

Songs for God and Country

Music, it has been called the language of the soul. When used for its proper purpose, namely the true worship of God and the appreciation of the art form itself, it is one of the most effective teaching tools that an educator can utilize.

There are many references in Sacred Scripture to music; for example, the calming of King Saul from David playing his harp, or the many psalms that allude to rejoicing and giving glory to God -- both by instrument and through singing. Even in the early years of the Church, St. Augustine stated, "He who sings, prays twice."

In the effort to bring about "All things through Christ," Our Lady of Victory School has put together this music book so that future generations of Catholics will have a traditional foundation in song while avoiding certain sentimental errors of the past century. Please consider that this book is designed for the younger child and not all of these songs are appropriate for Liturgical worship.

In his *Motu Proprio* (Feast of St. Cecilia, 22 Nov. 1903) on sacred music, with great emphasis on vocal, Pope St. Pius X states (quite specifically) about the pure and sacred character this type of worship must have: "Nothing should have place, therefore, in the temple calculated to disturb or even merely to diminish the piety and devotion of the faithful, nothing that may give reasonable cause for disgust or scandal, nothing, above all, which directly offends the decorum and sanctity of the sacred functions and is thus unworthy of the House of Prayer and of the Majesty of God."

It is necessary to realize that although the great saint is referring to music in liturgical function specifically, we have an obligation to be very aware of the content of what we listen to when we are in recreation. This is true of both the lyrical and musical compositions. There are in our times those who would claim that if the text is religious (or of good moral content) then the character of the music itself does not matter. Surely this is the most dangerous of "wolf in sheep's clothing". In this age of humanism and demonology, in the appropriately named "popular" music, we as Catholics must take care that we do not expose ourselves, and most especially our children, to the powers of hell that through this medium are appealing to the lowest parts of our fallen nature.

We who have been blessed enough by God's providence to be able to attend High Mass on a regular basis know the full beauty of such a grace. It is our hope that one day all faithful Catholics will be able to attend the Mass of all time, complete with the accouterments of liturgical music; the three primary forms being, Gregorian Chant, Sacred Polyphony, and the most glorious father of all instruments, the organ.

There is also in musical art the element of the folk song -- a time honored tradition that is the product of the common man. So long as the lyrics are not vulgar or debasing, this form is both musically enjoyable and enriching. When the folk music of a specific people is passed down through generations, it becomes a great part of their particular heritage. These songs inform and edify the peoples of other nations when they are passed on through nomads and travelers. They are a wonderful way of spreading culture throughout Our Lord's world.

Here at Our Lady of Victory School, we have high hopes that this book will become an important part of your family life. While we live in a time when the "electronic baby-sitter" is numbing the minds of young and old alike, faithful Catholics should return to the tradition of singing and playing musical instruments (or at the very least, listening to good music) as a family. The most ideal time for this activity is after the family evening meal or rosary -- especially on Saturday evenings, when we should be preparing ourselves for Sunday Mass.

Our desire is that you use this book to help uplift your family in truly Catholic principles.

St. Cecilia, pray for us!

Richard W. Wheel

Songs for God and Country

NOW AVAILABLE

THE RIVER CITY CHAMBER SINGERS

PERFORM THE

Songs For God And Country

40 songs in all

Available on Compact Disc or Cassette Tape

\$12.00

\$9.00

Our Lady of Victory School

We are certain that you will enjoy SONGS FOR GOD AND COUNTRY (the song book). Many hours of work and thoughtful consideration went into the making of this song book. And now, with the aid and dedication of the many talented musicians who make up the River City Chamber Singers, there is now a cassette tape and/or compact disc to compliment this wonderful song book.

You, along with your children, with the aid of either the CD or cassette, can now to put to memory (by singing along with the River City Chamber Singers) the many beautiful Catholic hymns that are included in the song book -- written for use during Mass, Benediction, Vespers, and Compline. In addition, there are many Christmas and Folk songs included which can be enjoyed around a campfire or the family hearth, and especially at gatherings of friends and family. Chord charts are included on the Christmas and Folk Song pieces for those of you who play the guitar.

