

14 December 2021, 18:00
Adolf Fredriks kyrka, Stockholm



Welcome to our
EU Christmas concert



Programme

Our hosts	4	Latvia	22
<i>Lena Olofsson-Piras & Nikos Tsiamis</i>		<i>Virs zemes miers</i>	
<i>Artürs Švarcbahs</i>		<i>Artürs Švarcbahs</i>	
Welcome	5	Italy	24
<i>Christian Danielsson</i>		<i>Tu scendi dalle stelle</i>	
Ireland	6	<i>Cantiamo Insieme</i>	
<i>Carúl Loch Garman</i>		Romania	26
<i>"The Swedish Irish Society Choir"</i>		<i>La poartă la Țarigrad /</i>	
Austria.....	8	<i>Bună dimineața la Moș Ajun</i>	
<i>Es wird scho glei dumpa</i>		<i>Vatra Quartet</i>	
<i>Domkyrkokvartetten</i>		Germany	28
France	10	<i>Mariä Wiegenlied</i>	
<i>Minuit, chrétiens</i>		<i>Florian Voss</i>	
<i>Nils Boyer</i>		Bulgaria.....	30
Hungary.....	12	<i>Хубава Милка</i>	
<i>Karácsonyi bölcsődal</i>		<i>Перуника</i>	
<i>Stockholmi Magyar Kamarakórus</i>		Poland	32
Belgium	14	<i>Mizerna, cicha</i>	
<i>Gabriel's Message</i>		<i>Dominika Depczyk</i>	
<i>"The Belgian Embassy Choir"</i>		Slovenia	34
Lithuania	16	<i>Rajske strune, zadonite</i>	
<i>Už girių girių</i>		<i>Klementina Savnik</i>	
<i>Bitkreslė</i>		Spain	36
Slovakia	18	<i>Libre y blanca Navidad</i>	
<i>Doniesli sme vám novinu</i>		<i>Kultur på spanska-kören</i>	
<i>Alexandra Chalupa</i>		Sweden.....	38
Greece	20	<i>Nu tândas tusen juleljus</i>	
<i>Κάλαντα Χριστουγέννων</i>		<i>Silent Night</i>	40
<i>Ορφέας</i>			



Our hosts

Lena Olofsson-Piras
Nikos Tsiamis



Dear friends,

Welcome to the second edition of our EU Christmas Concert, organised by the Representation of the European Commission in Sweden, together with the Embassies of 16 EU Member States to Sweden.

After one year of absence, we feel so grateful that tonight we are able to organise our EU Christmas Concert again, taking all the necessary measures for the safety of everyone present in the magnificent Church of Adolf Fredrik in Stockholm.

In these challenging times, there is a stronger need than ever to get together, appreciate our cultural diversity and cherish our common values and traditions. Christmas gives us a great opportunity to do this – not least through the beautiful melodies of tonight's Christmas carols, performed by our wonderful artists in 17 different languages.

I wish you a lovely evening, full of music and joy, and a Merry Christmas, with health, happiness and prosperity!

*Christian Danielsson
Head of the European Commission
Representation in Sweden*

Carúl Loch Garman

Traditional folk song

“The Swedish Irish Society Choir”

Violin: Aingeala De Búrca

Guitar: Kieran “Loughy” O’Loughlin

Language: Irish

Christmas traditions in Ireland

Lights brighten up the streets of Ireland in the weeks before Christmas and carol singers come together to perform well-known Christmas songs spreading joy to passers-by. Christmas is celebrated in Ireland on 25 December. Children are sent to bed on Christmas Eve (24 December) in anticipation of the arrival of Santa Claus on Christmas morning. A pint of Guinness and traditional mince pies with candied fruit and spice may be left for Santa to enjoy during the busiest time of the year. On Christmas Day, you can find turkey, ham, roast potatoes, cranberry sauce, mince pies and Christmas pudding on the Christmas dinner tables around Ireland.

About the performers

The choir is composed of a group of enthusiastic amateurs with a love of Irish culture and music: Tara Bourke, Lisa Bruton Hellstadius, Mary Bryson, Miriam Hill, Lily Keane, Eoin Sheedy, Marie Tyrrell, and Kurre Wallbom. They are all members of the Swedish Irish Society in Stockholm. Aingeala De Búrca studied academic music in Trinity College Dublin, violin performance at the University of Limerick and baroque violin in KMH, Stockholm. She has toured in Ireland, Europe, USA and China and performed with major Irish orchestras, well-known Irish rock bands and theatre companies. Kieran “Loughy” O’Loughlin is a recording artist and producer with over 25 years of experience as touring musician in Europe. He studied music production in Stockholm.

About the song

The Irish entry in our EU Christmas Concert is a traditional Christmas carol originating from Enniscorthy, County Wexford. Some believe that the carol originates from the 12th century, while the musical and lyrical style of the song suggest that it was likely composed in the 15th or 16th century. It tells the story of the nativity of Jesus Christ and it remains one of the oldest, widely popular Christmas carols in Ireland.

Carúl Loch Garman

Ó, tagaig' uile is adhraigí
An leanbh cneasta sa chró 'na luí
Is cuimhnígí ar ghrá an Rí
A thug dár saoradh anocht an Naí.

'S a Mhuire Mháthair i bParrthas Dé,
Ar chlann bhocht Éabha guigh 'nois go caomh,
Is doras an chró ná dún go deo
Go n-adhram' feasta Mac Mhuire Ógh.

I mBeithil thoir i lár na hoích'
Ba chlos an deascéala d'aoirí,
Go follas don saol ón spéir go binn
Bhí aingle 'canadh ó rinn go rinn.

"Gluaisig' go beo," dúirt Aingeal Dé,
"Go Beithil sall is gheobhaidh sibh É
'Na luí go séimh i mainséar féir,
Siúd É an Meisias a ghráigh an saol."

Wexford Carol

Good people all, this Christmas time,
Consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done
In sending His beloved Son.

With Mary holy we should pray
To God with love this Christmas Day;
In Bethlehem upon that morn,
There was a blessed Messiah born.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep
Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;
To whom God's angels did appear,
Which put the shepherds in great fear.

"Prepare and go," the angels said,
"To Bethlehem, be not afraid;
For there you'll find, this happy morn,
A princely babe, sweet Jesus born."

Es wird scho glei dumpa

Traditional folk song / Anton Reidinger

Domkyrkokvartetten

Language: German (Upper Austrian)

Christmas traditions in Austria

The Christmas tree (*Weihnachtsbaum*) plays a very important role; every town sets up its own and every family has one. A traditional tree is decorated with gold and silver ornaments, stars made out of straw, sweets and candy wrapped in tinfoil, gilded nuts, decorated ginger bread cookies, etc. On Christmas Eve (*Heiliger Abend*), around 7 p.m. the tree is lit for the first time and the whole family gathers to sing Christmas carols. Presents are placed under the tree and young children believe that they were brought to them – as a reward for good behaviour – by the Christ Child (*Christkind*).

About the performers

Domkyrkokvartetten (The Cathedral Quartet) is an a cappella vocal ensemble from the Catholic Cathedral in Stockholm. It consists of Elisabeth Waldstein (soprano), Silvia Belina (alto), Peter Nyqvist (tenor) and Daniel Martin (bass). Austrian-born Elisabeth Waldstein is a professional musician and choir leader.

About the song

The Austrian entry in our EU Christmas Concert is a lullaby for the Christ Child written in the Upper Austrian dialect. The text was published in 1884 by clergyman Anton Reidinger (1839-1912), who also composed – at least partly – the melody based on older traditional tunes. He had possibly written the song in Bad Ischl as early as 1865, while he was working on the famous nativity play taking place since 1654 (*Ischler Krippenspiel*). In 1913, the song was published by Franz Friedrich Kohl and Josef Reiter in the collection *Echte Tiroler Lieder*, in a four-voice arrangement, accompanied with flute, clarinets, violins, cello and bass.

