

*Veni  
Emmanuel*

Ancient & Traditional Latin Christmas Carols




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We are fortunate to have as part of our culture many excellent Christmas carols in the English language. These carols often reflect superb musical composition, as well as lyrical and poetic beauty and meaning. What a thrill it is to discover that many of these English carols were based on much older Latin carols and that, in addition, there are several beautiful Latin carols that exist only in Latin that will stir listeners of all backgrounds and ages.

We have provided the Latin text of each song on this album, along with a literal translation that generally follows the flow and phrasing of the Latin text. This literal translation can not approximate the beauty and poetry of the Latin text, but will help listeners to more readily understand the meaning of the Latin. For many of them, we have also provided a poetic translation of the text for those carols that have been rendered as English carols as well.

We hope that this album will be enjoyed by many who appreciate the rich heritage of Christmas music extending back through the centuries. We also hope that those who know something of Latin will enjoy learning superb examples of the language as it is joined to truly beautiful music.

We extend special thanks to all the musicians and vocalists who have contributed to this album. Thanks to Val McClymont for her excellent alto harmonies and also to the talented voices of Bryan Leaman, Karah Leaman, Kevin Messick, and John Harms. We are indebted to Nathan Eagleson for his expertise in both keyboard and composition and to Hannah Eagleson, a supremely talented harpist. Thanks as well to Carolyn Baddorf for her excellent violin work and to Jennifer Lowe for her performances on the recorder and the ethereal psaltery. Finally, thanks to Joanna Mease, the lead vocalist on this album, whom we discovered has a *vox angeli*.

*Felix Dies Navitatis!*

# Musicians

## ***Hodie Christus Natus Est***

Vocal: Joanna Mease

## ***Veni, Veni Emmanuel***

Vocal: Joanna Mease

Harp: Hannah Eagleson

## ***Puer Natus in Bethlehem***

Vocals: Joanna Mease & Valerie McClymont

Harp: Hannah Eagleson

## ***Resonet in Laudibus***

Vocals: Joanna Mease & Valerie McClymont

Keyboard: Nathan Eagleson

## ***What Child Is This?***

Recorder: Jennifer Lowe

Violin: Carolyn Baddorf

## ***Jesu Redemptor Omnium***

Vocals: Joanna Mease, Karah Leaman,

Kevin Messick & Bryan Leaman

Keyboard: Nathan Eagleson

Violin: Carolyn Baddorf

## ***Corde Natus ex Parentis***

Vocal: Joanna Mease

Harp: Hannah Eagleson

## ***Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence***

Psalter: Jennifer Lowe

Violin: Carolyn Baddorf

## ***Creator Alme Siderum***

Vocal: Joanna Mease

Harp: Hannah Eagleson

## ***Adeste Fideles***

Vocals: Joanna Mease, Karah Leaman,

Kevin Messick & Bryan Leaman

Keyboard: Nathan Eagleson

Violin: Carolyn Baddorf

## ***In Dulci Jubilo***

Vocals: Joanna Mease & John Harms

Keyboard: Nathan Eagleson

Violin: Carolyn Baddorf

## ***Flos de Radice Jesse***

Vocals: Joanna Mease & Valerie McClymont

Harp: Hannah Eagleson

Psalter: Jennifer Lowe

## ***Hodie Christus Natus Est Reprise***

Vocal: Joanna Mease

Keyboard: Nathan Eagleson

# Hodie Christus Natus Est

Latin  
Anonymous Plainsong

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

English Literal Translation  
Christopher Perrin, 2008

Today Christ is born;  
Today the Savior appears;  
Today on the earth the angels sing,  
The Archangels rejoice;  
Today the just ones exult saying:  
Glory in the highest be to God, Alleluia.



# Veni, Veni Emmanuel

Plainsong, 13<sup>th</sup> century  
Arranged by Thomas Helmore, 1856

*Latin*  
Anonymous, 12th Century  
*The O Antiphons*

*English Literal Translation*  
Christopher Perrin, 2008

*English Traditional Translation*  
John M. Neale, 1851

**1. Veni, veni, Emmanuel;**  
**Captivum solve Israel,**  
**Qui gemit in exilio**  
**Privatus Dei Filio.**

1. Come, come, Emmanuel;  
Free captive Israel,  
Who mourns in exile,  
Deprived of the Son of God.

1. O Come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lowly exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.