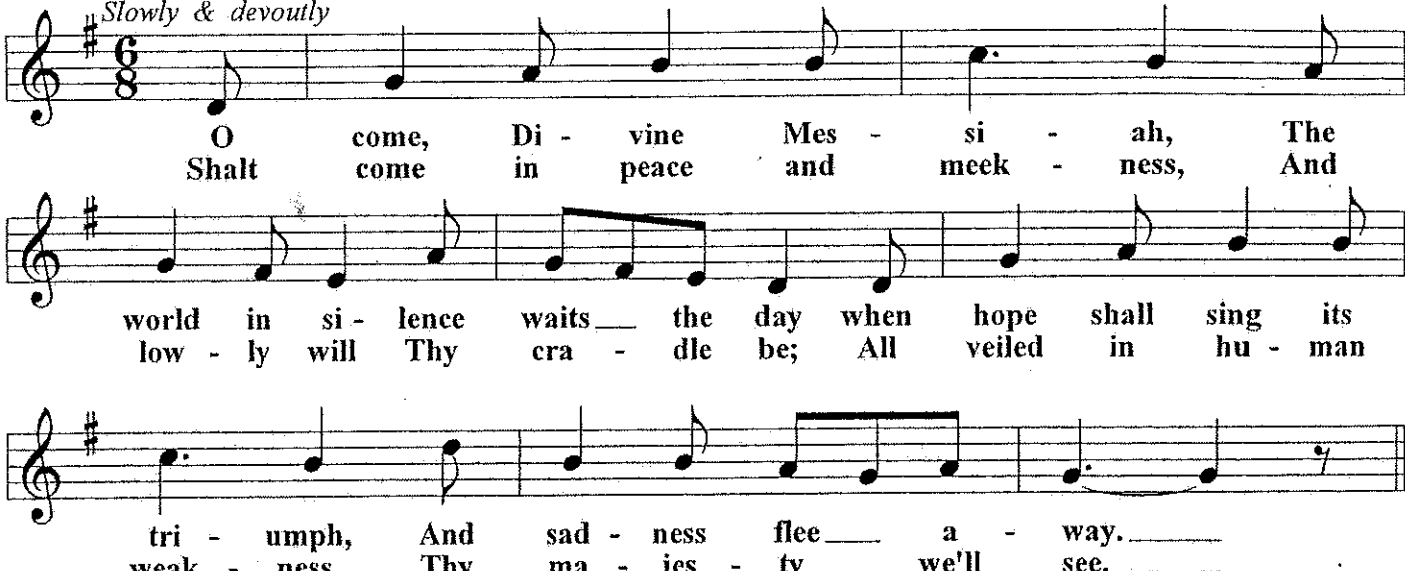
*"Music goes straight to the hearts of our children.
Let's start them off on a path to Heaven
by filling their hearts with the joy and love of God!"*