Es wird scho glei dumpa

Es wird scho glei dumpa, es wird scho glei Nacht,
drum kimm i zu dir her, mei Heiland auf d'Wacht.
Will singen a Liadl dem Liabli, dem kloan,
du magst ja net schlafn, i hör di nur woan.

Hei hei, hei hei! Schlaf Süaß, herzliabs Kind!

Vergiss hiaz, o Kinderl, dein Kummer, dei Load,
dass d'dada muaßt leidn im Stall auf da Hoad.
Es ziern ja die Engerl dei Liegerstatt aus.
Möcht schöna nit sein drin in König sein Haus.

Hei hei, hei hei! Schlaf süaß, herzliabs Kind!

Ja Kinderl, du bist halt im Kripperl so schen,
mi ziemt, i kann nimmer da weg von dir gehn.
I wünsch dir von Herzen die süaßeste Ruah,
die Engerl vom Himmel, die deckn di zua.

Hei hei, hei hei! Schlaf süaß, herzliabs Kind!

Mach zua deine Äuagal in Ruah und in Fried
und gib mir zum Abschied dein Segn no grad mit!
Aft werd ja mei Schlaferl a sogernlos sein,
aft kann i mir ruahli auf Niederlegn gfrein.

Hei hei, hei hei! Schlaf süaß, herzliabs Kind!

It will soon be dark

It will soon be dark, it will soon be night,
That's why I come to you,
My Saviour who's awake.
I want to sing a little song
to the dear little one,
You don't want to sleep, I hear you just cry.

Hush-a-bye! Sleep sweetly, dearest child!

Forget now, little child,
your grief, your sorrow
That you have to suffer
in the stable, on the heath.
Yes, the angels adorn your manger,
More beautifully than a king's house.

Hush-a-bye! Sleep sweetly, dearest child!

Yes, little child, you're simply
so beautiful in your crib,
it seems I can never leave you.
I wish you from the heart
the sweetest rest,
the angels from heaven cover you up.

Hush-a-bye! Sleep sweetly, dearest child!

Close your little eyes in peace and quiet,
and give me in parting also thy blessing!
Then my sleep also will be without worry,
then I can peacefully look forward
to lying down.

Hush-a-bye! Sleep sweetly, dearest child!



Minuit, chrétiens

Adolphe Adam / Placide Cappeau

Nils Boyer

Piano: Alexandre Pier Federici

Language: French

Christmas traditions in France

At the popular Christmas markets, all around France, visitors can taste *crêpes* and *vin chaud* (mulled wine). The traditional Christmas meal takes place on 24 December and includes oysters, *foie gras*, smoked salmon and turkey. The dinner usually ends with the *bûche de Noël*, a sponge cake shaped like a Yule log. After that, people are ready to go to church for the Midnight Mass (*messe de minuit*). Another common tradition is that children leave a hot beverage and some biscuits for *Père Noël* (Santa Claus – literally “Father Christmas”) – before going to bed, while they get to open their gifts on 25 December.

About the performer

Nils Boyer is a 19-year-old singer, actor and dancer. He studied at *Lycée Français Saint Louis* in Stockholm. Nils has played in multiple musicals, such as “The sound of music”, “Billy Elliot”, “Priscilla Queen of the Desert”, “A Christmas Carol”, “Pippi Långstrump” and “Det stora teaterkalaset”. He has also done voice acting for the films “Zootopie” and “The letter for the king”. Nils is currently following the musical artist education programme in Stockholm.

About the song

The French entry in our EU Christmas Concert is one of the most popular Christmas carols in France and worldwide, known in English as “O Holy Night” and in Swedish as “O helga natt”. Its story goes back to Christmas of 1843 in a small French town, Roquemaure, where the church organ had just been renovated. To celebrate the event, the poet Placide Cappeau (1808-1877), a native of the town, wrote a Christmas poem, while Adolphe Adam (1803-1856) composed the music. The song was premiered in Roquemaure in 1847 by the opera singer Emily Laurey. The carol reflects on the birth of Jesus as humanity’s redemption.

Minuit, chrétiens

Minuit, chrétiens ! C’est l’heure solennelle,
Où l’Homme-Dieu descendit jusqu’à nous
Pour effacer la tache originelle
Et de Son Père arrêter le courroux.
Le monde entier tressaille d’espérance
À cette nuit qui lui donne un sauveur.
Peuple, à genoux, attends ta délivrance.
Noël, Noël, voici le Rédempteur,
Noël, Noël, voici le Rédempteur !

De notre foi que la lumière ardente
Nous guide tous au berceau de l’Enfant.
Comme autrefois, une étoile brillante
Y conduisit les chefs de l’Orient.
Le Roi des rois naît dans une humble crèche.
Puissants du jour, fiers de votre grandeur,
À votre orgueil, c’est de là qu’un Dieu prêche.
Courbez vos fronts devant le Rédempteur,
Courbez vos fronts devant le Rédempteur !

Le Rédempteur a brisé toute entrave,
La terre est libre et le ciel est ouvert.
Il voit un frère où n’était qu’un esclave,
L’amour unit ceux qu’enchaînait le fer.
Qui Lui dira notre reconnaissance?
C’est pour nous tous qu’il naît,
qu’il souffre et meurt.
Peuple, debout! Chante ta délivrance,
Noël, Noël, voici le Rédempteur,
Noël, Noël, voici le Rédempteur !



Midnight, Christians

Midnight, Christians! It is the solemn hour,
When God-man descended to us
To erase the stain of original sin
And to end the wrath of His Father.
The entire world thrills with hope
On this night that gives them a Saviour.
People, on your knees,
wait for your deliverance,
Christmas, Christmas, here is the Redeemer,
Christmas, Christmas, here is the Redeemer!

May the ardent light of our faith
Guide us all to the cradle of the child.
As in ancient times, a shining star
Led there the leaders from the East.
The King of kings is born
in a humble manger.
Mighty of the day, proud of your greatness,
It is to your pride that God preaches.
Bow your heads before the Redeemer!
Bow your heads before the Redeemer!

The Redeemer has broken all shackles,
The earth is free and heaven is open.
He sees a brother where
there was only a slave,
Love unites those who were chained by iron.
Who will tell Him of our gratitude?
It is for us all that He is born,
that He suffers and dies.
People, stand up! Sing of your deliverance,
Christmas, Christmas, here is the Redeemer,
Christmas, Christmas, here is the Redeemer!

Karácsonyi bölcsődal

Traditional folk song

Stockholmi Magyar
Kamarakórus
Language: Hungarian

Christmas traditions in Hungary

Before 24 December, people in Hungary decorate their houses and start to cook and bake. Family members always come together to celebrate at Christmas. On 24 December, people decorate the tree with ornaments and put the wrapped presents below. On Christmas Eve, young children are waiting for the arrival of the angel from Heaven and baby Jesus, who bring the presents. After a delicious Christmas meal – including traditional fish dishes, as well as walnut and poppy seed rolls - the family sings carols around the tree and then it is time to open the presents together.

About the performers

The Hungarian Chamber Choir of Stockholm was founded in 2007 to keep the Hungarian musical traditions alive in Sweden. Members of the choir are Hungarians living in Stockholm, such as students, doctors and teachers, who find joy in choir singing, whether they have a musical background or not. Their repertoire consists of Hungarian songs arranged by famous Hungarian composers, such as Zoltán Kodály, Béla Bartók or Lajos Bárdos, but they also sing Swedish and international choral pieces from the Renaissance to the modern period.

About the song

The Hungarian entry in our EU Christmas Concert is a popular folk song in Hungary about the Virgin Mary singing a lullaby to her Christ Child. It is often sung around the Christmas tree on Christmas Eve. The song was arranged for choral singing by the Hungarian composer Lajos Bárdos (1899-1986). Through his work as a conductor, Bárdos raised the standards of Hungarian choral singing to the highest international level.

