

WIGMORE HALL

Monday 13 December 2021 7.30pm

Vox Luminis

Zsuzsi Tóth soprano **João Moreira** tenor
Victoria Cassano soprano **Jacob Lawrence** tenor
Tessa Roos soprano **Sebastian Myrus** bass
Barnabás Hegyi alto **Lionel Meunier** artistic director, bass
Jan Kullmann alto **Anthony Romaniuk** organ
Alexander Chance alto **Ricardo Rodríguez Miranda** viola da gamba
Christopher Fischer tenor **José Rodrigues Gomes** dulcian

Samuel Scheidt (1587-1654)

Advent – New Year

Das alte Jahr vergangen ist SSWV14 (pub. 1620)

Johann Michael Bach (1648-1694)

Sei lieber Tag willkommen

Nun treten wir ins neue Jahr

Heinrich Schütz (1585-1672)

Annunciation

Deutsches Magnificat SWV494 (pub. 1671)

Johann Christoph Bach (1642-1703)

Lieber Herr Gott, wecke uns auf (1672)

Johann Michael Bach

Fürchtet euch nicht

Johann Hermann Schein (1586-1630)

Vom Himmel hoch

Michael Praetorius (c.1571-1621)

Wie schon leuchtet der Morgenstern (pub. 1619)

Interval

Samuel Scheidt

Nativity

Puer natus in Bethlehem SSWV18 (pub. 1620)

Heinrich Schütz

Hodie Christus natus est SWV456 (1640-50)

Samuel Scheidt

Jauchzet Gott, alle Land SSWV249 (pub. 1634)

Heinrich Schütz

Ein Kind ist uns geboren from *Geistliche Chormusic* Op. 11 (pub. 1648)

Andreas Hammerschmidt (c.1611-1675)

Freude, Freude, Grosse Freude

Adoration

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Singet dem Herrn

Michael Praetorius

Angelus ad pastores ait (pub. 1607)

Hieronimus Praetorius (1560-1629)

In dulci jubilo (1622)

Samuel Scheidt

Ach mein herzliebes Jesulein SSWV285 (pub. 1635)

O Jesulein süß, O Jesulein mild SSWV445 (pub. 1650)

Wigmore Hall is a no smoking venue. No recording or photographic equipment may be taken into the auditorium nor used in any other part of the Hall without the prior written permission of the management.

In accordance with the requirements of City of Westminster persons shall not be permitted to stand or sit in any of the gangways intersecting the seating, or to sit in any other gangways. If standing is permitted in the gangways at the sides and rear of the seating, it shall be limited to the number indicated in the notices exhibited in those positions.

Disabled Access and Facilities - full details from 020 7935 2141.

Wigmore Hall is equipped with a 'Loop' to help hearing aid users receive clear sound without background noise. Patrons can use this facility by switching hearing aids to 'T'.



Please ensure that watch alarms, mobile phones and any other electrical devices which can become audible are switched off. Phones on a vibrate setting can still be heard, please switch off.

The Wigmore Hall Trust Registered Charity No. 1024838
36 Wigmore Street, London W1U 2BP • wigmore-hall.org.uk • John Gilhooly Director

Wigmore Hall Royal Patron HRH The Duke of Kent, KG

Honorary Patrons Aubrey Adams OBE; André and Rosalie Hoffmann; Louise Kaye; Kohn Foundation; Mr and Mrs Paul Morgan



A German Protestant Christmas

Chorales are central to Christmas celebrations in Protestant parts of Germany. This repertory of congregational hymns was assembled in the 16th Century by Lutheran church leaders. Some were adapted from plainchant or from medieval Christmas songs; some were newly written in the 16th Century by Martin Luther and his followers. During the 17th Century, chorales were sung not only in worship, but also on the streets and in homes and workplaces. Many musicians in central German territories such as Saxony used chorales as the basis for elaborate musical settings.

