

12 December 2022, 18:00
Adolf Fredriks kyrka, Stockholm



Welcome to our
EU Christmas Concert

The performers of our EU Christmas Concert 2022



BULGARIA



CZECHIA



SLOVENIA



FRANCE



GERMANY



ESTONIA



GREECE



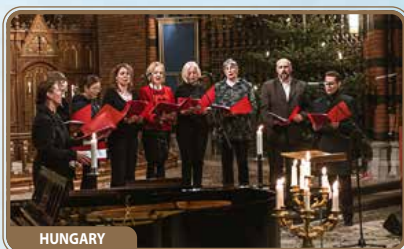
LATVIA



POLAND



LITHUANIA



HUNGARY



IRELAND

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Our hosts:

Lena Olofsson-Piras
Nikos Tsiamis

Dear friends,

Welcome to the third edition of the EU Christmas Concert! The event is organised by the European Commission's Representation in Sweden, in close collaboration with Embassies of EU Member States and the European Union National Institutes for Culture. For this edition, we are also delighted to welcome Ukraine as our special guest.

It has been a very challenging year; we were coming out of a pandemic only to find our neighbours facing war. In such dark and cold times, it is all the more important to try and spread some light and warmth, celebrating both cultural diversity and common values and traditions.

We have a record number of 23 participating countries this year, who will take you on a musical journey across the European continent. You will hear Christmas carols in more than 20 languages, sung by both professional and amateur singers. I wish you a magical evening filled with music and joy.

Happy Christmas!



Erik von Pistohlkors
Acting Head of Representation
European Commission in Sweden



Щедрик

[Shchedryk]

Микола Леонтович

Christmas traditions in Ukraine

Christmas in Ukraine is celebrated both on 25 December and on 7 January, according to the Gregorian and the Julian calendar respectively. This year, most of Ukrainians will not have the possibility to gather with their family around the Christmas meal, which begins on Christmas Eve with the appearance of the first star, and traditionally consists of 12 Lent dishes representing Jesus' 12 Disciples. For millions of women and children who have had to flee to other countries from the Russian invasion, the main and favourite dish *kutya* – made of wheat, poppy seed, honey, raisins and nuts – will definitely not taste as before. Many will likely spend Christmas Day in a shelter, instead of carolling in the streets, as is the custom. Christmas is the most loved holiday in Ukraine; it is a holiday of life and hope, and this is what Ukraine today is all about.

About the performers

Adolf Fredrik's Music Classes is a primary school in Stockholm, with a specialisation in choral singing. The schools are situated in Norrmalm and Farsta. The students are accepted via

Adolf Fredriks musikklasser Farsta

Conductor: Maria Goundurina

Language: Ukrainian

a proficiency test in singing and have lessons in music every day on the schedule for grades 4-9. *Adolf Fredrik's Music Classes* are very well known and give hundreds of concerts every year, in collaboration with various concert halls and professional musicians.

About the song

Based on an ancient folk chant, the Ukrainian song is a choral masterpiece written in 1914 by Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovych (1877-1921). The song gained world fame after the Ukrainian National Choir toured Europe and the Americas to win public support for the newly independent Ukrainian National Republic. During the tour, the Ukrainian Republic was strangled and Leontovych was killed by the KGB. After the Ukrainian-American conductor Peter Wilhousky wrote the English text, it became one of the most popular Christmas carols in the world, known as "Carol of the Bells".

Щедрик

Щедрик, щедрик, щедрівочка,
Прилетіла ластівочка,
Стала собі щебетати,
Господаря викликати:

«Вийди, вийди, господарю,
Подивися на кошару,
Там овечки покотились,
А ягнички народились.

В тебе товар весь хороший,
Будеш мати мірку грошей.
Хоч не гроші, то полова,
В тебе жінка чорноброва.»

Щедрик, щедрик, щедрівочка,
Прилетіла ластівочка.

Bountiful evening

Bountiful evening, bountiful evening,
a New Year's carol;
A little swallow flew into the household
and started to twitter,
to summon the master:

"Come out, come out, O master,
look at the sheep pen,
there the ewes have given birth
and the lambkins have been born.

Your goods [livestock] are great,
you will have a lot of money, by selling them.
If not money, then chaff from all the grain
you will harvest,
you have a dark-eyebrowed beautiful wife."

Bountiful evening, bountiful evening,
a New Year's carol;
A little swallow flew into the household.





Κυπριακά Κάλαντα Χριστουγέννων

[Kypriaka Kalanda Christougennon]

Traditional folk song

Christmas traditions in Cyprus

On Christmas Eve (24 December), many people attend church in the early evening (*Megas Esperinos*), before getting together in houses to enjoy a nice meal with family and friends. On Christmas Day (25 December), many people will again attend church, very early in the morning. At noon, relatives and friends gather in houses to break their fasting by eating *souvla* (charcoaled pork and lamb) and other traditional dishes (*pasticcio*, *koupepia*, *avgolemono*). Gifts in Cyprus are traditionally not opened on Christmas Day as in other countries, but rather on New Year's Day to honour *Agios Vasilis*, the Greek Saint associated with Santa Claus. The two most popular treats of the season are *melomakarouna* (cinnamon and orange cookies, glazed in honey syrup and covered with nuts) and *kourabiedes* (almond biscuits coated with icing sugar).

About the performers

The Cyprus Choral Association's Vocal Ensemble was founded in Cyprus in 2020 (known in Greek as *Φωνητικό Σύνολο*

CY.C.A Vocal Ensemble

Conductor: Νικόλαος Θεράποντος

Artistic Director: Δήμητρα Φιλίππου

Language: Greek (Cypriot dialect)

Μουσικών Παγκύπριου Συνδέσμου Χορωδιών). It is a mixed choir ensemble of 15 singers, under the direction of conductors Nikolaos Therapontos and Demetra Philippou. The CY.C.A Vocal Ensemble has presented many concerts in Cyprus, Greece, Italy and Germany. Their repertoire is mainly classical.

About the song

Kypriaka Kalanda are the Cypriot version of the Greek traditional Christmas carols – ancient songs that have been sung on the island since the Byzantine times. People gather to sing these songs, and often children will go around their neighbourhood, knocking on doors and reiterating the traditional phrase “Shall we sing?” (*Na ta poume?*). They usually start singing *Kalanda* with the accompaniment of musical triangles and the tambourine. In return, they receive sweets or even small amounts of money.



Κυπριακά Κάλαντα Χριστουγέννων

Καλήν εσπέραν άρκοντες
τζί' αν εν ο ορισμός σας,
Χριστού την θείαν γέννησιν
να πω στ' αρκοντικόν σας.

Χριστός γεννιέται σήμερα
στην Βηθλεέμ την πόλιν,
οι ουρανοί αγάλλονται
μαζί τζι' η φύσις όλη.

Γεννιέται μες στο σπήλαιον,
στην φάτνην των αλόγων,
ο βασιλιάς των ουρανών
τζι' ο πλάστης ημών όλων.

Αντζιέλοι εις τους ουρανούς
ψάλλουν το «εν υψίστοις»
τζιαι κάτω φανερώνεται
εις τους βοσκούς ο κτίστης.

Που την Περσιάν έρκονται
τρεις μάγοι με τα δώρα,
έναν αστέριν λαμπερόν
τους οδηγά στην χώραν.

Τζιαι μπαίνουν μες στο
σπήλαιον,
βρίσκουν την Θεοτόκον
τζι' εκράτεν στες αγκάλες της
τον άγιόν της τόκον.