**Refrain:**  
**Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel,**  
**Nascetur pro te, Israel!**

Refrain:  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
is born for thee, Israel!

Refrain:  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

**2. Veni, veni, Adonai!**  
**Qui populo in Sinai,**  
**Legem dedisti vertice,**  
**In majestate gloriae.**

2. Come, come, Adonai!  
Who to the people on Sinai  
Gave the law from above  
In majesty and glory.

2. O come, o come, Thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times did give the law,  
In cloud, and majesty, and awe.

**3. Veni, O Jesse Virgula;**  
**Ex hostis tuos unguia,**  
**De specu tuos tartari**  
**Educ, et antro barathri.**

3. Come, Rod of Jesse,  
Yours from the claw of Thy enemy,  
Yours from the cave of hell  
And from the pit of the grave,  
lead out.

3. O come, Thou Rod of Jesse,  
Free Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell Thy people save,  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

**4. Veni, veni, O Oriens;**  
**Solare nos adveniens,**  
**noctis depelle nebulas,**  
**dirsaque mortis tenebras.**

4. Come, come, O Rising,  
Coming to comfort us  
Dispel the clouds of night  
And the dire shadows of death.

4. O come, Thou Dayspring,  
Come and cheer Our spirits by Thine  
advent here.  
And drive away the shades of night,  
And pierce the clouds and bring us light.

**5. Veni, Clavis Davidica!**  
**Regna reclude caelica;**  
**Fac iter tutum superum,**  
**Et claude vias inferum.**

5. Come, Key of David,  
Reign, open the heavenly dwelling  
Make the journey above safe  
And shut the way to hell.

5. O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.

# *Puer Natus in Bethlehem*

*Latin*  
Plainsong  
*Benedictine Process, XIV. C.*

*English Literal Translation*  
Christopher Perrin, 2008

*English Traditional Translation*  
Hamilton Montgomerie MacGill, 1876

**1. Puer natus in Bethlehem,  
Alleluia.**

**Unde gaudet Jerusalem,  
Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**Refrain:**

**In cordis jubilo,  
Christum natum adoremus,  
Cum novo cantico.**

**2. Hic jacet in præsepio,  
Alleluia.**

**Qui regnat sine termino,  
Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**3. In hoc natali gaudio,  
Alleluia.**

**Benedicamus Domino,  
Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**4. Laudetur sancta Trinitas,  
Alleluia.**

**Deo dicamus gratias,  
Alleluia, Alleluia.**

1. A Child is born in Bethlehem,  
Alleluia.

Whence rejoices Jerusalem,  
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Refrain:

In jubilation of heart,  
Let us adore the newborn Christ,  
with a new song.

2. Here He lies in a manger,  
Alleluia.

He who reigns without end,  
Alleluia, Alleluia.

3. In this birth with joy,  
Alleluia.

We bless the Lord,  
Alleluia, Alleluia.

4. Let the Holy Trinity be praised,  
Alleluia.

Let us speak thanks to God,  
Alleluia, Alleluia.

1. A Child is born in  
Bethlehem, Alleluia.

Exult for joy,  
Jerusalem! Alleluia.

2. Lo, He who reigns above  
the skies, Alleluia.

There, in a manger lowly, lies,  
Alleluia.

3. Come then, and on this natal  
day, Alleluia.

Rejoice before the Lord and  
pray, Alleluia.

4. And to the Holy One in  
Three, Alleluia.

Give praise and thanks  
eternally, Alleluia.

# Resonet in Laudibus

German Melody, 14th Century

*Latin*  
Anonymous, 14th Century

*English Literal Translation*  
Christopher Perrin, 2008

## 1. Resonet in laudibus

**Cum jucundis plausibus,**

**Sion cum fidelibus.**

**Apparuit quem genuit Maria.**

## 1. Zion with the faithful

Resounds in praises,

With delightful clapping

He has appeared whom Mary has borne.

## 2. Sion lauda Dominum

**Salvatorem omnium;**

**Virgo parit Filium.**

**Apparuit quem genuit Maria.**

## 2. Praise the Lord, Zion

The Savior of all;

The virgin gives birth to the Son.

He has appeared whom Mary has borne.