Most of the music of **Samuel Scheidt** is based on chorales. Scheidt started his career as a highly successful organist in Halle; then from the 1630s his musical activities were curtailed by the effects of the Thirty Years' War. 'Das alte Jahr vergangen ist' and 'Puer natus in Bethlehem' are grandly scored settings from his first published collection, *Cantiones sacrae* (1620). Scheidt explored the different sonorities achieved by alternating choirs or by contrasting a solo voice against massed *tutti*. His later compositions, such as 'Jauchzet Gott, alle Land', 'O Jesulein süß' and 'Ach mein herzliebes Jesulein', use smaller forces such as two soloists over organ accompaniment. These suited the depleted ensembles of wartime Halle.

An encyclopaedic approach to setting chorale tunes was taken by **Michael Praetorius**. His nine volumes of *Musae sioniae* arrange chorale tunes for ensembles of between two and twelve voices, with textures ranging from simple harmonisations to lively dialogue between multiple choirs. Through such plentiful provision of chorale settings, Praetorius fulfilled the objective he described in 1619: 'For the perfection and perpetuation of church authority, and also for the completeness of worship, it is necessary to have not only *concia*, a good sermon, but also *cantio*, good music and singing.'

A different approach to the chorale was taken by the Leipzig cantor **Johann Hermann Schein**. His *Opella nova* (1618) presents the chorale tunes in Italian style, for two or three upper voices over an instrumental bass. In his setting of 'Vom Himmel hoch', each line of the chorale tune is broken into short fragments for the two sopranos, before being presented whole by the tenor.

Chorales were less important to musicians outside the Lutheran heartland of Saxony. **Hieronymus Praetorius** was organist at the Jacobikirche in Hamburg. Here he cultivated large-scale Latin motets for multiple choirs, in the style of Venetian composers. Such compositions showed that a northern trading centre could have as elaborate and fashionable music as the Italian lagoon city.

Chorales are also rarely encountered in the output of **Heinrich Schütz**. Although he spent most of his life in Saxony and Thuringia, he was employed at aristocratic courts such as

Dresden which made relatively little use of congregational hymns. His 'Deutsches Magnificat' is from his *Schwanengesang* ('Swansong', 1671), a collection of canticle and psalm settings completed the year before his death. Here the words of the aged Simeon on seeing the infant Christ are set to an austere but effective eight-voice texture. Earlier in his career Schütz was renowned for his vivid settings of Biblical texts. 'Hodie Christus natus est' is a joyful and energetic piece of juxtaposing rhythms. 'Ein Kind ist uns geboren' is a motet from his *Geistliche Chormusic* (1648), for voices without obligatory instruments. Each line of the text (from Isaiah 9.6–7) is brought to life through varied melodic subjects and changing rhythms.

Later in the 17th Century, simple motets continued to be popular among smaller churches in Saxony and Thuringia. 'Freude, Freude, grosse Freude' by **Andreas Hammerschmidt** articulates joy at the newborn Christ lodging in the believer's heart. Hammerschmidt's homely motets received a mixed reception from other musicians. The organist Friedrich Erhard Niedt commented: 'I leave the explanation of the motet to the Thuringian peasants, who retain such pieces from the days of Hammerschmidt, just as the farmers' daughters from Altenburg inherit their boots from their ancestors.' By contrast the Weissenfels court musician Johann Beer declared that Hammerschmidt 'has done more for the glory of God than a thousand artists have done or ever will do. He is the one who has maintained the music in almost all the village churches up to the present, which a thousand artists with their stunts and contra-fugues have been unable to do.'