Karácsonyi bölcsődal

Karácsonynak éjszakáján
Jézus születése napján
Örüljetek, örvendjetek
A kis Jézus megszületett.

Szűz Mária várja, várja
Aludjon el Jézuskája
Átöleli szűz karjával
Melengeti szép arcával.

Aludj, aludj én szentségem,
Csillag jön a széles égen
Fényes útját bölcsék járnak,
Áldásodat várva várják.

Aludj, aludj boldogságom.
Harmat csillog minden ágon.
Pici tested gyöngye, mégis
Tied lesz a föld is, ég is.

Christmas lullaby

On the night of Christmas,
On the day of Jesus' birth,
People, be glad and rejoice,
The Child Jesus is born!

Virgin Mary is waiting, waiting
For her baby Jesus to fall asleep
Embracing Him with her virgin arms,
She keeps Him warm with her beautiful face.

Sleep, sleep my little Holy one,
A Star is shining in the wide sky
Three Wise Men follow its bright path,
They are longing for your blessing.

Sleep, sleep my happiness.
Dewdrops shine on every tree branch.
Your tiny body is weak, yet
You will rule the earth and the heavens.





Gabriel's Message

Traditional Basque carol

"The Belgian Embassy Choir"

Language: English, French, Dutch, German

Christmas traditions in Belgium

The Christmas season starts in Belgium as early as 6 December, when *Saint Nicolas* offers his gifts, candies and chocolate to the nicest children. From that day on, and for more than a month, the whole country is transformed into a gigantic forest of Christmas trees, where the house doors are decorated with Christmas holly and garlands, and the windows with warm lights. Typical specialties taking pride of place on the Christmas table are the *boudin de Noël*, made of green cabbage, the *cougnou* and the *boukètes*, all accompanied by a good mulled wine.

About the performers

The performers are five staff members and trainees of the Belgian Embassy to Sweden and the Wallonia Export and Investment Agency (AWEX): Ines Godderis, Manuela Kukaj, Ferdinando Palmeri, and Bruno Vandecasteele. They are not a professional choir, but they are happy to be part of this year's EU Christmas concert. They explain the reason as follows: "*Practicing for the concert has been fun and it was a good way to bring colleagues together outside work.*"

About the song

The Belgian entry in our EU Christmas Concert is originally of Basque origin, written in the 13th century by an unknown composer, and is well known in Belgium as well as worldwide. The carol was translated from Basque into English by Anglican priest Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924), who had spent a winter as a child in the Basque Country. The arrangement for this version was made by David Willcocks. Since Belgium has no less than three national languages – and since there are no Christmas carols with official lyrics in all three languages – the choir decided to perform this song using a translation of the verses in French, Dutch and German.



De Boodschap van Gabriël Le Message de Gabriel Die Botschaft Gabriels

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

Car tu seras connue comme Mère bénie
Toutes les générations te louent et t'honorent
Ton Fils sera Emmanuel, prédit par les voyants,
Femme la plus favorisée, Gloria !

Maria boog haar hoofd zacht en gedwee
Wat God behaagt dat zal ik doen, zei zij
Mijn ziele zal verheerlijken zijn heilige naam,
Meest hooggeëerde vrouwe, Gloria!

Sie brachte Jesus Christus zur Welt
In Bethlehem am Weihnachtsmorgen
Und alle Menschen dieser Welt sagen stets
Höchst hochverehrte Dame, Gloria!

Gabriel's Message

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

"For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"My soul shall laud and magnify His Holy Name."
Most highly favoured lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world
will ever say:
"Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

Už girių girių

Traditional folk song

Bitkreslė

Language: Lithuanian

Christmas traditions in Lithuania

Christmas Eve (*Kūčios*), on 24 December, is a more important day than Christmas Day for Lithuanians. Families gather in the evening to have the *Kūčios* meal together. Many people fast during the day, as well as each Advent Friday leading to Christmas Eve. The *Kūčios* meal should also not include any meat, eggs or milk until midnight. An extra plate is often set during the dinner for the family members who have passed away, as there is a traditional belief that they come and join the family around the table that evening. People who were going to be alone on Christmas Eve are also invited to the *Kūčios* meal. Later in the night, Santa Claus (*Kalėdų Senelis*) is visiting the families to bring his gifts. He actually comes through the keyholes while nobody is watching!

About the performers

The ethnographic ensemble Bitkreslė (named after the flower tansy) was founded in 2018, under the roof of the Lithuanian school *Saulė* in Stockholm. The ensemble brings together people who love the Lithuanian folklore songs and ethnocultural heritage. They are actively involved not only in the school's events but also in activities organised by communities from other countries. They seek to cherish Lithuanian traditions and to present the Lithuanian culture abroad. The ensemble performs popular folklore songs, as well as more complex pieces, such as *sutartinės* (multipart polyphonic songs). The harmonious folklore songs are enlivened by the sounds of a traditional Lithuanian instrument called *kanklės*.

About the song

The Lithuanian entry in our EU Christmas Concert is a traditional folk song from the Southeast region of Lithuania called Suvalkija. Folklore carols are performed throughout the whole Advent season leading to Christmas Eve. The song is usually accompanied by the *kanklės* and is sung in multiple keys. The word *Kalėda*, which is repeated in the lyrics, has a double meaning: it refers both to Christmas (*Kalėdos* in Lithuanian) and to religious gifts to the Catholic Church during the festive period.

Už girių girių

Už girių girių
Ugnelė degė
Ei, Kalėda, Kalėda

Pas tą ugnelę
Broliai žirgus ganė
Ei, Kalėda, Kalėda

Broliai pamigo,
Žirgai pabėgo
Ei, Kalėda, Kalėda

Kur žirgų bėgta,
Ten rasa krėsta,
Ei, Kalėda, Kalėda

O ir nubėgo
Į tėvo dvarą
Ei, Kalėda, Kalėda

– Uošveli mano,
Senas tėveli,
Ei, Kalėda, Kalėda

Atkelki vartus,
Paleiski žirgus,
Ei, Kalėda, Kalėda

Žalio vynelio
Aukso kupkelio,
Ei, Kalėda, Kalėda

Beyond the woods of the woods

Beyond the woods of the woods
The little fire was burning
Hey, Kalėda, Kalėda

By that little fire
The brothers shepherded the horses
Hey, Kalėda, Kalėda

The brothers fell asleep,
The horses fled
Hey, Kalėda, Kalėda

Where the horses ran,
There the dew fell,
Hey, Kalėda, Kalėda

Oh and ran
To the father's manor
Hey, Kalėda, Kalėda

– My dear father-in-law,
Old beloved father,
Hey, Kalėda, Kalėda

Open the gate,
Release the horses,
Hey, Kalėda, Kalėda

Green wine
Golden dome,
Hey, Kalėda, Kalėda



Doniesli sme vám novinu

Traditional folksong

Alexandra Chalupa

Piano: Ingrid Sahlica

Language: Slovak

Christmas traditions in Slovakia

In Slovakia, Santa Claus (*Mikuláš*) arrives on 6 December and puts some candies or small gifts in the children's freshly polished boots – if they have been good! On Christmas Eve, children eagerly await the Jesus Child (*Ježiško*), who is the one to bring their Christmas gifts and put them under the Christmas tree. During the day, the Christmas tree and a small Nativity scene are prepared secretly in a room that cannot be entered until the Christmas dinner is over. A traditional Slovak Christmas dinner consists of sauerkraut soup (*kapustnica*), fried carp (*kapor*) and potato salad (*zemiakový šalát*).

About the performer

Alexandra Chalupa is a bilingual artist, born in Sweden to parents from Slovakia. Following her studies at the Academy of Dramatic Arts VSMU in Bratislava, and a smaller part at the Slovak National Theatre, she has been active in Sweden. Alexandra has, for example, performed in Dramaten and the television series "Bonusfamiljen". Currently, she is touring with her own production "Månaderna", based on a Slovak folktale.