## Refrain

**Gaudete, gaudete, Christus natus hodie!**

**Gaudete, gaudete, ex Maria Virgine.**

## Refrain:

Rejoice, rejoice, Christ is born today!

Rejoice, rejoice, of the Virgin Mary!

## 3. Natus est Emmanuel,

**Quem praedixit Gabriel,**

**Testis est Ezechiel.**

**Apparuit quem genuit Maria.**

## 3. Born is Emmanuel,

Whom Gabriel predicted,

The witness is Ezekiel.

He has appeared whom Mary has borne.

## 4. Sancta tibi Trinitas

**Os omnium gratias**

**Resonet altissimas.**

**Apparuit quem genuit Maria.**

## 4. Holy Trinity to You

The mouth of everyone

Resounds the highest thanks.

He has appeared whom Mary has borne.

# What Child Is This?

*Instrumental*

English Melody, 16th Century



# *Jesu Redemptor Omnium*

Arranged by  
Oreste Ravanello

*Latin*

*Anonymous, 6th Century*

*Revised in 1632 for the Roman Breviary*

*English Literal Translation*

*Christopher Perrin, 2008*

**1. Jesu Redemptor omnium,  
Quem lucis ante originem,  
Parem paternae gloriae,  
Pater supremus edidit.**

1. Jesus, Redeemer of all,  
Who is before the origin of light,  
equal to the glory of the Father,  
the Supreme Father sends forth.

**2. Tu lumen et splendor Patris,  
Tu spes perennis omnium:  
Intende quas fundunt preces  
Tui per orbem servuli.**

2. You are the light and splendor of the Father,  
You are the perennial hope of all;  
attend the entreaties which Your  
servants pour out through the earth.

**3. Memento, rerum Conditor,  
Nostri quod olim corporis,  
Sacrata ab alvo Virginis,  
Nascendo, formam sumpseris.**

3. Remember, O Author of things,  
because once from our flesh holy things  
came from the womb of the virgin;  
by being born, You have assumed human form.

**4. Testatur hoc praesens dies,  
Currrens per anni circulum,  
Quod solus e sinu Patris  
Mundi salus adveneris.**

4. The day now at hand declares this,  
the day hastening through the course of time,  
[declares] that alone from the bosom of the Father,  
You came for the salvation of the world.

**5. Hunc astra, tellus, aequora,  
Hunc omne quod caelo subest,  
Salutis auctorem novae,  
Novo salutat cantico.**

5. The stars, the earth, the sea;  
everything which is under the heavens,  
greet this Author of a new salvation  
with a new song.

**6. Et nos, beata quos sacri  
Rigavit unda sanguinis,  
Natalis ob diem tui,  
Hymni tributum solvimus.**

6. And we, to whom He conducted  
a blessed wave of sacred blood,  
release a tribute of praise  
for the day of Your birth.

**7. Jesu, tibi sit gloria,  
Qui natus es de Virgine,  
Cum Patre et almo Spiritu,  
In sempiterna saecula.**

7. Jesus, born of the virgin,  
to You be glory,  
with the Father and the kind Spirit  
unto everlasting ages.

# Corde Natus ex Parentis

Plainsong,  
12th-13th Century

*Latin*  
Aurelius Clemens Prudentius,  
5th Century

*English Literal Translation,*  
Christopher Perrin, 2008

*English Traditional Translation*  
John M. Neale & Henry W. Baker,  
1854-1859

**1. Corde natus ex Parentis,  
Ante mundi exordium  
Alpha et O cognominatus,  
Ipse fons et clausula.  
Omnium quae sunt, fuerunt,  
Quaeque post futura sunt,  
Saeculorum saecula.**

1. Born by the heart of  
the Father,  
before the beginning of  
the world,  
Alpha and Omega named;  
He is the source and the end of  
everything that is, was, and  
things beyond the future,  
to ages of ages.

1. Of the Father's love begotten,  
Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega,  
He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that  
have been,  
And that future years shall see,  
Evermore and evermore!

**2. O beatus ortus ille,  
Virgo cum puerpera  
Edidit nostram salutem,  
Feta Sancto Spiritu,  
Et Puer, Redemptor orbis,  
Os sacratum protulit,  
Saeculorum saeculis.**

2. O that blessed birth,  
when the virgin in labor  
gave birth to our salvation,  
(pregnant by the Holy Spirit),  
and the child, Redeemer of  
the world,  
she revealed the sacred face,  
to ages of ages.

