the lowly oxen knelt upon their knee, Wondrous joy had I, this little Babe to

Masters in this hall be you glad, I pray, Tidings we bring you, Christmas is

#### (Chorus)

#### Traditional tune

Twelve Gates To the City (Oh What a

Beautiful City)
[arranged and adapted by Marion Hicks; (c) 1964 (renewed) by Stormking

Oh, what a beautiful city (3x)
Twelve gates to the city, hallelujah!

My God done just what He said, There's twelve gates to the city, hallelujah!

He healed the sick and He raised the dead. There's twelve gates to the city

hallelujah! (Chorus)

When I get to heaven gonna sing and shout,

There's twelve gates to the city, hallelujah!

Ain't nobody there gonna put me out. There's twelve gates to the city, hallelujah!

Who are those people dressed in red? There's twelve gates to the city, hallelujah! It must be the children Moses led. There's twelve gates to the city, hallelujah!

Three in the North, three in the South, Three in the West, three in the East. There's twelve gates to the city. hallelujah!

(Chorus)

#### Smithsonian Folkways Records

Folkways Records was one of the largest independent record companies of the mid-twentieth century. Founded by Moses Asch in 1947 and run as an independent company until its sale in 1987, Folkways was dedicated to making the world of sound available to the public. Nearly 2,200 titles were issued, including a great variety of American folk and traditional music, children's songs, world music, literature, poetry, stories, documentaries, language instruction and science and nature sounds.

The Smithsonian acquired Folkways in order to ensure that the sounds and the genius of the artists would continue to be available to future generations. Every title is being kept in print and new recordings are being issued. Administered by the Smithsonian's Office of Folklife Programs, Folkways Records is one of the ways the Office supports cultural conservation and continuity integrity, and equity for traditional artists and cultures.

Several hundred Folkways recordings are distributed by Rounder Records. The rest are available on cassette by mail order from the Smithsonian Institution. For information and catalogs telephone 202/387-3262 or write Folkways, Office of Folklife Programs, 955 Office of Folklife Programs, 955 L'Enfant Plaza, Suite 2600, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, U.S.A.

This insert accompanies onian/Folkways SF 40024

## GLORY TO THAT NEW BORN KING

SIDE 1, Band 3



O, Mary, what you gonna name that Pretty little Baby?
M-M-M- pretty little Baby
M-M-M- pretty little Baby
Glory to that new born King!

Some call Him one thing
I think I'll call Him Jesus
M-M-M- Glory Hallelujah
M-M-M pretty little Baby
Glory to that new born King!

M-M-Mary, what you gonna name that Pretty little Baby?
M-M-M- Glory Hallelujah
M-M-M- pretty little Baby
Glory to that new born King!

Some call Him Jesus
I think I'll call Him Emanuel
M-M-M- Glory Hallelujah!
M-M-M- pretty little Baby
Glory to that new born King!

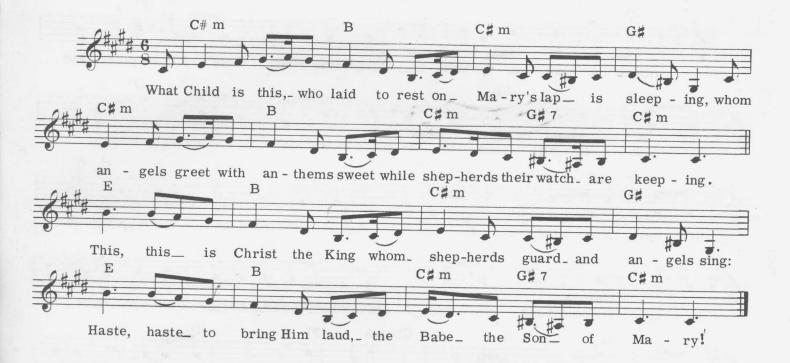
If you follow that star
You'd surely find a Baby
M-M-M- surely find a Baby
M-M-M- surely find a Baby
Glory to that new born King!

Now the Virgin Mary
Had-a one Son
M-M-M- Glory Hallelujah
M-M-M- pretty little Baby
Glory to that new born King!

(Repeat first verse)

# WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

SIDE 1, Band 4



What Child is this, who, laid to rest On Mary's lap, is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds, their watch are keeping.

> This, this is Christ the King; Whom shepherds guard and angels sing: Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate, Where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christians fear: for sinners here The silent word is pleading.

> Raise, raise this song on High, The Virgin sings her lullaby: Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The Babe, the Son of Mary!

# RISE UP, SHEPHERD, AND FOLLOW

SIDE 1, Band 5



#### CHORUS:

There's a star in the East on Christmas Morn, Rise up, shepherd, and follow. It will lead to the place where the Savior's born. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Leave your sheep and leave your lambs, Rise up, shepherd, and follow. Leave your ewes and leave your rams. Rise up, shepherd, and follow. Follow, follow,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow,
Follow the Star of Bethlehem,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

If you take good heed to the angel's words,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow
You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your
herds
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

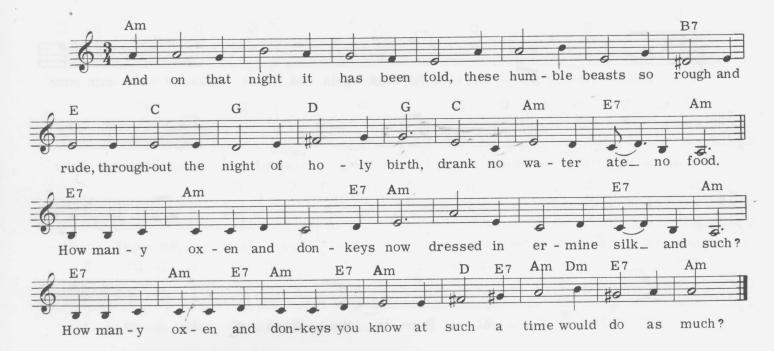
(Repeat second verse)

(Chorus)

MUS

# **CAROL OF THE BEASTS**

SIDE 1, Band 6



And on that night it has been told These humble beasts so rough and rude Throughout the night of holy birth Drank no water, ate no food.