Γονατιστοί τον προσκυνούν
τζιαι δώρα του χαρίζουν,
σμύρναν, χρυσόν τζιαι
λίβανον,
Θεόν τον ευφημίζουν.

Χριστιανοί, σας είπαμεν
ούλην την ιστορίαν
για του Ιησού μας του
Χριστού
την γένναν την αγίαν.

Δώστε τζιαι για τον κόπον μας
ό,τ' εν ο ορισμός σας
τζιαι ο Θεός μας ο Χριστός
να 'ν' πάντα βοηθός σας.

Χρονιά πολλά να ζήσετε,
να 'στε ευτυχισμένοι,
τζιαι στο κορμίν τζιαι στην
ψυσιήν
να 'σαστεν πλουμισμένοι.

Christmas Carols from Cyprus

Good evening to you
noblemen
and if it is your wish,
about the divine birth of
Christ

I will sing at your mansion.

Christ is born today
in the city of Bethlehem,
the heavens rejoice
and all of nature together.

In the cave is born,
in a manger for horses,
the king of the heavens
and the creator of us all.

Angels in the heavens
are singing “in the highest”
and beneath is revealed
the builder to the shepherds.

They are coming from Persia,
three magi with their gifts,
a bright star is
leading them to the country.

Once they enter the cave,
they find the Mother of God
holding in her arms
her holy Child.

They worship him on
their knees
and offer him gifts,
myrrh, gold and frankincense,
they praise God.

Christians, we have told you
the whole story
about our Jesus Christ's
holy birth.

Give also for our effort
whatever is your wish
and may Christ our God
always be your assistant.

May you live many years,
may you be happy,
both in your body and in
your soul
may you be adorned.



Natal dos simples

Zeca Afonso

Mattías Martínez Carranza

Portuguese guitar: Filipe Jesus Minhava
Language: Portuguese

Christmas traditions in Portugal

According to tradition, Portuguese families gather on 24 December for the Christmas dinner, usually with codfish dishes. Roast turkey and other meat dishes have also become part of the menu. The typical desserts are *Bolo-Rei* (a cake filled with candied or dried fruits), *broas castelares* and traditional fritters, such as *filhoses*, *sonhos* and *rabanadas*. Before it became popular to have Santa Claus leaving the gifts under the tree, the presents were brought by Baby Jesus. Before bedtime, children would leave a shoe close to the chimney and, in the morning, they would rush out of bed to find out what surprise had been left inside.

About the performers

Mattías Martínez Carranza from Värmland is a pianist and singer of Latin American origin. After completing his classical piano studies at Ingesund School of Music and Iceland University of the Arts, Mattías spent a year in Lisbon getting to know the Portuguese fado music. Upon his return to Sweden, he hopes to continue his journey of musical discovery and to spread the music he has fell in love with. Filipe Jesus Minhava is a Portuguese

musician based in Stockholm since 2015. He studied jazz and guitar at the *Conservatório de Música da Jobra* in Aveiro and continued his studies at *Escola Superior de Música e Artes do Espetáculo* in Porto. Despite his musical origins being jazz and rock, in 2019 he entered the world of Portuguese guitar and fado, with the aim of promoting Portuguese music in Sweden. Since then, he has been awarded a grant by the Swedish Arts Council to work on his music, and has played in several concerts in Stockholm. Filipe and Mattías met in 2021 through their love for fado and have been playing together ever since.

About the song

The Portuguese entry, written in 1968 by Zeca Afonso (1929-1987), is a song that refers to the tradition of the *Janeiras*. These are groups of people who sing songs in the streets from 1 to 6 January, announcing the birth of Jesus Christ and wishing for the new year. When a song ends at a specific house, the owners are expected to reward the singers with the *janeiras* (chestnuts, walnuts, apples, chorizo, black pudding, etc.).



Natal dos simples

Vamos cantar as janeiras
Por esses quintais adentro, vamos
Às raparigas solteiras
Pam-pa-ra-ra, pi-ri, pam-pa-ra-ra, pi-ri
Pam, pam, pam, pam

Vamos cantar orvalhadas
Por esses quintais adentro, vamos
Às raparigas casadas
Pam-pa-ra-ra, pi-ri, pam-pa-ra-ra, pi-ri
Pam, pam, pam, pam

Vira o vento e muda a sorte
Por aqueles olivais perdidos
Foi-se embora o vento norte
Pam-pa-ra-ra, pi-ri, pam-pa-ra-ra, pi-ri
Pam, pam, pam, pam

Muita neve cai na serra
Só se lembra dos caminhos velhos
Quem tem saudades da terra
Pam-pa-ra-ra, pi-ri, pam-pa-ra-ra, pi-ri
Pam, pam, pam, pam

Quem tem a candeia acesa
Rabanadas, pão e vinho novo
Matava a fome à pobreza
Pam-pa-ra-ra, pi-ri, pam-pa-ra-ra, pi-ri
Pam, pam, pam, pam

Já nos cansa esta lonjura
Só se lembra dos caminhos velhos
Quem anda à noite à aventura
Pam-pa-ra-ra, pi-ri, pam-pa-ra-ra, pi-ri
Pam, pam, pam, pam

Christmas of the simple ones

Let us sing the janeiras
Through these farms we go
Singing for the single girls
Pam-pa-ra-ra, pi-ri, pam-pa-ra-ra, pi-ri
Pam, pam, pam, pam

Let us sing about the morning dew
Through these farms we go
Singing for the married girls
Pam-pa-ra-ra, pi-ri, pam-pa-ra-ra, pi-ri
Pam, pam, pam, pam

The wind turns and luck changes
Through these lost olive groves
The north wind is gone
Pam-pa-ra-ra, pi-ri, pam-pa-ra-ra, pi-ri
Pam, pam, pam, pam

Snow falls in the mountains
Old roads are only remembered
By those who miss their homeland
Pam-pa-ra-ra, pi-ri, pam-pa-ra-ra, pi-ri
Pam, pam, pam, pam

Who has their lamps on
French toast, bread and new wine
Relieved the hunger of the poor
Pam-pa-ra-ra, pi-ri, pam-pa-ra-ra, pi-ri
Pam, pam, pam, pam

This distance is tiring us
Old roads are only remembered
By those who roam at night
Pam-pa-ra-ra, pi-ri, pam-pa-ra-ra, pi-ri
Pam, pam, pam, pam

Jõuluõhtul

Ester Mägi / Milla Krimm

Christmas traditions in Estonia

Christmas is a highly celebrated holiday in Estonia, when the magic and mysticism of pre-Christian forefathers is combined with the more modern sacred and spiritual traditions. Many of the preparations start already in November, such as the communal making of the classic blood sausage and other traditional dishes. The Estonian word *jõulud* is of ancient Scandinavian origin and comes directly from the word *jul*. Estonians decorate their Christmas trees and Santa Claus brings the gifts on the night of 24 December.

About the performers

SweedEst Song consists of 5 members: Ann Arendi, Maimi Laks, Piia Paljak Särlefalk, Taavo Sööt Vahermägi and Taavo Kask. They have been singing together for 5 years and perform everything – from Estonian choir music to jazz. Their main focus is on Estonian songs, but they also get many international songs translated into Estonian.

SweedEst Song

Language: Estonian

About the song

The Estonian song is composed by Ester Mägi (1922-2021), who is widely regarded as the First Lady of Estonian Music. This year, she would have been 100 years old and her legacy is widely celebrated in both Estonia and Sweden. Mainly known for choral works and chamber music, Ester Mägi has also written a symphony that is held in very high esteem. Most of her works are based on brief thematic cores borrowed from or characteristic to Estonian folk melodies. The text is written by Estonian poet Milla Krimm (1894-1978).