2. O that birth forever blessed,  
When the Virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
Bore the Savior of our race;  
And the babe, the  
world's Redeemer,  
First revealed His sacred face,  
Evermore and evermore!



**3. Psallit altitudo caeli,  
Psallant omnes angeli,  
Quidquid est virtutis usquam  
Psallat in laudem Dei:  
Nulla linguarum silescat,  
Vox et omnis consonet,  
Saeculorum saeculis.**

3. The heights of heaven sing,  
let all of the angels sing;  
whatever is of virtue anywhere,  
let it sing in praise to God;  
let no tongue be silent,  
and let every voice resound,  
to ages of ages.

3. O ye heights of heav'n,  
adore Him;  
Angel hosts His praises sing;  
All dominions bow before Him  
and extol our God and King;  
Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
Ev'ry voice in concert ring,  
Evermore and evermore!

**4. Tibi, Christe,  
sit cum Patre  
hagioque Spiritu  
Hymnus, decus, laus perennis,  
gratiarum actio,  
Honor, virtus, victoria,  
regnum aeternaliter,  
Saeculorum saeculis.**

4. To You, Christ be,  
with the Father  
and the Holy Spirit,  
hymns, distinction,  
perennial praise,  
the giving of thanks, honor,  
virtue, victory,  
eternal rule,  
to ages of ages.

4. Christ, to Thee  
with God the Father,  
and, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,  
Hymn and chant with high  
praises be:  
Honor, glory, and dominion,  
And eternal victory,  
Evermore and evermore!

# *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

*Instrumental*

French Folk Melody

# Creator Alme Siderum

Latin

Anonymous, c. 7th Century  
Revised in 1632 for the  
Roman Breviary

English Literal Translation

Christopher Perrin, 2008

English Traditional Translation

**1. Creator alme siderum,  
Aeterna lux credentium,  
Jesu Redemptor omnium,  
Intende votis supplicum.**

1. Kind Creator of the Heavens,  
Eternal Light of those believing,  
Jesus, Redeemer of all,  
attend to our supplication of prayer.

1. Bright builder of the heavenly poles,  
eternal light of faithful souls,  
Jesus, Redeemer of mankind,  
our humble prayers vouchsafe to mind.

**2. Qui daemonibus  
ne fraudibus  
Periret orbis, impetu  
Amoris actus, languidi  
Mundi medela factus es.**

2. Who, lest by spirits and  
deceptions  
the world perish by attack,  
acting out of love, You made  
for the languishing world a cure.

2. Who, lest the fraud of hell's black king  
should all men to destruction bring,  
didst, by an act of generous love,  
the fainting world's physician prove.

**3. Commune qui  
mundi nefas  
Ut expiaret, ad cruce[m]  
E Virginis sacrario  
Intacta prodis victima.**

3. You, who for the common good,  
that You might expiate the sin of  
the world;  
to the cross from the untouched  
womb of the virgin,  
You brought forth a sacrifice.

3. Thou, that Thou mightst our  
ransom pay  
and wash the stains of sin away,  
didst from a Virgin's womb proceed  
and on the Cross a Victim bleed.

**4. Cujus potestas gloriae,  
Nomenque cum  
primum sonat,  
Et caelites et inferi  
Tremante curvantur genu.**

4. Whose power of glory,  
and whose name when first  
sounded,  
both heaven and hell,  
with trembling bow the knee.

4. Thy glorious power, Thy saving Name  
no sooner any voice can frame,  
but heaven and earth and hell agree  
to honor them with trembling knee.

**5. Te deprecamur, ultimae  
Magnum diei Judicem,  
Armis supernae gratiae  
Defende nos ab hostibus.**

5. We entreat You,  
Great Judge of the day,  
with weapons of lofty grace,  
defend us from the enemies.

5. Thee, Christ, who at the latter day  
shalt be our Judge, we humbly pray  
such arms of heavenly grace to send  
as may Thy Church from foes defend.

**6. Virtus, honor, laus, Gloria,  
Deo Patri cum Filio,  
Sancto simul Paraclito,  
In saeculorum saecula.**

6. Virtue, honor, praise, glory  
be to God the Father with the Son,  
together with the Holy Paraclete  
unto ages of ages.

