

## Full score

(Revised Nov.2022)

# Carols of Old England

## Traditional

*arranged for Clarinet Choir by*

**Alun Cook**

Whereas we now associate carols with Christmas, traditionally they involved dancing and were a popular celebration of seasonal and ecclesiastical occasions, but the church disapproved so the melodies became separated from the dance. As an example, the famous "Deck the Hall" was originally a Welsh carol celebrating the coming of Spring and had decidedly secular words (bosoms, blossoms, blisses and kisses). Many of the following Carols date from times well before their first publication and may have originated in the medieval period.

**Joseph was an Old Man** (the Cherry Tree Carol) 15c. English - It tells a story of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

**Ding-dong Merrily on High** - 16c. - A French dance melody with words by George Woodward, an Anglican priest whose hobbies included bell-ringing.

**The Boar's Head Carol** - 15c. English - This tells the story of the presentation of the boar's head at a Yuletide feast ("the rarest dish in all this land") a tradition still maintained at one Oxford College and other ancient establishments.

**Past 3 O'clock** - 1687 English Melody "London Waits" (the "Waits" or "Waites" being musicians) the modern words again written by George Woodward, a priest, poet and amateur musician.

**Adam Lay yBounden** - 15c. English - warns of Adam's fate, kept in bonds (four thousand winters) until the crucifixion of Jesus - "and all for an apple.."

**Come all ye Worthy Gentlemen** - also known as the Somerset Carol, it was gathered by Cecil Sharp, an avid collector of folk-songs and published in 1911 but it must have much older origins

**Gloucester Wassail** - "Waes Hail" is an old salute of greeting and also the name of a drinking ceremony held on Twelfth Night in Cider making regions of the south of England, singing and drinking to the health of the apple trees.

**We Wish You a Merry Christmas** - 16c. West Country - celebrating the old English tradition of the wealthy giving food to Carollers on Christmas Eve.

### Minimum Scoring:

6 B $\flat$  Clarinets and 1 Bass Clarinet

### Full Scoring:

E $\flat$  Clarinet

B $\flat$  Clarinet (for E $\flat$ )

B $\flat$  Clarinet 1

B $\flat$  Clarinet 2

B $\flat$  Clarinet 3

B $\flat$  Clarinet 4

B $\flat$  Clarinet 5 (for Alto Clarinet)

Alto Clarinet in E $\flat$

Bass Clarinet 1

Bass Clarinet 2 (optional)

Contra Alto Clarinet in E $\flat$  (optional)

Contrabass Clarinet in B $\flat$  (optional)

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# Carols of Old England

arranged for Clarinet Choir

Traditional  
arr. Alun Cook

Andante  $\text{♩} = 70$   
(Cherry Tree Carol)

The musical score is arranged for a Clarinet Choir. It features ten staves, each with a different instrument: Eb Clarinet, Bb Cl. for Eb, Clarinet 1, Clarinet 2, Clarinet 3, Clarinet 4, Alto Clarinet, Clarinet 5 (for Alto), Bass Clarinet 1, Bass Clarinet 2 (optional), Contra Alto Cl. (optional), and Contrabass Cl. (optional). The music is in 2/2 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked 'Andante' with a quarter note equal to 70 beats per minute. The piece is titled '(Cherry Tree Carol)'. The Clarinet 1 part has a 'Solo' marking and a 'mp' (mezzo-piano) dynamic. The Clarinet 2 and 3 parts also have 'mp' markings. The score shows the first few measures of the piece, with various musical notations including notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

8

E♭ Cl.

B♭ Cl. for E♭

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

Cl. 4

A. Cl.

Cl. 5  
(for Alto)

Bs. Cl. 1

Bs. Cl. 2  
(opt.)

C. A. Cl.  
(opt.)

Cb. Cl.  
(opt.)

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

Bs. Cl. 1

15

**A** Rhythmic  $\text{♩} = 76$   
(Ding-dong Merrily on High)

Eb Cl.  
 Bb Cl. for Eb  
 Cl. 1  
 Cl. 2  
 Cl. 3  
 Cl. 4  
 A. Cl.  
 Cl.5 (for Alto)  
 Bs. Cl.1  
 Bs. Cl.2 (opt.)  
 C. A. Cl. (opt.)  
 Cb. Cl. (opt.)