Jõuluõhtul

Vaike öö, jõuluöö.

Nii ema ial ei laulnud,
kui laulis ta jõuluööl,
nii säramas enne ei näinud
ta silmi ja põski me veel.

Nii õrnalt ja südamest kostis laul,
Jeesusest jõuluööl,
me hingi see taevasse tõstis
kui inglitiibade jõul.

Nii pehmelt kunagi köitnud
meid üksteise laul ja jutt,
me südameid surmani võitnud
laul Jeesuset jõulujutt.

Vaikne öö, jõuluöö.

Nii ema ial ei laulnud,
kui laulis ta jõuluööl,
nii säramas enne ei näinud
ta silmi ja põski me veel.

Nüüd ema enam ei laula,
kuid südames heliseb veel
meil siiski nii kaua,
kaua laul Jeesusest jõuluööl.

Vaiksel ööl, jõuluööl.

On Christmas Eve

Silent night, Christmas night.

Mother never sang like that,
how she sang on Christmas night,
she had never seen our eyes and cheeks
shine like this before.

So gentle and heartfelt was the song,
about Jesus on Christmas night,
our souls were lifted to heaven
as by the wings of angels.

We were so softly captivated
by each other's song and talk,
it won our hearts to death
the song of Jesus' Christmas story.

Quiet night, Christmas night.

Mother never sang like that,
how she sang on Christmas night,
she had never seen our eyes and cheeks
shine like this before.

Now mother doesn't sing anymore,
but in our hearts it rings
stil for a long, long time
the song about Jesus on Christmas night.

On a quiet night, on Christmas night.

Царско момче кон седлае

[Tsarsko momche kon sedlae]

Коста Колев

Christmas traditions in Bulgaria

According to traditional beliefs, the 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. The 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 later on, for enjoying the lavish Christmas meal with a roast, usually pork, as the main dish.

About the performers

The Bulgarian folklore's richness of rhythms, sound and harmony

Перуника [Perunika]

Conductor: Михаел Делчев

Language: Bulgarian

bring together 19 singers under the conductor Michael Deltchev, who founded the vocal ensemble choir *Perunika* (literally "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

There is a lot of symbolism in the Bulgarian song, written by Bulgarian composer and accordionist Kosta Kolev (1921-2010). The song refers to Jesus Christ, who conquers evil and brings prosperity and fertility to Earth. It tells the story of the Son of God who saddled his horse and went hunting. He failed to catch a partridge but killed a snake instead. That restored richness and prosperity in God's land. Rivers of wheat, milk and wine started flowing all over Earth and people were happy and satisfied. By repeating the phrase *Kolade le* throughout the lyrics, the song makes a clear reference to Christmas.

Царско момче кон седлае

Царско момче кон седлае, Коладе ле,
Низ ливаде царюнчина, Коладе ле,
Кон седлало синьо седло, Коладе ле,
Оседла го, възседна го, Коладе ле.

Тръгнал беше лов да лови, Коладе ле,
Дребна лова яребица, Коладе ле,
Не удари яребица, Коладе ле,
Най удари една зъмя, Коладе ле.

Та извади царско момче, Коладе ле,
Айде жито по чемшири, Коладе ле,
Айде мляко по овчари, Коладе ле,
Айде вино по винари, Коладе ле.

Протекли са дор три реки, Коладе ле,
Първа река жълто жито, Коладе ле,
Втора река бяло мляко, Коладе ле,
Трета река руйно вино, Коладе ле.

Та извади царско момче, Коладе ле,
Айде жито по чемшири, Коладе ле,
Айде мляко по овчари, Коладе ле,
Айде вино по винари, Коладе ле.

A royal boy is saddling his horse

A royal boy is saddling his horse, Kolade le,
Along the meadows of the kingdom, Kolade le,
He saddled the horse with a blue saddle,
Kolade le,
He girded it, he mounted it, Kolade le.

He had gone on a hunt, Kolade le,
On a hunt for small partridge, Kolade le,
He did not hit a small partridge, Kolade le,
But he hit a snake, Kolade le.

The royal boy took out, Kolade le,
Wheat to the boxwood, Kolade le,
Milk to the shepherds, Kolade le,
Wine to the winemakers, Kolade le.

There flowed out three rivers, Kolade le,
The first river – yellow wheat, Kolade le,
The second river – white milk, Kolade le,
The third river – red wine, Kolade le.

The royal boy took out, Kolade le,
Wheat to the boxwood, Kolade le,
Milk to the shepherds, Kolade le,
Wine to the winemakers, Kolade le.





Do mesta Betléma

Pastieri, pastieri, hore vstaňte

Traditional folk songs

Adam Halan

Language: Slovak

Christmas traditions in Slovakia

In Slovakia, *Mikuláš* (Santa Claus) 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 *Ježiško* (Jesus Child), 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 *kapustnica* (sauerkraut soup), *kapor* (fried carp) and *zemiakový šalát* (potato salad).

About the performer

Adam Halan is a student in the 4th grade of the elementary school *Lilla Akademien* in Stockholm. This is a school with a musical focus. He plays two instruments: the violin and the marimba. He has been singing in *Stockholms Gosskör* as a boy soprano for about a year. He has a very close relation to Slovakia, as his parents are born there and he has a lot of family and friends in Slovakia.

About the song

The Slovak songs are two traditional Christmas carols, expressing joy and respect for the birth of Jesus Christ. In the past, there was a lot of singing during Christmas time. People went around the villages and towns to sing carols to family and friends. They were then rewarded with some refreshments and small gifts of appreciation.



Do mesta Betléma

Do mesta Betléma pospechajme,
pri jasliach kolená zahýbajme.
Kristu v sviatosti, v ponížení,
Kristu v sviatosti, v ponížení
sa klaňajme.

Z neba k nám zostúpil, nás miloval,
aby nás vykúpil, telo si vzal.
Mnohé úzkosti v ľudskej bytosti,
mnohé úzkosti v ľudskej bytosti
okusoval.

To the city of Bethlehem

Let us hasten to the city of Bethlehem,
let us bend our knees in the manger.
Christ in the sacrament, in humiliation,
Christ in the sacrament, in humiliation
let us bow down.

He came down to us from heaven, he loved us,
to redeem us, he took on flesh.
Many anxieties in the human being,
many anxieties in the human being
nibbled.



Pastieri, pastieri, hore vstaňte

Pastieri, pastieri, hore vstaňte,
do Betlehéma sa ponáhľajte,
aby ste Ježiška privítali,
pred ním na kolená pokľakali.

Anjeli pastierov zo sna budia,
nech spev ich počujú všetci ľudia.
Sláva buď otcovi na výsosti
a pokoj buď ľuďom živým v čnosti.

Shepherds, shepherds, get up

Shepherds, shepherds, get up,
hurry to Bethlehem
to welcome Jesus,
to kneel before him.

Angels wake up the shepherds from sleep,
let all people hear their singing.
Glory be to the Father in the highest
and peace be to people living in virtue.