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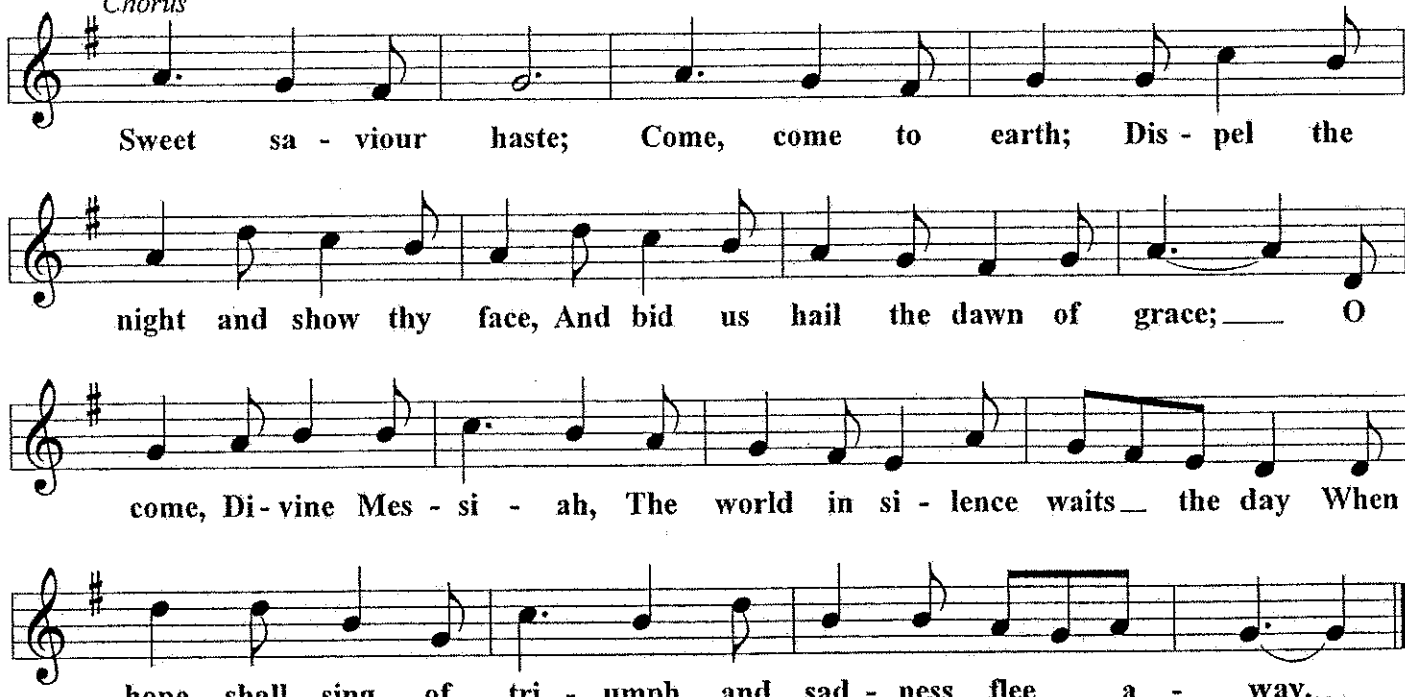
O Come, Divine Messiah

Slowly & devoutly

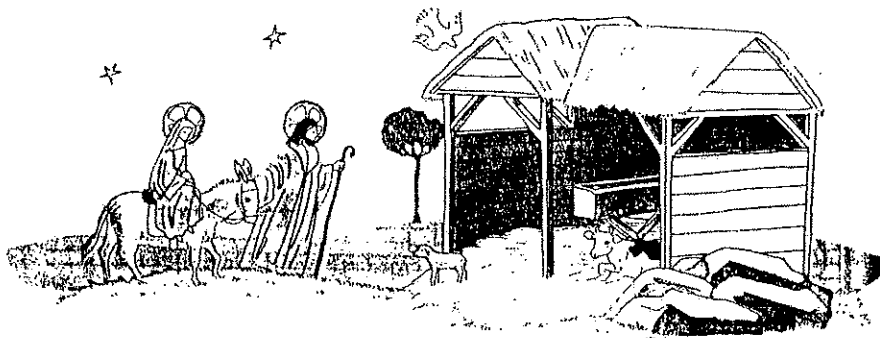


O Shalt come, Di - vine Mes - si - ah, The
come in peace and meek - ness, And
world in si - lence waits — the day when hope shall sing its
low - ly will Thy cra - dle be; All veiled in hu - man
tri - umph, And sad - ness flee — a - way. —
weak - ness, Thy ma - jes - ty — we'll see. —

Chorus



Sweet sa - viour haste; Come, come to earth; Dis - pel the
night and show thy face, And bid us hail the dawn of grace; — O
come, Di - vine Mes - si - ah, The world in si - lence waits — the day When
hope shall sing of tri - umph, and sad - ness flee — a - way. —



