



Coventry Carol

Traditional English Carol
Arranged by Amy Gordon

Instrumentation: SATB (divisi) Choir, with Baritone Solo
Duration: 4 minutes

Coventry Carol is a traditional English Christmas Carol written in the 1500s. It tells the somber story of how King Herod, feeling threatened upon hearing the news of Jesus the King's birth, ordered that all young boys under the age of two in Bethlehem be killed. The "Coventry Carol" is a lullaby sung by the grieving mothers who have lost their children in this tragic massacre.

Text

Verse 1

Lully, lullay, Thou little tiny Child,
Bye, bye, lully, lullay.
Lullay, Thou little tiny Child.
Bye, bye, lully, lullay.

Verse 2

O sisters, too, how may we do,
For to preserve this day;
This poor Youngling for whom we sing,
Bye, bye, lully, lullay.

Verse 3

Herod the King, in his raging,
Charged he hath this day;
His men of might, in his own sight,
All children young, to slay.

Verse 4

Then woe is me, poor Child, for Thee,
And ever mourn and say;
For Thy parting, nor say nor sing,
Bye, bye, lully, lullay.

About the composer: Amy Gordon is an active composer, arranger, songwriter, and vocalist based in Los Angeles, CA. As a choral composer, she has worked with and been commissioned by numerous choirs, including being the composer-in-residence for Nova Vocal Ensemble. She has also scored numerous films and webcasts. She has a BA in Composition from Loyola Marymount University and an MM in Composition from California State University, Long Beach.

Coventry Carol

Commissioned by Jonathan Bautista
Dedicated to Nova Vocal Ensemble

Traditional English Carol
Arranged by: Amy Gordon

A Somber yet flowing $\text{♩} = 112$

pp

Soprano: Bye — bye — lul - ly, bye — bye — lul - lay.

Alto: Bye — bye — lul - ly, bye — bye — lul - ly.

Tenor: Bye — bye — lul - ly, bye — bye — lul - ly.

Bass: Lul - la - by lul - ly, lul - la - by lul - ly.

Piano: *pp*

B Slower $\text{♩} = 94$

mp *mf*

S: Lul-ly, lul - lay, thou lit-tle ti-ny child. Bye bye lul - ly, lul - lay. Lul -

A: Lul-ly, lul - lay, thou lit-tle ti-ny child. Bye bye lul - ly lul - lay. Lul -

T: Lul-ly, lul - lay, thou lit-tle ti-ny child. Bye bye lul - ly, lul - lay. Lul -

B: Lul-ly, lul - lay, thou lit-tle ti-ny child. Bye — bye lul - ly, lul - lay. Lul -

Pno.: *mp*

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poco rit.

S
lay thou lit - tle ti - ny child, bye bye lul - ly lu - lay.

A
lay thou lit - tle ti - ny child, bye bye lul - ly lu - lay.

T
lay thou lit - tle ti - ny child, bye bye lul - ly lu - lay.

B
lay thou lit - tle ti - ny child, bye bye lul - ly lu - lay.

Pno.

C

Optional SSAA solo quartet

A little faster ♩ = 102

S
Lul - lay lul - lay loo. loo loo do loo - lul - lay. This

S
Oh sis - ters too, how may we do, for to pre - serve this day. This

A
Lul - lay lul - lay loo. may we do, for to pre - serve this day.

A
Lul - lay lul - lay loo. Loo loo do lul - lay.

Pno.

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38

S poor young - ling for whom we sing, bye bye lul - lay.

S poor young - ling for whom we sing, bye bye lul - ly, lul - lay.

A poor young - ling for whom we sing, bye bye lul - lay.

A poor young - ling for whom we sing, bye bye lul - lay.

Pno.

D Full choir (if using quartet)

Stately ♩ = 94

46 Opening tempo ♩ = 112

poco rit.

f

Baritone solo

He - rod the king in his rag - ing

S Bye bye lul - ly. Bye bye

A Bye bye lul - ly. Bye bye

T Bye bye lul - ly. Bye bye

B Bye bye lul - ly lul - lay. Bye bye

Opening tempo ♩ = 112

poco rit.

Stately ♩ = 94

Pno.

Coventry Carol

4

55

B. Solo

Charg - ed he hath _____ this day.

S
lul - ly, lul - lay. *p* Bye bye lul - ly, lul - *f*

A
lul - ly, lul - lay. *p* Bye bye lul - ly, lul - *f*

T
lul - ly, lul - lay. *p* Bye bye lul - ly, lul - *f*

B
lul - ly, lul - lay. *p* Bye bye lul - ly, lul - *f*

Pno.

61

B. Solo

His _____ men _____ of might, in his _____ own sight,

S
lay. lul - ly lul - lie. Bye bye lul - ly, lul - *mp* *ff* *f*

A
lay. lul - ly, lul - lie. Bye bye lul - ly, lul - *mp* *f*

T
lay. lul - ly, lul - lie. Bye bye lul - ly, lul - *mp* *f*

B
lay. lul - ly, lul - lie. Bye bye lul - ly, lul - *mp* *f*

Pno.

accel.

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a tempo **mf**

rubato

5 **pp**

67

B. Solo

All young chil - dren all chil - dren young to slay.

S
lay. Bye bye lul - ly, lul - lay.

A
lay. Bye bye lul - ly, lul - lay.

T
lay. Bye bye lul - ly, lul - lay.

B
lay. Bye bye lul - ly, lul - lay.

Pno.

a tempo **p** **mf** *rubato* **mp** **pp**

E Determined ♩ = 106

ff Option: S1 can be a solo descant

74

S
Bye bye lul - ly. Bye bye lul - lay. Bye bye lul - ly.

A
ff
Bye bye lul - ly. Bye bye lul - lay. Bye bye lul - ly.

T
ff
Bye bye lul - ly. Bye bye lul - lay. Bye bye lul - ly.

B
ff
Bye bye lul - ly. Bye bye lul - lay. Bye bye lul - ly.

Pno.

Determined ♩ = 106 **ff**

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F
Somberly $\text{♩} = 90$

80

S
Bye bye lul - lay. Then woe is me, poor child for thee,

A
Bye bye lul - lay. Then woe is me, poor child for thee,

T
Bye bye lul - lay. Then woe is me, poor child for thee,

B
Bye bye lul - lay. Then woe is me, poor child for thee,

Pno.

86

S
and ev - er mourn this day. For thy part - ing nor say nor

A
and ev - er mourn this day. For thy part - ing nor say nor

T
and ev - er mourn this day. For thy part - ing nor say nor

B
and ev - er mourn this day. For thy part - ing nor say nor

Pno.

Coventry Carol

93 *pp*

S sing bye bye lul - ly, lul - - - -

A sing bye bye lul - ly, lul - - - - lay.

T sing ___ bye bye lul - ly, lul - - - - lay.

B sing bye bye lul - ly lul - - - - lay.

Pno.

G *rubato* *pp* lul - ly

99 *pp* *ppp*

S Bye ___ bye ___ lul - ly, bye ___ bye ___ lul - lay.

A Bye ___ bye ___ lul - ly, bye ___ bye ___ lul - ly.

T Bye ___ bye ___ lul - ly, bye ___ bye ___ lul - ly.

B Lul - la - by lul - ly, lul - la - by lul - ly.

rubato *pp* *ppp*

Pno.