Toccò la prima sorte a voi, pastori

Alessandro Scarlatti

Christmas traditions in Italy

The traditional symbol among Christmas decorations in Italy is the nativity scene (*presepe*). Mangers built in various sizes, with different materials, are very common in Italian houses. 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

Born in Catania, Agnese Allegra had a keen interest in singing and dancing since her early childhood. She moved to Rome to attend an academy of musical theatre and then the Conservatory, where she specialised in the Renaissance and Baroque singing. During her studies, she had a rich artistic activity: she was a founding member of the acapella ensemble *Il Cimbali*, and was also singing as a solo soprano, under the direction of conductors Alessandro Quarta and Andrea De Carlo. She is currently part of various ensembles. Simone Pirri is a young violinist driven by a deep

Agnese Allegra

Violin: Simone Pirri

Piano: Alberto Maron

Language: Italian

passion for the music of the baroque and classical period. He performs regularly all across Europe (and beyond) with some of the most appreciated groups of early music. Alberto Maron is a harpsichord accompanist at the Conservatories of Milan and Venice. From 2016 to 2021, he was engaged as conductor and harpsichordist in musical comedies – also having composed the music – for *Teatro La Fenice* in Venice.

About the song

The Italian entry is an aria from a cantata for Christmas Eve, *O di Betlemme altera povertà*, written by the Baroque composer Alessandro Scarlatti (1660-1725) for soprano and basso continuo. It was presented on 24 December 1695 at the Apostolic Palace in the Vatican. Between 1676 and 1740, it was customary in Rome to celebrate Christmas Eve with a concert in the presence of the Pope and many cardinals. Personalities from the European nobility were often found among the guests. He became *maestro di cappella* to Queen Christina of Sweden, while she was living in Rome.

Toccò la prima sorte a voi, pastori

Toccò la prima sorte a voi, pastori,
perché si fa Gesù di Dio l'Agnello.

Offrite alla sua cuna i vostri cuori,
mirate quanto è vago e quanto è bello.

Lasciate i vostri armenti e la capanna,
abbandonate sì le pecorelle.

The first lot fell to you, shepherds

The first lot fell to you, shepherds,
because Jesus became the Lamb of God.

Offer your hearts to his cradle,
look at how vague and how beautiful he is.

Leave your herds and the hut,
yes, abandon the sheep.



Nie było miejsca dla Ciebie

Józef Łaś / Mateusz Jeż

Tomasz Siegrist

Language: Polish

Christmas traditions in Poland

Christmas in Poland begins on the evening of 24 December, known as *Wigilia* (Vigil), when the first star - symbolising the Star of Bethlehem - appears in the sky. *Wigilia* starts with sharing *opłatek* (Christmas wafer) while exchanging warm wishes, and is followed by a Christmas dinner. Traditionally, 12 dishes are served as a symbol for the 12 apostles or for the 12 months of the year. Some of the most popular dishes are *pierogi* (dumplings), *barszcz* (beetroot soup) and *makowiec* (poppy seed cake). In most houses, an extra place is set for an unexpected guest, as no-one should be alone on *Wigilia*.

About the performer

Tomasz Siegrist was born in 1990 in Bern, Switzerland, where he studied at *Hochschule der Künste Bern* composition with Christian Henking and classical singing with Christian Hilz. During the period 2015-2017, Tomasz studied in the Master's Programme in Choral Conducting at the Royal College of

Music in Stockholm, with Fredrik Malmberg and Mats Nilsson. He currently works as a singer, composer, organist and conductor, both in Stockholm and Uppsala.

About the song

The text of the Polish carol, written in 1932 in Kraków by Mateusz Jeż (1862-1949), tells the story of Jesus Christ pursuing his holy mission despite being countered by many. The first performance of the carol took place on 2 February 1939, in the southern Polish town Nowy Sącz. The song was sung by a high school choir from Nowy Sącz and became one of the most popular Christmas carols in the region. Therefore, it is often called the "Nowy Sącz carol". It was first published in the written form in the music collection *The Largest Canticle with Music Sheets for 2-3 Voices*, compiled by Józef Albin Gwoździowski.

Nie było miejsca dla Ciebie

Nie było miejsca dla Ciebie
w Betlejem w żadnej gospodzie
i narodziłeś się, Jezu,
w stajni, w ubóstwie i chłodzie.

Nie było miejsca, choć zszedłeś
jako Zbawiciel na ziemię,
by wyrwać z czarta niewoli
nieszczęsnego Adama plemię.

Nie było miejsca, choć chciałeś
ludzką przytulić do łona
i podać z krzyża grzesznikom
zbawcze, skrwawione ramiona.

Nie było miejsca, choć zszedłeś
ogień miłości zapalić
i przez swą mękę najdroższą
świat od zagłady ocalić.

Gdy liszki mają swe jamy
i ptaszki swoje gniazdeczka,
dla Ciebie brakło gospody,
Tyś musiał szukać żłóbeczka.

A dzisiaj czemu wśród ludzi
tyle łez, jęków, katuszy?
Bo nie ma miejsca dla Ciebie
w niejednej człowieczej duszy.

There was no place for You

There was no place for You
in Bethlehem in any inn
and so you were born, Jesus,
in a manger, in poverty and cold.

There was no place, but You stepped
as Saviour down on earth
to seize from the devil's woes
the miserable tribe of Adam.

There was no place, but You wanted
to clasp the mankind to Your bosom
and to offer the sinners from the cross
the redemptive, bloody arms.

There was no place, but You stepped
down to light a flame of love
and through Your dearest passion
to save the world from destruction.

While foxes had their lairs
and birds had their nests,
there was no inn left for You,
You had to look for a crib.

Why are there so many tears, moaning
and agony among people now?
Because there is no place for You
in more human souls than one.





Božji nam je rojen Sin

Ivan Zupan

Slovenski pevski zbor Triglav

Conductor: Klementina Savnik

Language: Slovenian

Christmas traditions in Slovenia

Slovenian children are visited by *Božiček* (Santa Claus) on Christmas Eve, but he is not the only magical holiday man in the country. Children in Slovenia do not have to settle for just one Santa, as they also have a more traditional option available. A Catholic Saint called *Miklavž* (Saint Nicholas) dishes out the gifts on the night of 5 December. If that was not enough, there is also a uniquely Slovenian Santa, *Dedek Mraz*, who comes down from the country's highest mountain on New Year's Day to shower the children with good wishes and even more presents.

About the performers

The Slovenian Choir Triglav is a mixed choir consisted of singers of various ages. The choir has a very important role in trying to preserve the Slovenian language, culture and heritage among the Slovene community living in Stockholm and in other parts of Sweden. The name *Triglav* represents the Slovenian highest mountain and can be seen as a national symbol on the Slovenian flag. Their repertoire is full of Slovenian folk songs and evergreen melodies

– happy, playful, mischievous and sometimes a little homesick. Since 2018, the conductor of the choir is the opera singer Klementina Savnik, who had moved to Sweden in 2017 after a successful audition in the Royal Swedish Opera in Stockholm. She is a member of the opera choir and had the opportunity to perform as a soloist too (Marta in Tchaikovsky's *Jolanta* and Grimgerde in Wagner's *Walküre*). She also performs in the lunch concerts at the Opera and in the concerts of the Polish society in Stockholm.

About the song

Slovenian composer Ivan Zupan (1857-1900) was an organist in Kamna Gorica. He composed and published many sacred Slovenian songs. In 1897, he published a book with 13 newly written Christmas songs, with the title *Trinajst božičnih pesmi*. The Slovenian entry was one among them and became quite popular. It has been republished many times and has almost become a folk song. The song talks about the birth of Jesus Christ and how it was predicted already in the Old Testament.



Božji nam je rojen Sin

Božji nam je rojen Sin, radujmo se!
K nam je prišel iz višin, veselimo se!
Iz prečiste Deve, rodbine kraljeve,
Božji nam je rojen Sin.

