

# A Mighty Wonder

Presented by the Australian Boys Choral Institute  
in association with Australian Digital Concert Hall

Please sing along to text in **bold**.

## A great and mighty wonder

14th-century German melody  
arr. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

1. A great and mighty wonder  
A full and holy cure!  
The Virgin bears the Infant  
With virgin-honour pure.

*Repeat the hymn again!*  
*'To God on high be glory,*  
*And peace on earth to men!'*

2. The Word becomes incarnate  
And yet remains on high!  
And cherubim sing anthems  
To shepherds from the sky.

*Repeat the hymn again...*

3. While thus they sing your Monarch  
Those bright angelic bands,  
Rejoice, ye vales and mountains,  
Ye oceans clap your hands.

*Repeat the hymn again...*

4. Since all he comes to ransom,  
By all be he adored,  
The Infant born in Beth'lem  
The Saviour and the Lord.

*Repeat the hymn again...*

## O Magnum Mysterium

12th-century chant  
Anonymous

O magnum mysterium,  
et admirabile sacramentum,  
ut animalia  
viderent Dominum natum,  
jacentem in praeseptio:

Beata Virgo,  
cujus viscera meruerunt  
portare Dominum Christum.

Ave Maria, gratia plena:  
Dominus tecum.

O great mystery,  
and wonderful sacrament,  
that animals  
should see the newborn Lord,  
lying in a manger:

Blessed virgin,  
whose womb was worthy  
to bear Christ the Lord.

Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee.

## O Magnum Mysterium

Jacob Gallus (Handl)  
(Slovenia, 1550-1591)

O magnum mysterium,  
et admirabile sacramentum,  
ut animalia  
viderent Dominum natum,  
jacentem in praeseptio:

Noe, Noe.

O great mystery,  
and wonderful sacrament,  
that animals  
should see the newborn Lord,  
lying in a manger:

Noël, Noël.

## Just One Star

Ben van Tienen  
(Australia, 2010)  
Text by Michael Joncas, Langston Hughes,  
and Ben van Tienen

Stars flung like diamonds against the black sky.  
Bethlehem sleeping as evening sails by.  
    Silent as sunrise caressing the earth.  
    Deep in the silence – a child comes to birth.

Just one of many born lowly and poor.  
Hunger and fear waiting outside the door.

Born in a stable where strangers must lie,  
A tiny star shining alone in the sky.

Out of the little breath of oblivion that is night,  
Take just one star.

Take just one star out of the fragile air.  
Take just one star, and cradle her with care,  
And ask how she shines so bright,  
Knowing what she's known,  
Her radiance providing for a world she's long outgrown.

Twinkle, O twinkle, my little bright star.  
Sometimes I wonder what being you are.  
Held high above me, suspended in air,  
Light for the stranger, hope in despair.

Out of the little breath of oblivion that is night,  
Take just one star.

## O Magnum Mysterium

Ivo Antognini  
(Switzerland, b.1963)

(See 'O Magnum Mysterium' 12th-century chant text)

## Serenity (O Magnum Mysterium)

Ola Gjeilo  
(Norway, b.1978)

(See 'O Magnum Mysterium' 12th-century chant text)

# Freuet euch, ihr Christen alle

Andreas Hammerschmidt  
(Germany, c.1612-1675)

Alleluja, alleluja, alleluja.

Freuet euch, ihr Christen alle,  
Freue sich, wer immer kann,  
Gott hat viel an uns getan,  
Freuet euch mit großem Schalle  
Daß er uns so hoch geacht't,  
Sich mit uns befreund't gemacht.

Freude, Freude über Freude!  
Christus wehret allem Leide.  
Wonne, Wonne über Wonne!  
Er ist die Genadensonne.

Siehe, siehe, meine Seele,  
Wie dein Heiland kommt zu dir,  
Brennt in Liebe für und für,  
Daß er in der Krippen Höhle  
Harte lieget, dir zugut,  
Dich zu lösen durch sein Blut.

Freude, Freude über Freude...