About the song

The Slovak entry in our EU Christmas Concert is a so-called *Koleda*, a Slovak Christmas carol. The song is well known and is included in most compilation albums with popular Slovak Christmas carols. It is an old folksong without any author stated. It has neither been translated nor spread globally to a wider audience... yet.

Doniesli sme vám novinu

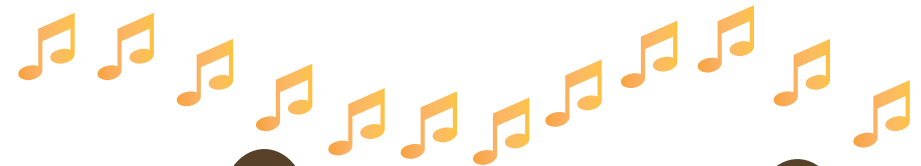
Doniesli sme vám novinu
Prišli sme k vám na hostinu
Ale sa nás neľakajte
Len nás do izby volajte
Ale sa nás neľakajte
Len nás do izby volajte

V betleheme, narodené
Dieťa v jasliah uložené
Všetkých ľudí zavolajte
A hostinu prichystajte
Všetkých ľudí zavolajte
A hostinu prichystajte

We have brought you news

We have brought you news
We have come to your feast
But don't be afraid of us
Just call us in your room
But don't be afraid of us
Just call us in your room

In Bethlehem, born
Baby in a crib
Invite all the people
And prepare a feast
Invite all the people
And prepare a feast



Κάλαντα Χριστουγέννων [Kalanda Christougennon]

Traditional folk song

Ορφέας [Orfeas]

Conductor: Rolando Pomo

Pianist: Johan Sandbäck

Language: Greek

Christmas traditions in Greece

Children in Greece use to go from house to house to sing the traditional carols (*kalanda*), accompanied by the triangle or other musical instruments, on three different occasions during Christmas season: Christmas Eve (24/12), New Year's Eve (31/12) and Epiphany's Eve (5/1). They are rewarded with a small amount of money and traditional sweets, such as *melomakarona* and *kourabiedes*. Instead of the Christmas tree, the traditional custom is to decorate a small sailing boat, especially in the Greek islands and port cities. *Agios Vasilis* (Saint Basil) is the Greek version of Santa Claus, who brings the presents on New Year's Eve.

About the performers

The Greek choir Orfeas was founded in Stockholm in 2005 and is named after Orpheus, the legendary musician in ancient Greek mythology. It is a mixed choir of 35 women and men singing in four-part harmony, under the direction of the Argentinean Maestro Rolando Pomo. Orfeas has a broad repertoire of Greek music, ranging from traditional folk music to modern songs.

About the song

The Greek entry in our EU Christmas Concert is the traditional Christmas carols that are sung on Christmas Eve all over Greece to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. They exist in around 30 regional versions and often include satirical lyrics. The carol singers are teasing the landlord and his family members, hoping to get a good reward – a custom that derives from ancient times. Tonight's performance combines two different versions, one from the islands of the Aegean Sea, sung in the Cyclades and Icaria, and one from the mountainous region of Epirus, sung in the city of Ioannina.

Κάλαντα Χριστουγέννων

Για σένα, κόρη έμορφη,
ήρθαμε να τα πούμε
Και τα Καλά Χριστούγεννα
για να σου ευχηθούμε

Φέρτε μας κρασί να πιούμε
Και του χρόνου να σας πούμε
Και του χρόνου να σας πούμε
Φέρτε μας κρασί να πιούμε



Χριστούγεννα, Πρωτούγεννα,
πρώτη γιορτή του χρόνου.

Για βγάτε, διέτε, μάθετε
πως ο Χριστός γεννάται.
Γεννάται κι ανατρέφεται
με μέλι και με γάλα.

Το μέλι τρών' οι άρχοντες,
το γάλα οι αφεντάδες
και το μελισσοβότανο
να νίβονται οι κυράδες.

Εμείς εδώ δεν ήρθαμε
να φάμε και να πιούμε.
Παρά σας αγαπούσαμε
κι ήρθαμε να σας δούμε.

Δώστε μας και τον κόκορα,
δώστε μας και την κότα.
Δώστε μας και πέντ'-έξι αυγά
να πάμε σ' άλλη πόρτα.

Christmas carols

For you, beautiful daughter,
we came to sing
And a Merry Christmas
to wish you

Bring us wine to drink
To wish you well until next year
To wish you well until next year
Bring us wine to drink

Christmas, Birth of the First,
first celebration of the year.

Come out, see, hear
that Christ is born.
He is born and raised
with honey and milk.

The honey is for the lords to eat,
the milk is for the masters
and the bee balm is
for the ladies to wash their face.

We did not come here
to eat and to drink.
But since we loved you,
we came to see you.

Give us the rooster,
give us the hen too.
Give us also five-six eggs
to go to another door.

Virš zemes miers

Jānis Lūsēns / Normunds Beļskis

Artūrs Švarcbahs

Piano: Stefan Nymark

Language: Latvian

Christmas traditions in Latvia

In Latvia, Christmas is called *Ziemassvētki* (literally “Winter feast”). The Pagan traditions of the Winter Solstice are still very much alive. As Christians, Latvians are mostly Evangelic-Protestant and Christmas Eve is the main celebration day. Christmas trees are common, as are gifts. To receive a gift, you must sing a song or read a poem.

About the performers

Artūrs Švarcbahs is a Latvian choral conductor and a classical singer. Artūrs is currently a student at the Latvian Academy of Music and a bass singer of The Swedish Radio Choir. He is constantly performing in concerts as a freelance singer, both in Sweden and Latvia, and conducts choirs in Latvia. Artūrs is also the artistic director and bass singer of the Latvian vocal group “The Garden”. Stefan Nymark is a member of The Swedish Radio Choir and a coach for singers at the Royal College of Music and the University College of Opera in Stockholm.

About the song

The Latvian entry in our EU Christmas Concert is a contemporary song written in 2003, inspired by the Biblical expression “Peace on earth among those whom He favours”. Born in 1959, composer Jānis Lūsēns is well known for his choral songs and instrumental music, but he has also composed many Christmas songs that almost every Latvian knows. He possesses a musical ability to create the Christmas mood that can warm up the hearts of the audience.

Virš zemes miers

Virš zemes miers un cilvēkiem labs prāts,
kad norimst vējš un lūpās sastingst vārds,
un debesis tik dzīvas zied pār mums,
šai pasakai savs stāsts, savs noslēpums.

To minam mēs un steidzam ātri izdzīvot,
bet nevar vēju klusums izspēlēt,
vien ticēt tam, ka noslēpums šis īsts,
ko atminēt šai mūžā mums nav lemts.

Virš zemes miers un cilvēkiem labs prāts,
kad norimst vējš un lūpās sastingst vārds.
Virš zemes miers un cilvēkiem labs prāts,
kad tevi mīl, kad tevi gaida kāds.

Kā ceļinieks, kurš naktī meklē pajumti,
no ikdienas un steigas maldu māks,
tu lūdz, lai mājās pavards neizdziest
un patvēruma gaismu dāvā mums.

Peace on earth

Peace on earth
among those whom He favours,
when the wind subsides and
words freeze on the lips,
and the heavens overflow with us,
this tale has its own story, its own secret.

We try and are in a hurry to guess it,
but the silence of the wind cannot play,
just believing in the realness of this secret,
not destined to be solved in our lives.

Peace on earth
among those whom He favours,
when the wind subsides and
words freeze on the lips.
Peace on earth
among those whom He favours,
when you are loved,
when someone is waiting for you.

As a traveller looking for shelter at night,
overwhelmed by delusions of haste,
you pray for the warmth of the hearth at
home bestowing the light of refuge on us.