Davno že prerokovan, radujmo se!
Beli je zagledal dan, veselimo se!
Iz prečiste Deve, rodbine kraljeve,
Božji nam je rojen Sin.

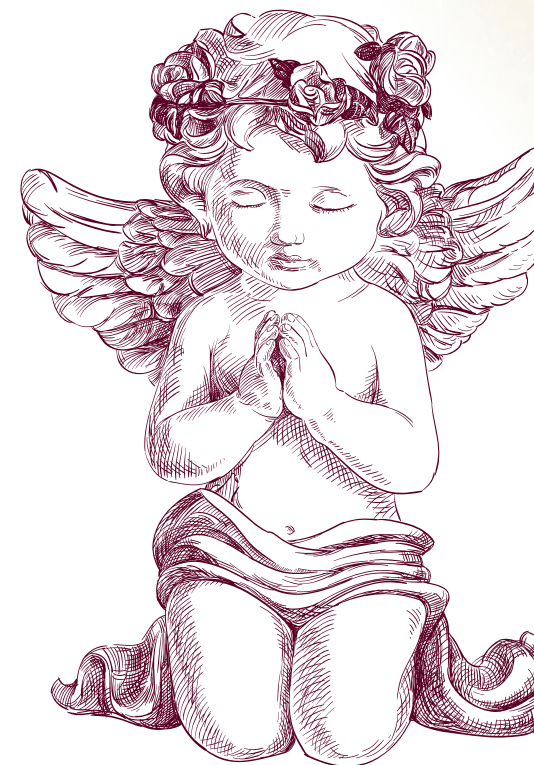
Bog se učlovečil je, radujmo se!
Da bi nas osrečil, veselimo se!
Iz prečiste Deve, rodbine kraljeve,
Božji nam je rojen Sin.

God's Son is born to us

God's Son is born to us, let us rejoice!
He has come to us from above, we rejoice!
Of the pure Virgin, of royal lineage,
God's Son is born to us.

Prophesied already for long, let us rejoice!
He has seen the white day, we rejoice!
Of the pure Virgin, of royal lineage,
God's Son is born to us.

God became incarnate, let us rejoice!
To make us happy, we rejoice!
Of the pure Virgin, of royal lineage,
God's Son is born to us.



Trei păstori

Traditional folk song

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 dancing as well. The children then receive sweets, fruits and traditional cakes called *cozonaci*. The Romanian Santa Claus is known as *Moș Crăciun* (literally "Old Man Christmas").

About the performers

Dana Dragomir is a Swedish pan flute musician and composer of Romanian origin. She is also known under the name *Pandana* – a combination between the Greek god Pan and her name). She is best known for her interpretation of the song *Mio My Mio*, written by Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus of ABBA. Dana is the first professional female pan flute player in the world. Her music is a mixture of pop, world and new age. She has achieved chart success in Sweden with several of her albums, being quoted the best-selling instrumental artist in Scandinavia and the first one

Dana Dragomir

Piano: Mathias Hellberg

Vocals: Theodor Bagaian

Language: Romanian

to ever top the Swedish radio record chart, *Svensktoppen*. Mathias Hellberg is a musician (piano and keyboards) who accompanies different artists, including Dana Dragomir. He also works as a music and piano teacher. Theodor Bagaian (19) is a pianist, singer, composer and conductor, who is currently studying choir conducting at KMH. He graduated this year from *Kungsholmens gymnasium* och *Stockholms musikgymnasium*. He was earlier a student of *Adolf Fredriks musikklasser*.

About the song

The Romanian song is a folkloric carol documented from the late 18th century. It was known throughout the country, but having no distinctive dialectal features, its exact origin cannot be determined. Between 1948 and 1989, one would be arrested for singing this or any other similar carol publicly in Romania. The very word "Christmas" was banned; saying it in a large gathering meant expulsion from school or from any well-paid job. Only those carols making no explicit mention of Christ, Mary or the word "Christmas" were somehow permitted. But people still treasured the carols and they were never lost.

Trei păstori

Trei păstori se întâlniră
Trei păstori se întâlniră
Raza soarelui, Floarea soarelui
Și așa se sfătuiră:

„Haideți fraților să mergem
Haideți fraților să mergem
Raza soarelui, Floarea soarelui
Floricele să culegem

Și să facem o cunună
Și să facem o cunună
Raza soarelui, Floarea soarelui
S-o-mpletim cu voie bună

Și s-o ducem lui Hristos
Și s-o ducem lui Hristos
Raza soarelui, Floarea soarelui
Să ne fie de folos

Three shepherds

Three shepherds met
Three shepherds met
Sunbeam, Sunflower
And so they advised each other:

"Come on, brothers, let's go
Come on, brothers, let's go
Sunbeam, Sunflower
Let's pick some small flowers

And let's make a wreath
And let's make a wreath
Sunbeam, Sunflower
Let's knit it joyfully

Let's take it to Christ
Let's take it to Christ
Sunbeam, Sunflower
For the good of us all





Venez, bergers, accourez tous

Unknown

Christmas traditions in Belgium

The Christmas season in Belgium starts in early December, usually after *Saint Nicolas* has brought gifts, candies and chocolate to the nicest children. Most towns and villages have public Christmas trees, and most families also have one. Buildings and windows are decorated with warm lights. There are over a hundred large and smaller Christmas markets across the country, where one could buy gifts and taste delicacies. Mulled wine is a popular drink, as well as strong jenever and hot chocolate with real melted chocolate. Typical specialties taking pride of place on the Christmas table are the *boudin de Noël*, made of green cabbage, the *cougnon* and the *boukètes*.

About the performers

The performers of the Belgian entry are six staff members and trainees of the Belgian Embassy to Sweden, the Wallonia Export and Investment Agency (AWEX) and the Brussels Export and Investment Agency (hub.brussels): Yasmine Alaeddine, Marie-Cerise Dumont, Ines Godderis,

The Belgian Embassy Choir

Guitar: Marie-Cerise Dumont

Languages: French, Dutch

Ferdinando Palmeri, Manon Salmain and Bruno Vandecasteele. They are not a professional choir, but they are happy to be part of this year's EU Christmas concert.

About the song

The Belgian entry is a popular song from Old Hainaut – but not famous nowadays. The lyrics were found in a handwritten booklet, in which the Belgian family Thon wrote the text of songs they liked between 1650 and 1786. It is a dialogue between an angel and a shepherd. The angel wakes up a group of shepherds and tells them to leave their pastures to pay homage to the new-born King. One of them wants to keep sleeping, but the angel explains how important this birth is.



Venez, bergers, accourez tous

(L'ange)

Venez, bergers, accourez tous,
Laissez vos pâturages,
Un nouveau Roi est né pour vous,
Portez-lui vos hommages,
N'oubliez point vos chalumeaux,
Ni vos douces musettes
Et faites de vos airs nouveaux,
Retentir la retraite.

(Le berger)

Quelle est cette importune voix
Qui frappe mon oreille ?
Ne puis-je dormir une fois
Sans que l'on me réveille ?
Tantôt les coqs trop diligents,
Tantôt l'enfant qui crie.
On doit laisser dormir les gens
Quand ils en ont envie.

(De engel)

Herder, verjaag nu gauw je slaap
De zon van de genade
Verschijnt al aan de horizon;
Dit woord gaat je te boven,
Ik zal spreken in klare taal:
De Redder is geboren,
En ik daal af uit 't hemelrijk,
Om mijn Here in te luiden.