Motets continued to be cultivated by members of the Bach family at the end of the 17th Century. **Johann Michael Bach** worked as organist and town clerk in Gehren, a small town in the Thuringian forest; his youngest daughter would marry Johann Sebastian in 1707. His motets often set Biblical words, over which a chorale melody is superimposed. 'Fürchtet euch nicht' sets the angels' words of reassurance to the shepherds, and ends with the Christmas hymn 'Gelobet seist du' in praise of the incarnation. 'Sei lieber Tag willkommen' celebrates the New Year by summoning voices, strings and pipes to unite in choirs of joy. **Johann Christoph Bach** was described by later Bach family members as 'the great and expressive composer'. His motet 'Lieber Herr Gott, wecke uns auf' prays that believers will be ready for Christ's coming. This Advent text had wider resonances: in 1749 Johann Sebastian Bach made new performance parts of this motet, using his ancestor's music to prepare himself for the end of his life.

© Stephen Rose 2021

Reproduction and distribution is strictly prohibited.

Samuel Scheidt (1587-1654)

Das alte Jahr vergangen ist SSWV14 (pub. 1620) The old year has passed away

Das alte Jahr vergangen ist, Wir danken dir, Herr Jesu Christ, Dass du uns in grosser Gefahr Bewahret hast in diesem Jahr, Und bitten dich ewigen Sohn Des Vaters in dem höchsten Trohn, Du wollst dein arme Christenheit Bewahren ferner allezeit.	The old year has passed away. We thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, That you have preserved us From great danger this year, And we pray, o eternal Son of the Father on his throne most high, That you will protect us in eternity, Your hapless Christendom.
---	--

Johann Michael Bach (1648-1694)

Sei lieber Tag willkommen I bid you welcome, dear day

Sei, lieber Tag, willkommen, Willkommen sei du heut! Heut freuen sich die Frommen, Die Frommen, die allzeit, Allzeit den grossen Gott, Gott, ihren Schöpfer, loben, Ihn loben hoch dort oben, Erlöst aus aller Not.	I bid you welcome, dear day, today I bid you welcome! The devout rejoice today, the devout who without respite praise great God, who created them, praise him who dwells high above and rescues us from all peril.
--	---

Denn an dem Tage brachte Der liebste Gottessohn, Was Freude bei uns machte, Aus seinem Himmelsthron: Ein schönes neues Jahr, Glück, Heil und allen Segen Zu Wegen und zu Stegen Der ganzen Christenschar!	For on this very day the dearest Son of God brought joy unto us from His throne in Heaven: a beautiful New Year, happiness, salvation and blessing unto all Christians everywhere, wherever they may dwell.
--	--

Drum kommt, ihr Christenbrüder, Kommt her an diesem Tag, Kommt, fallt für Jesu nieder, Damit es euch behag! Kommt, dankt und bittet ihn, Dass er in diesem Jahre Euch väterlich bewahre Und tue wie vorhin!	Come then, Christian brothers, come on this day, come, prostrate yourselves before Jesus, come and be happy! Come, thank and beseech Him to protect you paternally throughout the year, as He has always done!
---	--

Lasst eure Stimmen hören, Lasst klingen Saiten drein, Lobt ihn mit vollen Chören,	Let your voices be heard, let your strings resound, praise Him with whole choirs,
---	---

Lasst alles fröhlich sein!
Singt, singet eurem Gott,
Singt, lobet, danket, betet,
Vor euren Jesu tretet,
Er schützt vor Not und
Tod!

let everyone rejoice!
Sing, sing to your God,
sing, praise, give thanks, pray,
come before your Jesus,
who protects you from peril and
death!

Nun treten wir ins neue Jahr

Nun treten wir ins neue Jahr,
Herr Jesu Christ, uns auch
bewahr,
Gib Gnad dass wir dies ganze
Jahr,
Zubringen mögen ohn
Gefahr.
Gib Glück und Heil,
Gib Fried und Ruh,
Hernach die Seligkeit darzu,
Amen

Now as we enter this new year

Now as we enter this new year,
Lord Jesus Christ, be with us
here.
Give grace that in this year to
come
we keep from danger and from
harm.
Give joy and health,
give peace and rest,
and grant us blessedness at last.
Amen.