Tu scendi dalle stelle

Alfonso Maria de' Liguori

Cantiamo Insieme

Conductor: Gabriella Maraldo

Guitar: Vincenzo Procopio / David Bacci

Language: Italian

Christmas traditions in Italy

The traditional symbol among Italian Christmas decorations is the nativity scene. Mangers (*presepe*) built in various sizes with different materials, are very common in Italian houses. The most characteristic Italian Christmas sound is the one of bagpipes. The pipers (*zampognari*) play melodies that are adaptations of old traditional folk tunes. On Christmas Eve, Italians eat the classic *cenone* (literally "big supper"), consisted of several courses ending with fresh and dried fruit. A slice of *panettone* (brioche cake with raisins and candied fruit) or *pandoro* (without raisins) cannot be refused by anyone.

About the performers

The choir Cantiamo Insieme (Let's sing together) is linked to the Italian Catholic Mission in Stockholm. They sing every Sunday during the mass celebrated in Italian at the Cathedral of Sankt Erik in Medborgarplatsen. The choir was founded in the 1970s in Stockholm, thanks to the passion of an Italian missionary, Eraldo Carpanese, who loved music and wanted to bring Italians in Stockholm together, especially families, young people and children. The repertoire of songs for the liturgy is modern and dynamic, with the accompaniment of the guitar. The Head of the Italian Catholic Mission is Mons. Furio Cesare and the conductor of the choir is Gabriella Maraldo.

About the song

The Italian entry in our EU Christmas Concert is a Christmas carol written in 1754 in Nola by Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787), a prominent priest from Naples, in the musical style of a pastorale. The original song was written in Neapolitan entitled *Quando nascette Ninno* (When the child was born) and is sometimes referred to as the "Carol of the Bagpipers" (*Canzone d'i zampognari*). It is one of the most popular Christmas carols in Italy.



Tu scendi dalle stelle

Tu scendi dalle stelle,
O Re del cielo,
e vieni in una grotta
al freddo e al gelo.

O Bambino mio Divino,
lo ti vedo qui a tremar,
O Dio Beato
Ahi, quanto ti costò
l'avermi amato!

A te, che sei del mondo
il Creatore,
mancano panni e fuoco;
O mio Signore!

Caro eletto Pargoletto,
Quanto questa povertà
più mi innamora!
Giacché ti fece amor
povero ancora!

From starry skies descending

From starry skies descending,
Thou comest, glorious King,
A manger low Thy bed,
In winter's icy sting

O my dearest Child most holy,
Shudd'ring, trembling in the cold!
Great God, Thou lovest me!
What suff'ring Thou didst bear,
That I near Thee might be!

Thou art the world's Creator,
God's own and true Word,
Yet here no robe, no fire
For Thee, Divine Lord.

Dearest, fairest, sweetest Infant,
Dire this state of poverty.
The more I care for Thee,
Since Thou, O Love Divine,
Will'st now so poor to be.

La poartă la Țarigrad / Bună dimineața la Moș Ajun

Traditional folk song / Ion Costescu

Vatra Quartet

Language: Romanian

Christmas traditions in Romania

Christmas celebrations begin on Christmas Eve (24 December), *Ajunul Crăciunului*, when it is time to decorate the Christmas tree. Carol-singing (*Colindatul*) is also a very popular part of Christmas in Romania. On Christmas Eve, children go out singing carols from house to house, performing for the adults in each house, and normally dance as well. The children then get sweets, fruits and traditional cakes called *cozonaci*. The Romanian Santa Claus is known as *Moș Crăciun* (literally “Old Man Christmas”).

About the performers

Alexandru Spulber (14) is a seventh-grade student at Adolf Fredrik School in Stockholm. Peter Alexe (23) is a student at Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm. Pavel Alexe (19) is student at KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm. Gabriel Alexe (50) works for the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control in Stockholm. All performers studied different musical instruments since a very young age. Together, they form Vatra Quartet.

About the song

The Romanian entry in our EU Christmas Concert is attributed to the Romanian composer Ion Costescu (1914-1999). The lyrics, of religious nature, consist of three verses and refer to the theme of the Nativity of Jesus. This song is most likely the oldest form of carolling that was practiced by children and young people on Christmas Eve in villages all over Transylvania. The carol has been performed by famous artists, as well as the National Chamber Choir *Madrigal – Marin Constantin*. While the first part is like a sweet story for children, the second one starts immediately strong, awaking the audience that Christmas is coming!

La poartă la Țarigrad

La poartă la Țarigrad
Ziurel de ziuă
Șade-un fecior de împărat

Ziurel de ziuă
Unde s-a născut Hristos

Ziurel de ziuă
Mesia, chip luminos
Ziurel de ziuă

Mititel si-n fășațel
Ziurel de ziuă

În scutec de bumbacel
Ziurel de ziuă

Bună dimineața la Moș Ajun

Buna dimineață la Moș Ajun,
la Moș Ajun!

Ne dați ori, nu ne dați?
Ne dați? Ne dați?

At the gate of Tsarigrad

At the gate of Tsarigrad
Morning star at dawn
Lies a Ruler's son

Morning star at dawn
Where Christ has just been born

Morning star at dawn
Messiah, luminous face
Morning star at dawn

Little infant swaddled up
Morning star at dawn

Wrapped in cotton cloth
Morning star at dawn

Good morning on Christmas Eve

Good morning on Christmas Eve,
on Christmas Eve!

Will you give us treats or not?
Will you give us? Give us?



Mariä Wiegenlied

Max Reger / Martin Boelitz

Florian Voss

Organ: Michael Dierks

Language: German

Christmas traditions in Germany

German Christmas customs, such as the Advent calendar or the Advent wreath, date back to the 19th century and have spread all over the world. In early December, the Christmas market (*Weihnachtsmarkt*) becomes a feature of almost every city, town or village. *Christkindelsmarkt* in Nuremberg and *Striezelmarkt* in Dresden attract millions of visitors every year. There you find tinsel, mulled wine, *Lebkuchen*, *Stollen*, *Spekulatius*, *Marzipan* and more. On the evening of 5 December, children place a boot in front of the street door hoping that *St. Nikolaus* will fill it with sweets overnight. On Christmas Eve, they wait for the *Christkind* to place presents under the Christmas tree.

About the performer

Florian Voss first studied business administration and then music and opera performance in Bremen, Salzburg and New York. After his studies, Florian sang for six years as a tenor at the Royal Swedish Opera in Stockholm, where he received the royal scholarship for exceptional artists twice in a row. He has also received a scholarship from Mozarteum in Salzburg, as well as numerous prizes in international competitions at the Salzburg Festival and at Deutsche Oper in Berlin. Florian has also toured internationally with the Australian boy band "The Ten Tenors". He currently runs his own vocal academy and production company ("Konsertbutiken") in Stockholm.

About the song

The German entry in our EU Christmas Concert is a Christmas art song composed by Max Reger (1873-1916), based on words by the poet Martin Boelitz (1874-1918). It was included in the sixth and last volume of Reger's series of less complicated songs, which was published in 1912 with the subtitle *Aus Christas und Lottis Kinderleben* (From Christa's and Lotti's Childhood). The composition quickly became a bestseller, especially due to a recurring melodic quotation from the popular German Christmas lullaby *Joseph, lieber Joseph mein* – a song which was as loved by Protestants as it was by Catholics.

Mariä Wiegenlied

Maria sitzt im Rosenhag
Und wiegt ihr Jesuskind,
Durch die Blätter leise
Weht der warme Sommerwind.
Zu ihren Füßen singt
Ein buntes Vögelein:

Schlaf, Kindlein, süße,
Schlaf nun ein!

Hold ist dein Lächeln,
Holder deines Schlummers Lust,
Leg dein müdes Köpfchen
Fest an deiner Mutter Brust!

Schlaf, Kindlein, süße,
Schlaf nun ein!