6. Be glory given and honor done  
to God the Father and the Son  
and to the Holy Ghost on high,  
from age to age eternally.

# Adeste Fideles

Arranged by John Francis Wade, c. 1743

Latin

John Francis Wade, c. 1743

English Literal Translation

Christopher Perrin, 2008

English Traditional Translation

Frederick Oakeley, 1841

**1. Adeste, fideles,  
Laeti triumphantes;  
Venite, venite in Bethlehem;  
Natum videte  
Regem Angelorum.**

1. Come, faithful,  
joyful, triumphant ones;  
come, come into Bethlehem;  
see the born King of Angels.

1. O Come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant:  
O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him, Born the  
King of Angels.

**Refrain:**

**Venite, adoremus,  
Venite, adoremus,  
Venite, adoremus  
Dominum.**

Refrain:

Come, let us adore  
come, let us adore  
come, let us adore  
the Lord.

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

**2. Deum de Deo,  
Lumen de Lumine,  
Gestant puellae viscera,  
Deum verum, Genitum  
non factum.**

2. God of God,  
Light of Light,  
the womb of a girl carries,  
true God, begotten, not made.

2. God of God eternal,  
Light from Light proceeding,  
Lo, He deigns in the Virgin's  
womb to lie;  
God uncreated, very God begotten.

**3. En, grege relicto,  
Humiles ad cunas,  
Vocati pastores appropierant;  
Et nos ovanti  
gradu festinemus.**

3. Having left the flock,  
the summoned shepherds  
hasten to the humble cradle;  
let us hurry with rejoicing step.

3. Forsaking the sheepfold,  
To his lowly cradle,  
Obedient and swiftly run the  
shepherd throng,  
With exultation let our  
footsteps follow.

**4. Cantet nunc Io  
Chorus Angelorum;  
Cantet nunc aula caelestium,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

4. Let sing now—hurrah!—  
the choir of angels;  
let sing now the court of heaven,  
glory in the highest to God.

4. Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above,  
Glory to God in the highest.

**5. Ergo qui natus die hodierna,  
Iesu, tibi sit gloria,  
Patris aeterni Verbum  
caro factum.**

5. Therefore He who was born  
this day,  
Jesus, to You let there be glory,  
Word of the eternal Father,  
having been made flesh.

5. Yea, Lord we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in  
flesh appearing.

# In Dulci Jubilo

German melody, 14th century

## Latin & English

A macronic text, alternating between Latin and German as early as the 16th century.

Arranged in Latin and English by Robert Lucas de Pearsall in 1837.

## English Translation

**1. In dulci jubilo** Let us our homage show;  
Our heart's joy reclineth *in praesepio*,  
and like a bright star shineth *Matris in gremio*;  
*Alpha es et O, Alpha es et O.*

**2. O Jesu parvule!** My heart is sore for Thee!  
Hear me I beseech Thee, *O Puer optime*;  
My prayer let it reach Thee, *O Princeps gloriae*;  
*Trahe me post te, Trahe me post te.*

**3. O Patris caritas! O Nati lenitas!**  
Deeply we were stained *Per nostra crimina*;  
But Thou for us hast gainéd *Coelorum gaudia*;  
*Qualis Gloria! Qualis Gloria!*

**4. Ubi sunt gaudia**, if that they be not there?  
There, are angels singing *nova cantica*;  
there, the bells are ringing *in Regis curia*;  
**O that we were there! O that we were there!**

1. *In dulci jubilo* = In sweet jubilation  
*in praesepio* = in a manger  
*Matris in gremio* = in his Mother's lap  
*Alpha es et O* = Thou art Alpha and Omega

2. *O Jesu parvule!* = O tiny Jesus!  
*O Puer optime* = O best of boys  
*O Princeps gloriae* = O Prince of Glory  
*Trahe me post te* = Draw me after thee

3. *O Patris caritas!* = O love of the Father!  
*O Nati lenitas!* = O gentleness of the Son!  
*Per nostra crimina* = through our crimes  
*Coelorum gaudia* = the joys of heaven  
*Qualis Gloria!* = What great glory!