Annunciation

Heinrich Schütz (1585-1672)

Deutsches Magnificat SWV494 (pub. 1671)

Meine Seele erhebt den Herren, Und mein Geist freuet sich Gottes, meines Heilandes. Denn er hat seine elende Magd angesehen: Siehe, von nun an werden mich selig preisen alle, Alle Kindes Kind. Denn er hat grosse Dinge an mir getan, der da mächtig ist, Und des Name heilig ist. Und seine Barmherzigkeit währet immer für und für bei denen, die ihn fürchten. Er übt Gewalt mit seinem Arm, er zerstreut, die hoffärtig sind in ihres Herzens Sinn. Er stösset die Gewaltigen vom Stuhl, und erhöht die Niedrigen; Die Hungrigen füllet er mit Gütern und lässt die Reichen leer. Er denket der Barmherzigkeit und hilft seinem Diener Israel auf,	My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. For he has considered the low estate of his handmaiden; behold, all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is might has done great things for me; holy is his name. His mercy is on them that fear him, from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm and has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has put down the mighty from their seat and has helped the humble and meek. He has filled the hungry with good things and has sent the rich empty away. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
--	---

Wie er geredt hat unsern
Vätern, Abraham und seinem
Samen ewiglich.

Ehre sei dem Vater und dem
Sohn und auch dem Heiligen
Geiste,

Wie es war im Anfang, jetzt und
immerdar und von Ewigkeit
zu Ewigkeit.

Amen.

as he spoke to our fathers, to
Abraham, and to his seed for
ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to
the Son, and to the Holy
Ghost,

as it was in the beginning and
ever shall be, World without
end.

Amen.

Johann Christoph Bach (1642-1703)

**Lieber Herr Gott, wecke
uns auf** (1672)

Lieber Herr Gott, wecke uns auf
Dass wir bereit sein,
Wenn dein Sohn kömmt,
Ihn mit Freuden zu empfangen
Und dir mit reinem Herzen zu
dienen,
Durch denselbigen deinen lieben
Sohn,
Jesum Christum unsern Herren.
Amen.

**Dear Lord God, wake us
up**

Dear Lord God, wake us up
so that we are ready,
when your son comes,
to greet him with joy,
and to serve you with pure
heart,
through the same dear son of
yours,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Johann Michael Bach

Fürchtet euch nicht

Fürchtet euch nicht!
Siehe, ich verkündige euch
grosse Freude,
Die allem Volk widerfahren wird;
Denn euch ist heute der Heiland
geboren,
Welcher ist Christus, der Herr,
In der Stadt David.

Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ,
Dass du Mensch geboren bist
Von einer Jungfrau, das ist wahr.
Des freuet sich der Engelschar.

Be not afraid

Be not afraid, behold,
I proclaim to you a great
joy
which ensues for all people.
For unto you today is born the
Savior
who is Christ the Lord
in the city of David.

Praised be you, Jesus Christ
that you have been born as a man
from a virgin - this is true -
at which the host of angels rejoices.

Johann Hermann Schein (1586-1630)

Vom Himmel hoch

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm'
ich her.
Ich bring' euch gute neue Mär,
Der guten Mär bring' ich so viel,
Davon ich sing'n und sagen will.

From heaven above

From heaven above to earth I
come
to bear good news to every home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
whereof I now will say and sing

Michael Praetorius (c.1571-1621)

**Wie schon leuchtet der
Morgenstern** (pub. 1619)

Wie schön leuchtet der
Morgenstern
Voll Gnad und Warheit von dem
Herrn
Die süsse Wurzel Jesse!
Du Sohn David aus Jakobs
Stamm,
Mein König und mein Breutigam,
Hast mir mein Herz besessen,
Lieblich, freundlich,
Schön und herrlich, gross und
ehrlich,
Reich von Gaben,
Hoch und sehr prächtig
erhaben.