Mary's lullaby

Mary sits by the rose bower
And rocks her little Jesus,
Softly through the leaves
The warm wind of summer blows.
A brightly coloured bird
Sings at her feet:

Go to sleep, sweet child,
It's time to go to sleep!

Your smile is lovely,
Your happy sleep lovelier still,
Lay your tired little head
Against your mother's breast!

Go to sleep, sweet child,
It's time to go to sleep!



Хубава Милка [Hubava Milka]

Traditional folk song

Перуника [Perunika]

Conductor: Михаел Делчев
Language: Bulgarian

Christmas traditions in Bulgaria

According to traditional beliefs, Virgin Mary was in labour for four days before Christ was born, as of the Day of Saint Ignatius (20 December). This day is associated with many folklore beliefs and superstitions, e.g. the first person to cross one's threshold will predict the fortune of everyone living in that house in the coming year. Virgin Mary gave birth to Christ on Christmas Eve (24 December), but only announced his birth the day after – on Christmas Day (25 December). On Christmas Eve, Bulgarian families gather around the table for a traditional vegetarian dinner with a very strict list of dishes, which must always be odd in number. Christmas carollers (*Koledari*) go from house to house around the villages, starting at midnight. Christmas morning is reserved for exchanging gifts and then for enjoying the lavish Christmas dinner with a roast, usually pork, as the main dish.

About the performers

The Bulgarian folklore's richness of rhythms, sound and harmony bring together 19 singers under the conductor Michael Deltchev, who founded the vocal ensemble choir Perunika (Iris) in 2014. Ever since then, Perunika has attracted the attention of musicians and music lovers in Scandinavia, Europe and beyond. Perunika's repertoire includes masterpieces of the rich Bulgarian folklore heritage.

About the song

The Bulgarian entry in our EU Christmas Concert is one of the most popular Bulgarian folklore Christmas carols sung over the years, which has inspired many Bulgarian artists. There is a lot of symbolism in the lyrics, but there is also a clear reference to Christmas by repeating the word *Koleda*, calling the carol singers to tell the story of Marko the merchant who fell in love with young and talented Milka, whose beauty was well known all over the region. The song touches on the eternal theme of love, associated with the beginning of the new astronomical year, expressing wishes for health, fertility, wealth, prosperity and a happy marriage.

Хубава Милка

Милкина мама Милка хвалеше:
"Мари твърде й работна, много й
скопосна"
Чула се Милка, мари, чак в Цариграда
Чак в Цариграда, мари, чак в Чаршията

От де я зачу Марко, търговец
Мъри, чи купи Марко всякаква купа
Купа коприна, мари, сърма и злато
Че си нат'вари, мари, Марко гимийка

Ма чи са Марко ясно провикна:
"Мари, който му трябва тука да дойди"
Вървяло мало, мари, мало й голямо
най-подир върви, мари, хубава Милка

Чи стъпа Милка, Милка в гимийка
Мари, да си купува тънка коприна
Затвори Марко, мари, Марко гимийка
Чи си отнесе, мари, хубава Милка

Хей Коладе ле, мой Коладе ле
Мой Коладе ле, хубава Милка

Repeating phrase throughout the song:

Хей Коладе ле, мой Коладе ле

Beautiful Milka

Milka's mother has praised her:
"She is so hardworking, she is so skilled"
Milka became famous, even in Tsarigrad
Even in Tsarigrad, even on the main
shopping street

Marko, the trader, heard about her
So, Marko bought all sorts of things
A lot of silk, tinsel and gold
So, Marko loaded his boat

Marco shouted out loud:
"Whoever needs anything,
here they should come"
Many people, old and young, went
Beautiful Milka went there last

So, Milka stepped on the boat
To buy some thin silk
At that moment, Marko closed his boat
So, he took beautiful Milka away

Hey Kolade le, my Kolade le
My Kolade le, beautiful Milka

Hey Kolade le, my Kolade le!



Mizerna, cicha

Jan Karol Gall / Teofil Lenartowicz

Dominika Depczyk

Piano: Witold Robotycki
Bass: Janusz Słotwiński
Language: Polish

Christmas traditions in Poland

Christmas in Poland is a family holiday that begins on 24 December with an evening gathering called *Wigilia*. The whole house smells of traditional dishes cooked only at this time of the year, such as *piernik* (gingerbread), *barszcz* (beetroot soup) or *pierogi* (Polish dumplings). A free seat at the table is often left in case of an unexpected visit by a relative or a traveller, as no-one should be alone during that evening. Children look out for the first star in the sky, which symbolises the Star of Bethlehem and marks the start of the supper. At that point, all the family members share *opłatek* (wafers) and exchange wishes for good health and prosperity.

About the performers

Dominika Depczyk graduated from the Vocal Department of the Frederic Chopin Music School in Warsaw. She won the first prize in the Singer Competition at Tyresö Jazz & Blues Club in Stockholm. For many years, she collaborated with the music-theatre group "Bagatela". Since 2001, she has been working closely with Witold Robotycki and Janusz Słotwiński, with whom she performs her own songs, jazz standards and other popular music pieces. Witold is a composer, arranger, music director, pianist and trumpet player. He studied at the Music Academy in Krakow and was a member of the jazz club *Helikon*. Janusz is an accomplished double bass player. He was involved in the recordings of the music score for the world-famous Pantomime by Henryk Tomaszewski.

About the song

The Polish entry was written in the mid-19th century by poet Teofil Lenartowicz (1822-1893). The lyrics were first included in his work *Szopka*, inspired by the nativity scenes in Krakow. There have been several melodic interpretations, yet the most popular one was written at the beginning of the 20th century by the famous Polish composer Jan Karol Gall (1856-1912).

Mizerna, cicha

Mizerna, cicha, stajenka licha,
Pełna niebieskiej chwały.
Oto leżący, na sianku śpiący
W promieniach Jezus mały.

Nad Nim Anieli w locie stanęli
I pochyleni klęczą
Z włosy złotymi, z skrzydły białymi,
Pod malowaną tęczę.

I oto mnodzy ludzie ubodzy
Radzi oglądać Pana,
Pełni natchnienia, pewni zbawienia,
Upadli na kolana.

Hej, ludzie prości, Bóg z nami gości,
Skończony czas niedoli.
On daje siebie, chwała na Niebie,
Pokój ludziom dobrej woli.

Humble, quiet

Humble, quiet, miserable stable,
full of heavenly glory.
Here lies the sleeping little Lord Jesus
in the streaming rays before us.

Heavenly angels around the shepherds
on their knees are bowing,
golden hair shining, white wings
glowing over the Child are bending.

Here come the crowds of poor men,
glad to behold the Lord,
feeling inspired, sorely startled,
did they fall on their knees.

Hey, simple men, God is our guest,
the time of unrest is finished.
He's giving Himself, the glory in Heaven,
peace to men of good will.



Rajske strune, zadonite

Valentin Štolcer / Jožef Levičnik

Klementina Savnik

Guitar: Danni Strazar
Language: Slovenian

Christmas traditions in Slovenia

In Slovenia, Christmas Eve is usually the time when the family gathers for the Christmas dinner, with *potica* being an important part of the menu. This Slovenian festive cake is made of rolled out yeasted dough with a walnut or tarragon filling. It is usually baked in a round baking pan with a hole in the middle. *Potica* originates from western and northwestern Slovenia, and probably evolved from various kinds of festive ritual bread.

About the performers

Mezzosoprano Klementina Savnik started her career in 2010 as a chorister and a soloist in the Ljubljana Opera House. After passing the audition in 2017, she became a member of The Royal Swedish Opera in Stockholm, where she sings both in the choir and as a soloist in different productions (Tchaikovsky's *Jolanta*, Wagner's *Walküre*, etc.). Danni Strazar has been working as a translator of literary works from Swedish to Slovenian for the last 13 years. Furthermore, she works as a guitar teacher in a music school in Nacka, Stockholm. Danni is also very active in the Slovenian association in Sweden, focusing on music and the Slovenian language.