4. *Ubi sunt gaudia* = Where are joys  
*nova cantica* = new songs  
*in Regis curia* = in the courts of the King



# Flos de Radice Jesse

Arranged by Michael Praetorius, 1609

Latin  
Anonymous Latin Paraphrase

English Literal Translation,  
Christopher Perrin, 2008

English Traditional Translation  
From original German hymn  
"Es Ist Ein' Ros' Entsprungen," 14th Century  
Theodore Baker, 1894

**1. Flos de Radice Jesse**  
**Est natus hodie;**  
**Quem nobis jam adesse,**  
**Laetamur unice.**  
**Flos ille Jesus est,**  
**Maria virgo radix,**  
**De qua flos ortus est.**

1. The flower from the root  
of Jesse was born today;  
Let us especially delight in him  
who is present now to us.  
That flower is Jesus,  
Mary the Virgin is the root,  
from whom the flower has sprung.

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming  
From tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming,  
As men of old have sung.  
It came, a floweret bright,  
Amid the cold of winter,  
When half spent was the night.

**2. Hunc Isaias florem**  
**Praesagus cecinit;**  
**Ad ejus nos amorem,**  
**Nascentes allicit.**  
**Flos virgam superat,**  
**Caeli terraeque cives,**  
**Flos Ille recreat.**

2. This flower, the predicting  
Isaiah prophesied;  
he allures us being  
born to his love.  
The flower surpasses the branch,  
and the citizens of heaven and earth,  
that flower revives.

2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
The Rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it,  
The virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright,  
She bore to men a Savior,  
When half spent was the night.

**3. Hic suo flos odore**  
**Fidelis attrahit;**  
**Divino mox amore,**  
**Attractus imbuit.**  
**O flos, O gratia!**  
**Ad te, ad te suspiro:**  
**De te me satia.**

3. This flower by your  
fragrance draws the faithful;  
soon by divine love you imbue those  
attracted.  
O Flower, O Grace!  
To you, to you I sigh with longing;  
From yourself satisfy me.

3. This Flower, whose fragrance tender  
With sweetness fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendor,  
The darkness everywhere.  
True man, yet very God,  
From sin and death He saves us,  
And lightens every load.

# History of Latin Christmas Music

You may be wondering about the origin of the enchanting music on this album. Where did it come from? Who wrote this music and when? Why haven't I heard it before? We certainly asked these questions when we first encountered some of these songs.

Most of these songs are quite old—some as old as 1,500 years. In many cases, the lyrics of a song may long predate the music. As you might suspect, even the Latin texts of some of these songs have been changed, adapted, and rearranged over the centuries. Some of these songs have been chanted, prayed, and sung, and sometimes sung with more than one melody. Several of these songs you will recognize by their English tunes and counterparts: *Veni, Veni Emmanuel* is the basis for our English song *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*; *Flos de Radice Jesse* is the Latin version of *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* (though the English words come to us from German!); and *In Dulci Jubilo* uses the tune of *Good Christian Men Rejoice*.

The melody of other songs on this album will be new to your ears. *Puer Natus in Bethlehem* and *Hodie Christus Natus Est* clearly sound from another, older age, yet still have the ability to haunt us with a kind of sighing beauty.

Each song on this album has its own unique and interesting history. Supplementary materials about the songs for Latin teachers and students are also available at [www.ClassicalAcademicPress.com](http://www.ClassicalAcademicPress.com).

## **A Brief History of *Veni, Veni Emmanuel*:**

*Veni, Veni Emanuel* is the Latin version of the English carol "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." The five verses of the hymn *Veni, Veni Emmanuel* are paraphrases of the seven antiphons (sung responses) to the Magnificat sung in the ferial Office of the seven days preceding the vigil of Christmas. They are often called the "O" antiphons because all begin with the interjection "O," addressing Christ. The seven antiphons are found in the *Roman Breviary*, a book containing daily psalms, prayers, and lessons, chanted or sung responsively. The original seven antiphons have been found in manuscripts as early as the 11th century. In the hymn, Christ is addressed as: *O Emmanuel*, *O Jesse Virgula* (Rod of Jesse), *O Adonai* (Almighty God), *O Oriens* (Rising or Dayspring), *O Clavis Davidica* (Key of David). The hymn was arranged and translated into English in 1851 by John M. Neale and features a melody from a 15th-century French processional.