**How lovely shines the
morning star**

How lovely shines the morning
star
full of grace and truth from the
Lord,
the sweet root of Jesse!
You, son of David of Jacob's
stem,
my king and my bridegroom,
have taken possession of my heart,
dearly, kindly,
lovely and glorious, great and
sincere,
rich in gifts,
highly and in great splendor
exalted.

Interval

Nativity

Samuel Scheidt

Puer natus in Bethlehem
SSWV18 (pub. 1620)

Latin
Puer natus natus in Bethlehem,
Alleluia
Unde gaudet Jerusalem, Alleluia

German
Ein Kind geboren zu Bethlehem,
Alleluja
Des freuet sich Jerusalem,
Alleluja

**A boy is born in
Bethlehem**

English
A boy is born in Bethlehem,
Alleluia
at which Jerusalem rejoices,
Alleluia.

Heinrich Schütz

Hodie Christus natus est
SWV456 (1640-50)

Hodie Christus natus est. Alleluia.
Hodie Salvator apparuit.
Hodie in terra canunt Angeli,
laetantur Archangeli
Hodie exsultant justi, dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo,

Today is Christ born

Today is Christ born; Alleluia.
Today the Savior has appeared.
Today the Angels sing,
the Archangels rejoice;
today the righteous rejoice, saying:
Glory to God in the highest.

Et in terra pax hominibus bonae
voluntatis.
Alleluia.

And on earth peace to people of
good will.
Alleluia.

Samuel Scheidt

Jauchzet Gott, alle Land
SSWV249 (pub. 1634)

Jauchzet Gott, alle Land!
Lobsingt zu Ehren seinem
Namen;
Rühmet ihn herrlich!
Sprecht zu Gott
Wunderlich sind deine Werk,
Es wird deinen Feinden
Fehlen für deiner grossen Macht.
Alle Land bete dich an,
Und lobsinge dir
Lobsingde deinem Namen!
Sela, jauchzet, alle Land!
Lobsingt zu Ehren seinem
Namen
Rühmet ihn herrlich!
Kommt her,
Und sehet an die Werk Gottes,
Der so wunderbarlich ist mit seinen
Tun,
Unter den Menschen kindern.
Er verwandelt das Meer ins
Trokken,
Dass man zu Fusse über das
Wasser gehet;
Des freuen wir uns in ihm.
Jauchzet Gott...
Er herrschet seiner Gewalt
ewiglich;
Seine Augen schauen auf die
Völker.
Die Abtrünigen werden sich
nicht erhöhen können,
Sela, lobet ihr Völker unsern
Gott,
Lasst seinen Ruhm weit erschallen,
Der unser Seelen im Leben behält
Und lässt unser Füsse nicht
gleiten.
Jauchzet Gott...

**Rejoice in God, all you
lands**

Rejoice in God, all you lands!
Sing praises to the honour of
his name;
extol him with splendour!
Say unto God:
your works are wondrous,
And your enemies
Will fail before your great might.
Let all lands adore you
and sing praises to you,
hailing your name!
Amen, rejoice, all you lands!
Sing praises to the honour of
his name;
extol him with splendour!
Come here
and behold God's handiwork,
whose deeds are
wondrous
amongst the children of men.
He changes the sea into dry
land,
that our feet may pass over the
waters;
for this we delight in him.
Rejoice, all you lands...
He reigns in his power for
ever;
his eyes look upon every
people.
The apostate cannot raise
themselves up.
Amen, you peoples, praise our
God,
Let his glory be known abroad,
for he gives life to our souls
and prevents our feet from
slipping.
Rejoice, all you lands...