(De herder)

Oh! Welke gloed verlicht de nacht
Ondanks de duisternisse!
De Koning van de Hemelen,
Op Aard' ter wereld gekomen
Ik voel al, in mijn geest en hart,
De gratie die me verlicht.
En haar licht is genoeg voor mij:
'k Geloof in het mysterie!

Come on, shepherds, run up you all

(The angel)

Come on, shepherds, run up you all!
Leave your pastures,
A new King is born for you,
Pay homage to him,
Do not forget your torches,
Nor your sweet backpacks
And let your new tunes,
Ring out the retreat.

(The shepherd)

What is this loud voice,
That strikes my ear?
Can't I sleep once,
Without being awakened?
Now the diligent roosters,
Then the screaming child.
People should be allowed to sleep
When they want to.

(The angel)

Shepherd, you sleep beyond reason,
The sun of grace
Has just shone on the horizon;
This speech surpasses you,
I will speak more clearly:
The Saviour is born.
And I come down from the firmament
To announce my Master.

(The shepherd)

Oh! What glow lights the night
Despite the darkness!
The King of Heaven,
On Earth is born.
I feel already, in my mind and heart,
The grace that enlightens me.
And his light is enough for me:
To believe in this mystery!

Κάλαντα Χριστουγέννων Δωδεκανήσου

[Kalanda Christougennon Dodekanisou]

Traditional folk song

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 traditional musical instruments, on three different occasions during Christmas season: Christmas Eve (24 December), New Year's Eve (31 January) and Epiphany's Eve (5 January). 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 while children are sleeping.

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

Ορφέας [Orfeas]

Conductor: *Rolando Pomo*

Pianist: *Johan Sandback*

Language: *Greek*

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 traditional Christmas carols 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 version originated in the Dodecanese (literally "The Twelve Islands"), the island group in the southeastern Aegean Sea, including Rhodes and Kos. The lyrics in this version have strong religious references.

Κάλαντα Χριστουγέννων Δωδεκανήσου

(Αυτή είναι η ημέρα)

Αυτή είναι η ημέρα
όπου ήλθ' ο Λυτρωτής
από Μαριάμ μητέρα
εκ Παρθένου γεννηθείς.

Χριστούγεννα!
Ναι... είναι Χριστούγεννα!

Άναρχος αρχήν λαμβάνει
και σαρκούται ο Θεός,
ο Αγέννητος γεννάται
εις την φάτνην ταπεινός.

Χριστούγεννα!
Ναι... είναι Χριστούγεννα!

Όσοι έχετε στα ξένα,
να δεχθείτε με καλό
και του χρόνου με υγεία
τον Θεό παρακαλώ.

Χριστούγεννα!

Christmas carols from the Dodecanese

(This is the day)

This is the day
when the Redeemer came,
of Mary the mother,
born of the Virgin.

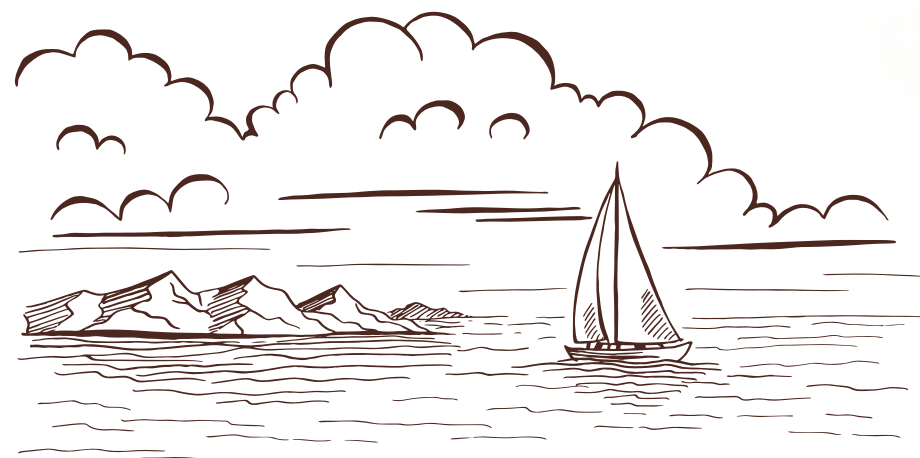
Christmas!
Yes... it is Christmas!

The lawless receives law
and God takes on flesh,
the Unborn is born
humbly in the manger.

Christmas!
Yes... it is Christmas!

Those of you living abroad,
may you welcome God
with health next year again,
I'm pleading.

Christmas!



Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her

Martin Luther

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, one could 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 performers

Haga Motet Choir is an independent, mixed choir founded in 1991. The repertoire includes both sacred and secular music from the Renaissance to the present day. The choir gives several major concerts each year. They have performed works by Mozart, Bach, Bruckner and Stravinsky, as well as secular choral music by Rautavaara, Britten, Pärt, Tormis and Poulenc, and chansons by Hindemith, Ravel,

Haga Motet Choir

Conductor & Organist: Michael Dierks
Language: German

Debussy, Brahms and Mendelssohn. Michael Dierks studied organ and church music at the Stuttgart and Detmold Conservatories of Music in Germany, and holds a doctorate from McGill University in Canada, where he studied organ with William Porter. He is one of the initiators of the organ festival *OrganSpace Stockholm*, which was founded in 2017 and takes place bi-annually with concerts in, among others, the German St Gertrude's Church, where Michael is also active as a cantor.

About the song

The German song has become a classic Christmas carol. The text was written in 1534 by Martin Luther (1483-1546), probably for the Christmas celebration in family circle. The melody most commonly associated with the hymn was published in 1539. It is thought to have been composed by Martin Luther as well. The hymn is related to the nativity of Jesus Christ, as written in Luke 2: 8-18. The melody can also be heard in Johann Sebastian Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*. The Swedish Christmas song *Ett barn är fött på denna dag* is partly based on this hymn.

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her

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

Euch ist ein Kindlein heut' geborn
Von einer Jungfrau auserkorn,
Ein Kindelein, so zart und fein,
Das soll eu'r Freud und Wonne sein.

Es ist der Herr Christ, unser Gott,
Der will euch führn aus aller Not,
Er will eu'r Heiland selber sein,
Von allen Sünden machen rein.

Das hat also gefallen dir,
Die Wahrheit anzuzeigen mir:
Wie aller Welt Macht, Ehr und Gut
Vor dir nichts gilt, nichts hilft noch tut.

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

From Heaven above to Earth I come

From Heaven above to Earth I come
To bear good news to every home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
Whereof I now will say and sing:

To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen mother mild;
This little child, of lowly birth,
Shall be the joy of all your earth.

'Tis Christ our God who far on high
Hath heard your sad and bitter cry;
Himself will your Salvation be,
Himself from sin will make you free.

Thus hath it pleased Thee to make plain
The truth to us poor fools and vain,
That this world's honour, wealth and might
Are nought and worthless in Thy sight.

Glory to God in highest Heaven,
Who unto man His Son hath given!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad New Year to all the Earth





Estocolmo en Navidad y Ángeles confiteros

Gabriel Lezcano / Concha Méndez

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*. In most houses 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 (literally "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 in Stockholm and other parts of Sweden, with their music, melodies, language 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 song is divided into two parts: *Estocolmo en Navidad* (Stockholm at Christmas) and *Ángeles confiteros* (Pastry Angels), both composed by Gabriel Lezcano. The first part is a small introduction to our feelings during Christmas in our city: snow, peace and love – with lyrics also by Gabriel Lezcano. The second part is a Christmas carol (*villancico*), based on the poem of the famous writer and poet Concha Méndez (1898-1986). The song refers to children's feelings and the ambience in the streets at Christmas, as well as the birth of a new child.



