

Classics Provide Yuletide Melodies

In this century, hymns and carols of the Nativity have been composed by Peter Warlock ("Bethlehem Down") and Gustav Holst ("Mid-Winter") - among others.

Often, hymns and carols have been set to the music of classic composers.

One example is, "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night," by Nahum Tate. Music for this came from Handel's opera, "Siroe," as adapted by Richard Storrs Willis.



Carolers of yesteryear perform in their quaint furred costumes (above), in an illustration from a greeting card of the 1880's. From the Hallmark Historical Collection.

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Huge Tree Is Symbol Of Man

A French story of the 13th century relates how a huge tree was discovered in a forest, its branches lit with candles.

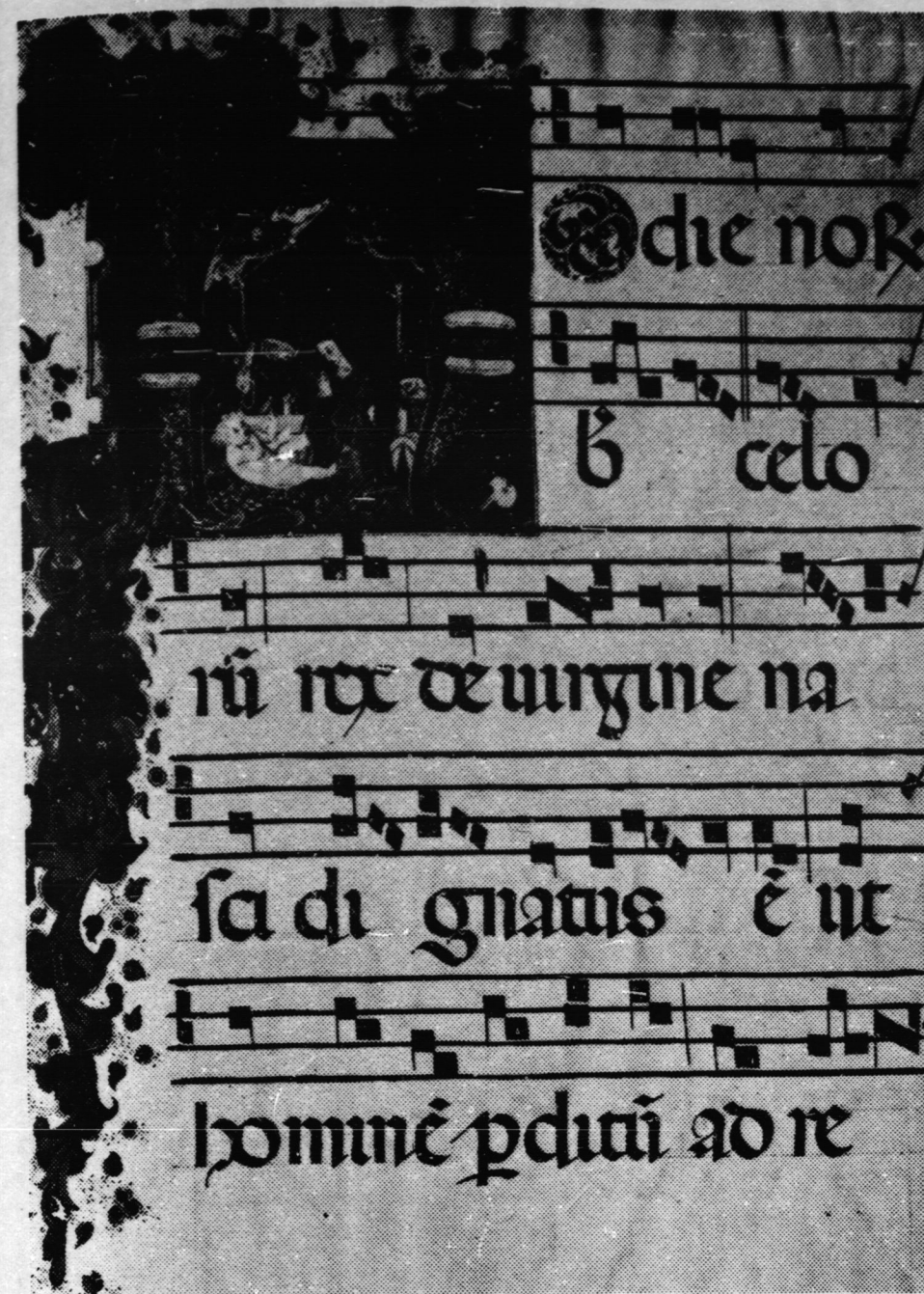
Some branches rose straight up, while others were turned down. Atop the tree was a child, with a halo around his head.

The story explains that the tree is mankind. Its candles represent people good or bad, and the child is the Christ Child.

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Celebrating the birth of Christ in song is a centuries-old tradition, as shown in the Christmas hymn above. The Latin hymn appears on a leaf from an illuminated Antiphony of 15th-century Italy, now in the Library of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City (Gift of Louis L. Lorillard, 1896). More familiar today is "Joy to the World," above right, by the English hymnist Isaac Watts, set to music by Handel. Song sheet by Hallmark.

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How To Keep Yule Plants

Yes, those cherished holiday plants can keep on growing into next year.

As a tropical plant, poinsettias like plenty of water and warmth - 70 to 80 degrees. Be sure to keep these plants in a warm place at night.




Though they blaze with fiery-red-colored balls, Jerusalem cherries are rather

cool natured. For them, the temperature should be held at 60 to 65 degrees. Avoid over-watering.

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Mince pie symbolizes the riches of the East, brought by the Wise Men.

Christmas should be a happy time for children. Yet, for many Christmas is a time of sadness. Perhaps it's because their dreams haven't come true. They feel that maybe Christmas is only for others, not for them. But their dreams can come true - for The Salvation Army, through you, can bring a measure of happiness to less fortunate children.

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