Heinrich Schütz

Ein Kind ist uns geboren
from *Geistliche*

Chormusic Op. 11

(pub. 1648)

Ein Kind ist uns geboren,
Ein Sohn ist uns gegeben,
welches Herrschaft ist
auf seiner Schulter und er
heisst Wunderbar, Rat, Kraft,
Held, Ewigvater, Friedefürst,
auf dass seine Herrschaft
gross werde und des Friedens
keine Ende auf dem Stuhl
Davids und seines
Königreichs, dass er's
zurichte und stärke mit
Gericht und Gerechtigkeit von
nun an bis in Ewigkeit.
Solches wird tun der Eifer
des Herren Zebaoth.

A child is born to us

A child is born to us, a son is
given to us; Whose
governance is upon his
shoulders, and he is called
Wondrous, Counsel, Power,
Hero, eternal Father, Prince
of Peace; and his rule will
become great, and there will
be no end to the peace of it
upon the throne of David and
his kingdom, since he will
judge and conquer with
justice and righteousness
from henceforth to eternity;
so shall it be done by the zeal
of the Lord Sabaoth.

Andreas Hammerschmidt (c.1611-1675)

**Freude, Freude, Grosse
Freude**

O joy, O joy, great joy!

Freude, Freude, grosse Freude,
Denn uns ist heute der Heiland
geboren,
Welcher ist Christus, der Herr,
O Freude, grosse Freude!

O joy, O joy, great joy!
For today the Saviour is born
unto us,
who is Christ the Lord,
o joy, great joy!

O Jesulein, mein Jesulein,
O Emanuel, mein Brüderlein,
Mein Trost, mein Heil, mein
Jesulein,
Mach dir ein rein sanft
Bettelein,
Zu ruhen in meines Herzens
Schrein,
Dass ich nimmermehr vergesse
dein.

O little Jesus, my little Jesus,
o Emmanuel, my little brother,
my comfort, my salvation, my
little Jesus,
make for Thyself a pure and soft
little bed
and rest in the shrine of my
heart,
that I shall never forget
Thee.

Schlaf ein, du allerliebste Jesulein,
Schlaf ein in meines Herzens
Kämmerlein,
Mein Jesulein, mein Brüderlein,
Du, du bist mein Jesulein;
So wiegen wir dich, mein
Jesulein, eia,
Mein Jesulein, mein Brüderlein.

Fall asleep, dearest little Jesus,
fall asleep in my heart's little
chamber,
my little Jesus, my little brother,
thou art my little Jesus;
we will rock you to sleep, my
little Jesus,
my little Jesus, my little brother.

Freude, Freude, grosse Freude . . .

O joy, O joy, great joy . . .

Adoration

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Singet dem Herrn

Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied.
Singet dem Herrn und lobet
seinen Namen,
Denn er tut Wunder.

Er sieget mit seiner Rechten
und mit seinem heiligen Arm,
Der Herr lässet sein Heil
verkündigen,
Für die Völker lässt er
seine Gerechtigkeit
offenbaren.

Er gedenket an seine Gnade und
Wahrheit,
Aller Welt Ende sehen das Heil
unsers Gottes,
Denn er kommt das Erdreich zu
richten,
Er wird den Erdboden richten
mit Gerechtigkeit
Und die Völker mit Recht.

Sing unto the Lord

Sing unto the Lord a new song;
sing unto the Lord and praise
his name
for he hath done marvelous things.

His right hand, and his holy arm,
hath gotten him the victory.
The Lord hath made known his
salvation:
his righteousness hath he
openly shewed in the sight of
the heathen.

He hath remembered his mercy
and his truth
all the ends of the earth have
seen the salvation of our God.
for he cometh to judge the
earth:
with righteousness shall he
judge the world,
and the people with equity.

Michael Praetorius

Angelus ad pastores ait

(pub. 1607)

Angelus ad pastores ait:
Annuntio vobis gaudium
magnum:
Quia natus est vobis hodie
Salvator mundi.
Alleluia.

The angel said to the shepherds

The angel said to the shepherds:
I bring you good tidings of great
joy:
for unto you is born today the
saviour of the world.
Alleluia.