O Come, O Come Emmanuel

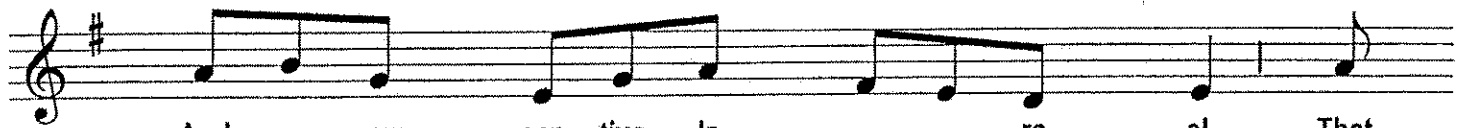
Veni, Veni Emmanuel



1. O come, O come, Em - man u - el,
2. O come, Thou Day - spring, come and cheer

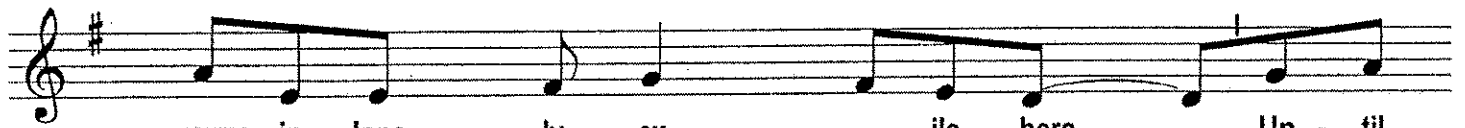
Latin

1. Ve - ni, ve - ni, Em - ma - nu - el,
2. Ve - ni, ve - ni O Sa - pi - en - ti - a,



And ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el, That
Our spir - its by Thine Ad - vent here; Dis -

Cap - ti - vum sol - ve Is - ra - el, Qui
Quae hic di - spo - nis o mni - a, Ve -



mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, Un - til
perse the gloom - y clouds of night, And death's

ge - mit in ex - i - li - o Pri - va -
ni, vi - am pru - den - ti - ae Ut do -



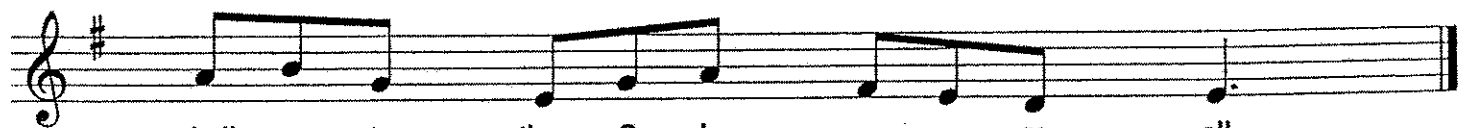
the son of God ap - pear. Re - joice!
dark shad - ows put to flight.

tus De - i Fi - li - o. Gau - del
ce - as et glo - ri - ae.



Re - joice! Em - man u - el

Gau - del Em - man u - el



shall come to thee O Is - ra - el!

Na - sce - tur pro te, Is - ra - el!

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri -
 Sing choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - al -
 Yea Lord, we greet Thee, born this hap - py
Latin Ad - es - te fi - de - les, Lae - ti tri - um -
 En - Gre - ge re - lic - to hu - mi - les - ad -
 Ae - ter - ni Pa - tris splen - do - rem ae -

um - phant, O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le -
 ta - tion Sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heav'n a -
 morn - ing, Je - sus to Thee be all glo - ry
 phan - tes: Ve - ni - te, ve - ni - te in Beth - le -
 Cu - na, Vo - ca - ti pas - to - res ap - pro - pe -
 ter - num Ve - la - tum sub car - ne vi - de - bi -

hem; Come and a - dore Him, born the King of
 bove; Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry in the
 giv'n; Word of the fath - er now in flesh ap -
 hem; Na - tum vi - de - te, Re - gem an - ge -
 rant; Et nos o - van - ti gra - du fes - ti -
 mus; De - um in - fan - tem, pan - nis in - vo -

Refrain

an - gels: O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a -
 high - est:
 pear - ing:
 lo - rum: Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, Ve - ni - te a - do -
 re - mur:
 lu - tum:

dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ, the Lord.
 re - mus, Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

F
Gm 3fr.
F
C7
F

O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!

D7
Gm 3fr.
F
C7
F

5 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;

Gm 3fr.
A7
Dm
Gm 3fr.
A

10 Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;

F
Gm 3fr.
Gm7
F
C7
F

15 The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.

2. For Christ is born of Mary, And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth!
3. How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in.
4. O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in Our hearts, O Host, today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel.