About the song

The Slovenian entry in our EU Christmas Concert is one of the most popular old Christmas carols in Slovenia. The lyrics are an ode to music, heavenly strings and angelic choirs, and a call to the people to open their hearts and sing out to God's Son, born into this world to bring peace. The composer Valentin Štolcer (1841-1910) composed a number of hymns and published them in a collection. This song was written to be sung by a mixed choir, but for this occasion, it was arranged for a vocal and classical guitar by Denis Kokalj.

Rajske strune, zadonite

Rajske strune, zadonite,
od nebes odmevajte!
Zbori angelski hitite
na zemljo in pevajte!

Slava bodi na višavah,
slava Bogu naj doni;
mir ljudem pa po nižavah
naj nocojšnja noč rosi.

Čuli sladko melodijo
so pastirci tisto noč,
našli Dete in Marijo
in ljubezni božje moč;

Pokleknili vdano, verno
in molili Jezusa,
zrli v duhu neizmerno
slavo Sina večnega.

Sveta se skrivnost obhaja,
božji Sin se v njej rodi.
V dušah vernih se poraja
Dete blažene noči.

Sreča neizmerna dana
rodu je človeškemu,
sladka mana se pripravlja
srcu Bogu zvestemu.

Strings from heaven

Strings from heaven now are playing
from the heavens ringing clear.
Choirs of angels sweetly calling
peace on earth from far and near.

Glory be now in the highest.
Glory to our God above.
To the people peace bestowing
sent from heaven sends His love.

In the evening heard the shepherds
sweetest sounds from on high.
There they found the Child with Mary
and heard her lullaby.

They looked down with faithful reverence
and they began to sing,
in the spirit of thanksgiving
and praise for God, the King.

May we celebrate and be joyful
for this Child that brings our light.
In the souls of all the faithful
is a Saviour born this night.

To the people he is given,
love beyond our simple prayer.
Sweet manna set before us,
for our Lord is ever near.





Libre y blanca Navidad

Irving Berlin // José Luís Armenteros / Pablo Herreros

Kultur på spanska-kören

Conductor: Gabriel Lezcano

Language: Spanish

Christmas traditions in Spain

The traditional Spanish Christmas carols are called *villancicos* and are accompanied by *zambombas* and *panderetas* (hand drums). Families come together on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, enjoying the season's traditional sweets: *turrón* and *polvorones*. At most homes and public spaces, one can find a Nativity scene (*Belén*). Santa Claus (*Papá Noel*) pays a visit on Christmas, but most children in Spain await the arrival of the three Wise Men from the East (*Reyes Magos*) on 6 January.

About the performers

Kultur på spanska-kören (Culture in Spanish-language Choir) was founded in August 2019. According to the members of the choir, they want to be part of the cultural life of Stockholm with their music, language, melodies and attitude. They all have the same challenge: to show their passion through music. The conductor, Gabriel Lezcano, has an important career as a tenor and professional singer in Spain and currently in Sweden.

About the song

The Spanish entry in our EU Christmas Concert is an original arrangement made by Gabriel Lezcano on the popular Christmas song "White Christmas" and the song "Libre" composed by José Luís Armenteros and Pablo Herreros. According to Gabriel, "This Christmas we want to sing for freedom and spread optimism. In these times of bewilderment and suffering, humanity needs the glimpse of hope that music may bring."



Libre y blanca Navidad

Oh, blanca Navidad, sueños
y con la nieve alrededor,
ella es mi quimera y es mensajera
de paz y de puro amor.

Libre, como el sol cuando amanece,
yo soy libre, como el mar.
Libre, como el ave
que escapó de su prisión
y puede al fin volar.

Libre, como el viento que recoge
mi lamento y mi pesar,
Camino sin cesar detrás de la verdad
y sabré lo que es al fin la libertad.

Oh, blanca Navidad...

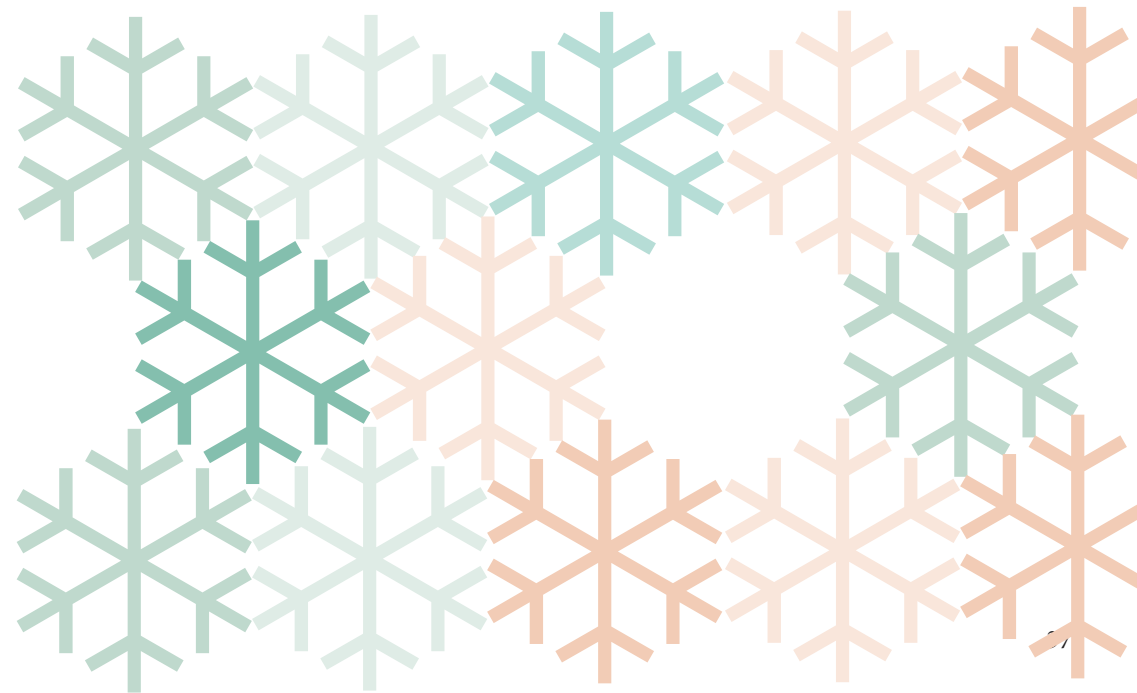
Free and white Christmas

Oh, White Christmas, dreams
and with the snow around,
Christmas is my desire and messenger
of peace and pure love.

Free, like the sun when it rises,
I am free, like the sea.
Free, like the bird
that escaped from its prison
and is finally able to fly.

Free, like the wind that picks up
my sorrow and my grief,
I keep walking after the truth
and will finally know what freedom is.

Oh, White Christmas...



Nu tändas tusen juleljus

Emmy Köhler

To be sung by the audience

Piano: Nikos Tsiamis

Language: Swedish

Christmas traditions in Sweden

The most important day of Christmas in Sweden is Christmas Eve on 24 December (*julafton*). It is a full-family day starting with Santa's porridge (*julgröt*) for breakfast. There is a specific Christmas host on the state television and a Christmas special cartoon showing every year at 3 p.m. Dinner starts relatively early and consists of a Christmas buffet (*julbord*), including pickled herring, *gravlax*, paté, *knäckebröd*, Christmas ham, meatballs with beetroot salad and *lutfisk*. After the dinner, Santa Claus (*jultomten*) knocks on the door, comes in and asks if there are any good children in the house. Then he personally hands out the gifts before rushing out to the next home.