Estocolmo en Navidad y Ángeles confiteros

Blanca navidad, nieva en Estocolmo.
Todo es paz y amor en la Navidad.

De la miel y del azúcar,
los ángeles confiteros,
hacen para darle al niño,
confites y caramelos.

El que cuida del maní,
que es el ángel manisero,
con un trocito de sol,
lo va tostando en su fuego.

"Palomita mensajera,
tan blanca como la nieve,
lleva al niño este anillito,
y dile que me recuerde,
que yo soy aquella niña,
que le llevó lirios verdes".

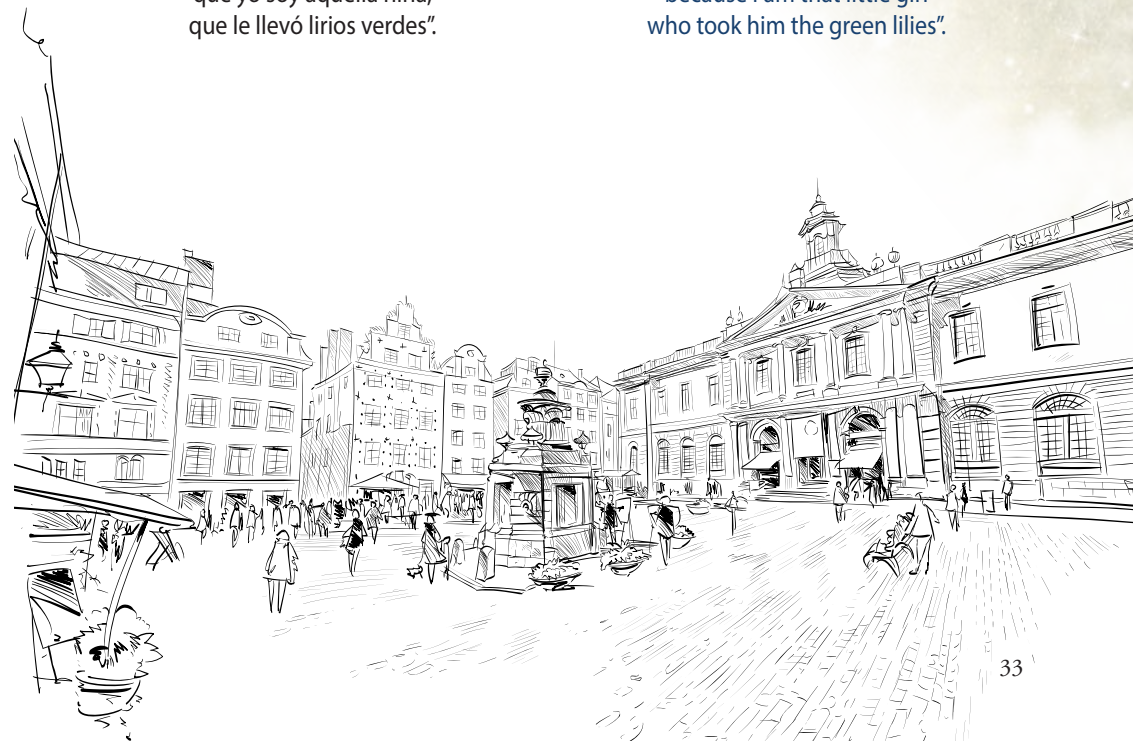
Stockholm at Christmas and Pastry Angels

White Christmas, it snows in Stockholm.
Everything is peace and love at Christmas.

Made of honey and sugar,
the pastry angels,
to give to the child,
sweets and candies.

The one who looks after the peanut,
that is the peanut angel,
with a bit of sun,
is roasting it in the fire.

"Little messenger-pigeon,
as white as the snow,
take this little ring to the child,
and tell him to remember me,
because I am that little girl
who took him the green lilies".



Atlėkė elnias devyniaragis

Traditional folk song

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

Bitkreslė

Kanklės: Edita Lemonnier

Violin: Jurgita Narušytė

Language: Lithuanian

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 song represents the interaction between the ancient pagan religion and elements of the Christian traditions. The song portrays the rebirth of the Sun and the tradition of wedding in the church during Christmas. The nine-horned deer is an ancient creature in Lithuanian mythology that carries celestial bodies on its horns (usually the moon, but also the sun). It is exactly 9 days from the Waxing Crescent until the full moon – that is why the deer is called nine-horned. The legend says that the deer runs away on the summer solstice and resorts in the winter at Christmas. It’s mentioned in archaic songs as an allegory of the position of celestial bodies.

Atlėkė elnias devyniaragis

Atlėkė elnias devyniaragis
Oi, Kalėda, devyniara

Devyniaragis dešimtašakis
Oi, Kalėda, dešimtašak

Ant jo ragelių kalveliai kala
Oi, Kalėda, kalveliai ka

O, jūs kalveliai manie broliai,
Oi, Kalėda, manie brola

O jūs nukalkit aukselio kupkų
Oi, Kalėda, aukselio kup

Aukselio kupkas vyneliui gercie
Oi, Kalėda, vyneliui gerc

Sidabro žiedas veli - vin - čiavoniui
Oi, Kalėda, veli -vin - čiavon

Perlų vainikas ant galvos dėcie
Oi, Kalėda, ant galvos diec

The nine-horned deer has come

The nine-horned deer has come
Oh, Kalėda, nine-horned

Nine-horned ten-branched
Oh, Kalėda, ten-branched

On his little horns the little smiths are forging
Oh, Kalėda, the little smiths are forging

Oh, you little smiths my little brothers
Oh, Kalėda, my little brothers

Oh, you forge the golden goblet
Oh, Kalėda, the golden goblet

The golden goblet is for drinking wine
Oh, Kalėda, for drinking wine

The silver ring of the wedding
Oh, Kalėda, the wedding

Put the crown of pearls on the head
Oh, Kalėda, put it on the head





Mennyből az angyal

Mihály Szentmihályi

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. 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

Stockholmi Magyar Kamarakórus

Conductor: László Harmat

Language: Hungarian

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 is one of the oldest and most popular Christmas songs in Hungary. The songwriter is most likely the parish priest Mihály Szentmihályi, who lived in the 19th century. The song is about the angel delivering the good news to the shepherds in the fields that Jesus Christ is born. According to the Hungarian Christmas tradition, either Baby Jesus or an angel from heaven brings the Christmas tree and presents for the children on Christmas Eve.



Mennyből az angyal

Mennyből az angyal lejött hozzátok,
pásztorok, pásztorok,
hogy Betlehembe sietve menvén
lássátok, lássátok.

Istennek fia, aki született
jászolban, jászolban,
Ő leszen néktek üdvözítőtok
valóban, valóban.

Mellette vagyon az édesanyja,
Mária, Mária,
barmok közt fekszik, jászolban nyugszik
szent fia, szent fia.

El is mennének köszöntésére
azonnal, azonnal,
szép ajándékot vivén szívükben
magukkal, magukkal.

A kis Jézuskát egyelőképpen
imádják, imádják,
a nagy Úristent ilyen nagy jóért
mind áldják, mind áldják.

Angel from Heaven

Angel from Heaven came to you, shepherds,
shepherds,
thus going to Bethlehem in haste
see it, see it.

God's only Son who was born
in a manger, in a manger,
He will be your redeemer
truly so, truly so.

With His mother by His side,
Mary, Mary,
He lies amongst the cattle, rests in a manger
the Holy Son, the Holy Son.