Hieronymus Praetorius (1560-1629)

In dulci jubilo (1622)

In dulci jubilo
Nun singet und seid froh!
Unsers Herzens Wonne
Liegt in præsepio
Und leuchtet als die Sonne
Matris in gremio.
Alpha es et O.

In quiet joy

In quiet joy
let us our homage show!
Our heart's joy reclineth
in a manger
and like a bright star shineth
in the mother's lap.
Thou art Alpha and Omega.

O Jesu parvule,
Nach dir ist mir so weh.
Tröst mir mein Gemüte,
O puer optime;
Durch alle deine Güte,
O princeps gloriae,
Trahe me post te!
O patris caritas
O Nati lenitas
Wir wärn all verloren
Per nostra crimina:
So hat er uns erworben
Coelorum gaudia.

Eia, wärn wir da!
Ubi sunt gaudia?
Nirgend mehr denn da!
Da die Engel singen
Nova cantica
Und die Schellen klingen
In regis curia.

Samuel Scheidt

Ach mein herzliebes Jesulein SSWV285

(pub. 1635)

Ach mein herzliebes Jesulein
Mache dir ein reinsanft
Bettelein zu ruhen
In mein Herzens Schrein,
Dass ich nimmer vergesse Dein.

Davon ich allzeit fröhlich sei,
Zu springen, singen immer frei
Das rechte Susanne schon,
Mit Herzenslust den süßen
Ton.

Lob, Ehr sei Gott im höchsten
Thron,
Der uns schenkt seinen ein'gen
Sohn.
Des freuen sich der Engel Schar
Und singen uns solch neues Jahr.

O Jesulein süß, O Jesulein mild SSWV445

(pub. 1650)

O Jesulein süß, o Jesulein mild!
Deines Vaters Willen hast du
erfüllt,

O tiny Jesus,
I yearn for thee alway.
Listen to my ditty
O best of boys;
have pity on me, pity
O Prince of glory,
draw me unto thee!
O father's caring
O newborn's mildness
Deeply were we stained
by our crimes:
But thou hast for us gained
heavenly joy.

O that we were there!
Where be joys,
if that they be not there?
There are angels singing
new songs
and there the bells are ringing
at the king's court.

Ah little Jesus dear to my heart

Ah little Jesus dear to my heart,
make for yourself a clean, soft
bed,
to rest in the shrine of my heart
so that I may never forget you!

My heart for very joy doth leap,
my lips no more can silence keep;
I too must sing with joyful tongue
that sweetest ancient cradle-
song.

Glory to God in highest
heaven,
who unto man His Son hath
given!
while angels sing with pious mirth
a glad New Year to all the earth.

O little one sweet, O little one mild

O little one sweet, O little one mild,
thy Father's purpose thou hast
fulfilled;

Bist kommen aus dem Himmelreich, Uns armen Menschen worden gleich. O Jesulein süß, o Jesulein mild!	thou cam'st from heav'n to dwell below, to share the joys and tears we know, O little one sweet, O little one mild.
O Jesulein süß, o Jesulein mild! Deins Vaters Zorn hast du gestillt, Du zahlst für uns all unser Schuld Und bringet uns in deins Vaters Huld. O Jesulein süß, o Jesulein mild!	O little one sweet, O little one mild, with joy thou hast the whole world filled; thou camest here from heav'n's domain, to bring men comfort in our pain, O little one sweet, O little one mild.
O Jesulein süß, o Jesulein mild! Du bist der Lieb ein Ebenbild. Zünd an in uns der Liebe Flamm, Dass wir dich lieben allzusamm. O Jesulein süß, o Jesulein mild!	O little one sweet, O little one mild. in thee Love's beauties are all distilled; then light in us thy love's bright flame, that we may give thee back the same, O little one sweet, O little one mild.

*Translations of 'Sei lieber Tag willkommen' and 'Freude, Freude, Grosse Freude' by
Richard Stokes.*