Jesu, wie soll ich dir danken?  
Ich bekenne, daß von dir  
Meine Seligkeit herrühr'.  
O laß mich von dir nicht wanken,  
Nimm mich dir zu eigen hin,  
So empfindet Herz und Sinn

Freude, Freude über Freude...

Jesu, nimm dich deiner Glieder  
Ferner in Genaden an!  
Schenke, was man bitten kann,  
Zu erquicken deine Brüder;  
Gib der ganzen Christenschar  
Frieden und ein sel'ges Jahr.

Freude, Freude über Freude...

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

Rejoice, all you Christians,  
Rejoice, whoever is able,  
God has done so much for us,  
Rejoice most loudly,  
That he has valued us so highly  
That he has become our friend.

Joy, joy upon joy!  
Christ protects from all suffering.  
Delight, delight upon delight!  
He is the son of mercy.

See, see, my soul,  
How your saviour comes to you,  
Burns in everlasting love,  
So that in the darkness of the manger  
He has a hard bed for your benefit,  
To redeem you through his blood.

Joy, joy upon joy...

Jesus, how shall I thank you?  
I know well that it is from you  
My happiness is derived.  
May I never falter in my devotion to you,  
Take me for your own,  
And my heart and mind will feel

Joy, joy upon joy...

Jesus, take care of your members  
For the future in your mercy;  
Grant what can be asked for  
To give life to your brothers:  
Give to the Christian flock  
Peace and a blessed year!

Joy, joy upon joy...

# Hodie Christus natus est

John Winstanley  
(Australia, 1922-2014)

Hodie Christus natus est,  
Noe, Noe, Noe,  
Alleluia.

Today Christ is born,  
Noël, Noël, Noël,  
Hallelujah.

Lullay, lullay,  
That woe is me,  
Poor child for thee.

# We three kings of Orient are

John Henry Hopkins  
(USA, 1820-1891)

1. **We three kings of Orient are;  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain,  
Moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star:**

*O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading,  
Still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

2. Born a king on Bethlehem plain,  
Gold I bring, to crown him again,  
King for ever,  
Ceasing never,  
Over us all to reign:

*O star of wonder...*

3. Frankincense to offer have I;  
Incense owns a deity nigh:  
Prayer and praising,  
All men raising,  
Worship him, God most high:

*O star of wonder...*

4. Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorr'wing, sighing,  
Bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

*O star of wonder...*

5. Glorious now, behold him arise,  
King, and God, and sacrifice!  
Heav'n sings 'Alleluia',  
'Alleluia' the earth replies.

*O star of wonder...*

## O come, all ye faithful

John Francis Wade

(England, c.1711-1786)

arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

1. O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem  
Come and behold him  
Born the King of Angels:

*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!*

3. See how the shepherds,  
Summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
We too will thither  
Bend our joyful footsteps:

*O come, let us adore him...*

4. Lo! star-led chieftains,  
Magi, Christ adoring,  
Offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;

We to the Christ Child  
Bring our hearts' oblations:

*O come, let us adore him...*

6. Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God  
In the highest:

*O come, let us adore him...*

7. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born that happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:

*O come, let us adore him...*

## Joy to the world

Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

based on Handel

arr. Mach Wilberg (b.1955)

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King.  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
No thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love.

## Dors, dors petit bébé

Dors, dors, petit bébé,  
'Coutes la rivière,  
Dors, dors, petit bébé,  
'Coutes la rivière couler.

Traditional Cajun Folksong  
arr. Cristi Cary Miller (b.1959)

Sleep, sleep, little one,  
Listen to the river,  
Sleep, sleep, little one,  
Listen to the river running.

## Dormi, dormi

Dormi, dormi, bel bambin.  
Re divin.  
Fa la nanna fantolino.  
Re divin.

Perche piangi, o mio tesor.  
Dolce amor.  
Fa la nanna, o caro figlio.  
Fanto bel.

Traditional Italian Carol  
arr. Mary Goetze (b.1943)

Sleep, sleep, beautiful child,  
King divine.  
Go to sleep, little child.  
King divine.

Do not weep, my treasure,  
Sweet love.  
Go to sleep, dear son,  
Beautiful child.

## Stille Nacht

Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!  
Alles schläft; einsam wacht  
Nur das traute heilige Paar.  
Holder Knab in lockigten Haar,  
Schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh!

Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright.  
See the gentle mother and child,  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Rest in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!  
Wondrous star, lend thy light!  
With the angels let us sing  
Alleluia to our King!  
Jesus Christ is born.

Franz Xaver Gruber  
(Austria, 1787-1863)  
arr. Peter Hunt (2004)



# Viderunt omnes

Pérotin le Grand  
(c.1200)

Viderunt omnes fines terrae  
salutare Dei nostri  
Jubilare Deo, omnis terra.

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Rejoice in the Lord, all ye lands.

# Ave Maria

Franz Biebl  
arr. Mary Goetze (b.1943)

Angelus Domini  
nuntiavit Mariae  
et concepit de Spiritu Sancto.

The Angel of the Lord  
announced to Mary  
and she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Ave Maria, gratia plena,  
Dominus tecum,  
benedicta tu in mulieribus,  
et Benedictus fructus ventris tui,  
Jesus.

Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee;  
blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,  
Jesus.

Maria dixit:  
ecce ancilla Domini  
fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum.

Mary said:  
behold the handmaiden of the Lord  
do unto me according to your word.

Ave Maria...

Hail Mary...

Et verbum caro factum est  
et habitavit in nobis.

And the Word was made flesh  
and dwelt among us.

Ave Maria...

Hail Mary...

Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,  
ora pro nobis peccatoribus  
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.  
Amen.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners  
now and at the hour of our death.  
Amen.

# The twelve days of Christmas

English Traditional Carol  
arr. John Rutter (b.1945)

1. On the first day of Christmas my true love sent to me  
A partridge in a pear tree.
2. On the second day of Christmas my true love sent to me  
two turtle doves  
and a partridge in a pear tree.
3. On the third day of Christmas my true love sent to me  
three French hens,  
two turtle doves  
and a partridge in a pear tree.
4. On the fourth day of Christmas my true love sent to me  
four calling birds,  
three French hens,  
two turtle doves  
and a partridge in a pear tree.
5. On the fifth day of Christmas my true love sent to me  
**five gold rings,**  
**four calling birds,**  
**three French hens,**  
**two turtle doves.**  
**and a partridge in a pear tree.**
6. On the sixth day of Christmas my true love sent to me  
six geese a-laying,  
**five gold rings,**  
**four calling birds,**  
**three French hens,**  
**two turtle doves.**  
**and a partridge in a pear tree.**
7. On the sev'nth day of Christmas my true love sent to me  
sev'n swans a-swimming,  
six geese a-laying,  
**five gold rings...**

8. On the eighth day of Christmas my true love sent to me  
eight maids a-milking,  
sev'n swans a-swimming,  
six geese a-laying,  
**five gold rings...**
9. On the ninth day of Christmas my true love sent to me  
nine ladies dancing,  
eight maids a-milking,  
sev'n swans a-swimming,  
six geese a-laying,  
**five gold rings...**
10. On the tenth day of Christmas my true love sent to me  
ten lords a-leaping,  
nine ladies dancing,  
eight maids a-milking,  
sev'n swans a-swimming,  
six geese a-laying,  
**five gold rings...**
11. On the 'lev'nth day of Christmas my true love sent to me  
'lev'n pipers piping,  
ten lords a-leaping,  
nine ladies dancing,  
eight maids a-milking,  
sev'n swans a-swimming,  
six geese a-laying,  
**five gold rings...**
12. On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love sent to me  
twelve drummers drumming,  
'lev'n pipers piping,  
ten lords a-leaping,  
nine ladies dancing,  
eight maids a-milking,  
sev'n swans a-swimming,  
six geese a-laying,  
**five gold rings...**

# Hark! the herald-angels sing

Felix Mendelssohn

(Germany, 1809-1847)

V.3 arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

1. Hark! the herald-angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled:  
Joyful all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies,  
With th'angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

*Hark! the herald-angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*

2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come  
Offspring of a virgin's womb:  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see,  
Hail th'incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

*Hark! the herald-angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*

3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Ris'n with healing in his wings;  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.

*Hark! the herald-angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*