About the performer

Everyone in the audience is invited to sing the Swedish song as a sing-along, accompanied by our host, Nikos Tsiamis, on the piano. Nikos has been working for the European Commission Representation in Sweden since 2013, in the field of media and communication. Apart from his mother tongue, Greek, he is a speaker of 10 European languages on various levels, from basic to proficient. Nikos studied the piano and the flute during his childhood, but now he only plays when he returns home for holidays. He has been a member of the Choir of the Scandinavian Church in Athens.

About the song

The Swedish entry in our EU Christmas Concert is a traditional Christmas song from 1898 written by Emmy Köhler (both lyrics and music). The theme of the song is the gospel of the new-born Christ and specifically its aspects of domestic harmony and inner peace brought by the lights of candles, as well as the stars above, especially the star of Bethlehem. It was one of the most popular Christmas songs in Sweden during the 20th century, in churches, homes and schools. In 1986, the song was included in the Swedish book of psalms.

Nu tändas tusen juleljus

Nu tändas tusen juleljus
på jordens mörka rund
och tusen, tusen stråla ock
på himlens djupblå grund.

Och över stad och land i kväll
går julens glada bud
att född är Herren Jesus Krist,
vår Frälsare och Gud.

Du stjärna över Betlehem,
o, låt ditt milda ljus
få lysa in med hopp och frid
i varje hem och hus!

I varje hjärta, armt och mörkt,
sänd du en stråle blid,
en stråle av Guds kärleks ljus
i signad juletid!

Now a thousand Christmas
candles are lit

Now a thousand Christmas candles are lit
around the Earth resting in darkness
and thousands of rays of light
from the deep blue sky.

And tonight, above city and countryside,
the joyful message of Christmas is spread
that Lord Jesus Christ is born,
our Saviour and God.

You, star over Bethlehem,
oh, let your mild light
shine with hope and peace
in every single home and house!

In every heart, lonely and dark,
send a gentle ray,
a ray of God's light of love
in sacred Christmas time!





Български ★ Bulgarian

Тиха нощ, свята нощ

Тиха нощ, свята нощ!
Цяла земя е в тишина
Виж! Витлеемската светла звезда
Мъдрите кани от чужда страна,
Гдето Христос се роди,
Гдето Христос се роди.

Čeština ★ Czech

Tichá noc

Tichá noc, přesvatá noc.
V spánku svém dýchá zem,
půlnoc odbila, město šlo spát,
zdřímli dávno i pastýři stád,
jen Boží láska, ta bdí,
jen Boží láska, ta bdí.

Dansk ★ Danish

Glade jul, dejlige jul

Glade jul, dejlige jul,
engle dale ned i skjul!
Hid de flyve med Paradis-grønt,
hvor de se, hvad for Gud er kønt,
lønlig iblandt os de gå,
lønlig iblandt os de gå.

Deutsch ★ German

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht

Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

Eesti ★ Estonian

Püha öö

Püha öö, õnnistud öö!
Kõik on maas rahu sees.
Joosep valvab ja Marial sääl
hingab lapsuke põlvede pääl.
Maga, patuste rõõm!
Maga, patuste rõõm!

Ελληνικά ★ Greek

Άγια Νύχτα

Άγια Νύχτα, σε προσμένουν
Με χαρά οι χριστιανοί
Και με πίστη ανυμνούμε,
Τον Θεό δοξολογούμε
Μ' ένα στόμα, μια φωνή
Ναι, με μια φωνή

English

Silent night

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Español ★ Spanish

Noche de paz

Noche de paz, noche de amor,
Todo duerme alrededor
Entre los astros que esparcen su luz
Bella anunciando al niño Jesús
Brilla la estrella de paz,
Brilla la estrella de paz.

Français ★ French

Douce nuit, sainte nuit

Douce nuit, sainte nuit!
Dans les cieux, l'astre luit.
Le mystère annoncé s'accomplit
Cet enfant sur la paille endormi
C'est l'amour infini
C'est l'amour infini.

Gaeilge ★ Irish

Óíche chiúin

Oíche chiúin, oíche Mhic Dé,
Cách, na suan dís araon,
Dís is dílse 'faire le spéis
Naíon beag leanbh ceansa 'gus caomh
Críost, na chodladh go sámh,
Críost, na chodladh go sámh.

Hrvatski ★ Croatian

Tiha noć

Tiha noć, sveta noć
Ponoć je, spava sve
Samo Marija s Josipom bdi
Divno djetešce pred njima spi
Rajski resi ga mir,
Rajski resi ga mir.

Italiano ★ Italian

Astro del ciel

Astro del ciel, Pargol divin,
Mite Agnello, Redentor!
Tu che i vati da lungi sognar
Tu che angeliche voci annunziar
Luce dona alle menti,
Pace infondi nei cuor.



Latviešu ★ Latvian

Klusa nakts, svēta nakts

Klusa nakts, svēta nakts!
Visi dus. Nomodā
Vēl ir Jāzeps un Marija
Kūtī, Dāvida pilsētā.
Jēzus silitē dus,
Jēzus silitē dus.

Lietuvių ★ Lithuanian

Tyli naktis

Tyli naktis, šventa naktis,
Viskas miega, tik dar vis
Motinėle ten budi viena,
Kūdikis su meilia šypsena,
Ilsisi miega ramiai,
Ilsisi miega ramiai.

Magyar ★ Hungarian

Csendes éj

Csendes éj! Szentséges éj!
Mindenek nyugta mély;
Nincs fenn más, csak a Szent szülepár,
Drága kisedük álmainál,
Szent Fiú, aludjál,
Szent Fiú, aludjál!

Malti ★ Maltese

O lejl ta' skiet

O lejl ta' skiet, lejl tal-Milied
Lejl għażiż, lejl qaddis
Dawlet is-sema il-kewkba li ddiel
Ħabbret li l-fidwa tal-bniedem inbdiet
Kristu hu mħabba bla qies,
Kristu hu mħabba bla qies.



Silent Night

Nederlands ★ Dutch

Stille Nacht

Stille nacht, Heilige nacht
Alles slaapt, eenzaam wacht
Bij het kindje, 't hoogheilige paar
Rond de kribbe zingt d'engelschaar
Slaap in hemelse rust
Slaap in hemelse rust

Polski ★ Polish

Cicha noc, święta noc

Cicha noc, święta noc,
Pokój niesie, ludziom wszem,
A u żłobka Matka Święta
Czuwa sama uśmiechnięta,
Nad Dzieciątka snem
Nad Dzieciątka snem.

Português ★ Portuguese

Noite feliz

Noite feliz! Noite feliz!
Ó Senhor, Deus de amor
Pobrezinho nasceu em Belém
Eis na lapa, Jesus nosso bem
Dorme em paz, ó Jesus,
Dorme em paz, ó Jesus!

Română ★ Romanian

Noapte de vis

Noapte de vis, timp preasfânt,
Toate dorm pe pământ
Două inimi veghează,
Pruncul dulce visează
Într-un leagăn de cânt,
Într-un leagăn de cânt

Slovenčina ★ Slovak

Tichá noc, svätá noc

Tichá noc, svätá noc!
Všetko spí, všetko sní,
sám len svätý bdie dôverný pár,
stráži Dieťaťko, nebeský dar.
Sladký Ježiško spí, sní,
nebesky tíško spí, sní.

Slovenščina ★ Slovenian

Sveta noč

Sveta noč, blažena noč,
vse že spi, je polnoč.
Le devica z Jožefom tam
v hlevcu varje detece nam.
Spavaj dete sladkó,
spavaj dete sladkó.

Suomi ★ Finnish

Jouluyö, juhlayö

Jouluyö, juhlayö!
Päättynyt kaik on työ.
Kaks vain valveil on puolisoa
lapsen herttaisen nukkuessa
seimikätkyessään,
seimikätkyessään.

Svenska ★ Swedish

Stilla natt

Stilla natt, heliga natt!
Allt är frid, stjärnan blid
Skiner på barnet i stallets strå
Och de vakande fromma två
Kristus till jorden är kommen
Oss är en frälsare född



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