How many oxen and donkeys
Now dressed in ermine, silk and
such?
How many oxen and donkeys you know,
At such a time would do as much?

As soon as to these humble beasts Appeared our Lord, so mild and sweet With joy they knelt before His Grace And gently kissed His tiny feet.

How many oxen and donkeys
Now if they were there when first
He came,
How many oxen and donkeys you know
At such a time would do the same?

# THE FIRST NOËL

SIDE 2, Band 1



The first Noël, the angels did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they
lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

## CHORUS:

Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël, Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star, Shining in the East, beyond them far; And to the earth it gave great light, And so it continued both day and night.

## (Chorus)

And by the light of that same star, Three wise men came from country far; To seek for a king was their intent, And to follow the star wherever it went.

(Chorus)

This star drew nigh to the Northwest, O'er Bethlehem it took its rest, And there it did both stop and stay, Right over the place where Jesus lay.

## (Chorus)

Then they did know assuredly, Within that house a king to see, They entered in for all to see, And found the Babe in poverty.

## (Chorus)

Then entered in those wise men three, Fell reverently upon bended knee, And offered there in His presence, Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

## (Chorus)

If we in our good time do dwell, We shall be free from death and hell, For God hath prepared for us all, A resting place in general.

(Chorus)

# **BEHOLD THAT STAR**

SIDE 2, Band 2



### FIRST CHORUS:

Behold that star Behold that star up yonder Behold that star It is the star of Bethlehem.(2x)

There was no room in the inn,
It is the star of Bethlehem.
For Him who was born free from sin.
It is the star of Bethlehem.

### SECOND CHORUS:

Behold that star Behold that star up yonder Behold that star It is the star of Bethlehem.

The wise men came from the East, It is the star of Bethlehem. To worship Him, the Prince of Peace. It is the star of Bethlehem.

(Second Chorus)

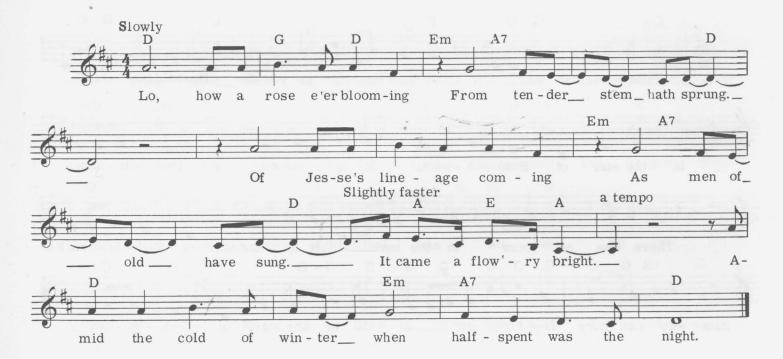
A song broke forth upon the night, It is the star of Bethlehem. From angel hosts all dressed in white. It is the star of Bethlehem.

(Second Chorus)

(First Chorus)

# LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

SIDE 2, Band 3



Lo, how a rose e'er blooming, From tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming, As men of old have sung. It came a flow'ry bright. Amid the cold of winter, When half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it,
The Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
She bore to men a Savior,
When half-spent was the night.

# MASTERS IN THIS HALL

SIDE 2, Band 4



Masters in this hall, hear ye news, I pray. Tidings we bring you, Christ is born today.

#### CHORUS:

"Nowell, Nowell, Nowell," sing we loud.
God today hath raised up the poor
and casted down the proud! (2x)

Going through the fields and through the ice and snow, I heard the lambs a-cryin' while the wind did blow.

#### (Chorus)

All the lowly oxen knelt upon their knee, Wondrous joy had I, this little Babe to see.

Masters in this hall be you glad, I pray, Tidings we bring you, Christmas is today.

(Chorus)

SIDE II, Band 5: Traditional Tune

## TWELVE GATES TO THE CITY

SIDE 2, Band 6



## CHORUS:

Oh, what a beautiful city (3x) Twelve gates to the city, hallelujah!

My God done just what He said,
There's twelve gates to the city, hallelujah!
He healed the sick and He raised the dead.
There's twelve gates to the city, hallelujah!

(Chorus)

When I get to heaven gonna sing and shout,
There's twelve gates to the city, hallelujah!
Ain't nobody there gonna put me out.
There's twelve gates to the city, hallelujah!

(Chorus)

Who are those people dressed in red?
There's twelve gates to the city, hallelujah!
It must be the children Moses led.
There's twelve gates to the city, hallelujah!

(Chorus)

Three in the North, three in the South, Three in the West, three in the East. There's twelve gates to the city, hallelujah!

(Chorus)

M 2110 S452 1967

LITHO IN U.S.A.