They rush to worship Him
in haste, in haste,
Bringing Him fine presents
in their hearts, in their hearts.

They kneel by the baby Jesus
worshipping Him, worshipping Him,
For such a blessing praising
God Almighty, God Almighty.



Noël

Gabriel Fauré / Victor Wilder

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 (*mess de minuit*). Another common tradition is that children leave a hot beverage and some biscuits for the French Santa Claus, known as *Père Noël* (literally "Father Christmas") – before going to bed, while they get to open their gifts on 25 December.

About the performer

Norea Humla is a classically trained lyrical soprano from Stockholm. She grew up immersed in music and has extensive experience with both solo and choral performances, in a wide range of genres. With a professional background in dancing, she is now set on the path of pursuing opera wholeheartedly. She has an expressive and rich voice that is amplified by her

Norea Humla

Piano: Per Olsson
Language: French

colourful and graceful movements. As a former student of *Franska skolan*, she is accompanied on the piano by Per Olsson, music teacher at the school.

About the song

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924) composed this song in 1885 as an occasional piece; a little Christmas song destined for a performance where a harmonium was available to add a festive carillon colour to the piano accompaniment. The lyrics are set on a poem by Victor Wilder (1835-1892) and the English translation is by Richard Stokes from *A French Song Companion* (Oxford, 2000).

Noël

La nuit descend du haut des cieux,
Le givre au toit suspend ses franges.
Et, dans les airs, le vol des anges
Éveille un bruit mystérieux.

L'étoile qui guidait les mages,
S'arrête enfin dans les nuages,
Et fait briller un nimbe d'or
Sur la chaumière où Jésus dort.

Alors, ouvrant ses yeux divins,
L'enfant couché dans l'humble crèche,
De son berceau de paille fraîche,
Sourit aux nobles pèlerins.

Eux, s'inclinant, lui disent: Sire,
Reçois l'encens, l'or et la myrrhe,
Et laisse-nous, ô doux Jésus,
Baiser le bout de tes pieds nus.

Comme eux, ô peuple, incline-toi,
Imite leur pieux exemple,
Car cette étable, c'est un temple,
Et cet enfant sera ton roi.

Christmas

Night falls from the sky,
Frost hangs its fringes along the roofs.
And the flight of angels in the sky
Creates a mysterious sound.

The star that led the magi
Stops at last in the clouds,
And casts a golden halo
Above the cottage where Jesus sleeps.

Then, opening His divine eyes,
The Child, lying in the humble manger,
From His crib of fresh hay
Smiles at the noble pilgrims.

They, bowing down, address Him: Sire,
Receive the incense, gold and myrrh,
And allow us, O gentle Jesus,
To kiss the tips of your naked feet.

Bow down like them, O people,
Follow their devout example,
For this stable is a temple,
And this Child shall be your king.



Don oíche úd i mBeithil

Traditional folk song / Aodh Mac Aingil

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, one could 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 song is a beloved Christmas carol to an Irish text by the poet and theologian Aodh Mac Cathmhaoil (1571-1626), also known as Aodh Mac Aingil (literally "Son of an Angel"). The poem, which describes the first Christmas, is widely published in Ireland. The carol celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ on that night in Bethlehem, where the Word of God was born. The origin of the melody is unknown but may go back as far as the 7th century AD.

Don oíche úd i mBeithil

Don oíche úd i mBeithil
Beidh tagairt faoi ghréin go brách
Don oíche úd i mBeithil
Gur tháinig an Briathar slán

Tá gríosghrúa ar spéartha
's an talamh 'na chlúdach bán
Féach Íosagán sa chléibhín
's an Mhaighdean 'Á dhiúl le grá

Ar leacain lom an tsléibhe
Go nglacann na haoirí scáth
Nuair in oscailt ghil na spéire
Tá teachtaire Dé ar fáil

Céad glóir anois don Athair
Sa bhFlaitheasa thuas go hard!
Is feasta fós ar talamh
D'fheara dea-mhéin' síocháin!

That night in Bethlehem

I sing of a night in Bethlehem
A night as bright as dawn
I sing of that night in Bethlehem
The night the Word was born

The skies are glowing gaily
The earth in white is dressed
See Jesus in the cradle
Drink deep in His mother's breast

And there on a lonely hillside
The shepherds bow down in fear
When the heavens open brightly
And God's message rings out so clear

Glory now to the Father
In all the heavens high!
And peace to His friends on earth below
Is all the angels cry!



Sliby se maj' plnit o Vánocích

Janek Ledecký

Marek Pleva

Language: Czech

Christmas traditions in Czechia

Presents are brought in Czechia by *Ježíšek* (Baby Jesus) on Christmas Eve. Most families follow a few common traditions; for example, those who fast until dinnertime, they will see a golden pig. At the Christmas table, one extra place is always set for a possible traveller. It is not allowed to leave the dinner table before everyone has finished eating. The traditional Christmas dinner consists of fish soup and fried carp with potato salad.

About the performer

Marek Pleva is an intern at the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Stockholm. He studies International Relations and Security and Strategic Studies in Brno. His grandfather was a double world champion of the harmonica. His whole family are musicians and he has been involved in music throughout all of his life. Marek has been playing classical guitar for 12 years. He has two bands called *The Inversion* and *Easy Steps*. He is currently about to release a new album with *Easy Steps*.

About the song

The Czech song was written in 1993 by singer, guitarist and composer Janek Ledecký, who was born in Prague in 1962. It is interesting to note that this Christmas ballad was written in August and became the basis for the whole Christmas album and also for the musical *Christmas Miracle*. The song is about young love and reminds us that Christmas is, above all, a time of forgiveness and kindness.

Sliby se maj' plnit o Vánocích

Soumrak má náskok a hvězdy jsou
o trochu níž
Možná, že je to zdání, možná jsme
si o kousek blíží

Bylo nám šestnáct a vyjímečně napad sníh
Řek jsem: sliby se maj' plnit o Vánocích

Rychle se stmívá a voní cukroví
V kostele zpívají a nikdo se nedoví
Nešli jsme na mši, nechali klíče ve dveřích
Touha a sliby se maj' plnit o Vánocích

Nejhezčí dárek jsem dostal a je to už let
Ptal jsem se smím, řeklas, musíš a
to teď hned
Sfoukla jsi svíčku, bylo dost světla v ulicích
Řeklas: sliby se maj' plnit o Vánocích

Občas tě potkám a řeknem si stěží pár vět
Chtěli jsme navždy, jenže bylo nám
šestnáct let
A když sfouknu svíčku, dodnes
slyším tvůj smích
A pak, že sliby se maj' plnit o Vánocích

Tak píšu ti přání, lehký a bílý jak sníh
P.S. Sliby se maj' plnit aspoň o Vánocích

Promises should be fulfilled at Christmas

Twilight is ahead and the stars are a little lower
Maybe it's an illusion, maybe we're a little closer
We were sixteen and for once the snow fell
I said: promises should be fulfilled at Christmas

It's getting dark fast and it smells like candy
In the church they sing and no one will ever know
We didn't go to the mass, we left the keys
in the door
Desires and promises should be fulfilled
at Christmas

I got the nicest present and it's been years
I asked if I may, you said: you have to and right now
You blew out the candle, there was enough
light in the streets
You said: promises should be fulfilled at Christmas

Sometimes I meet you and we barely say a few
sentences
We wanted forever, but we were sixteen years old
And when I blow out the candle, I can still
hear your laughter
And then that promises should be fulfilled
at Christmas

So I'm writing you a card, as light and
white as snow
P.S. Promises should be fulfilled at
least at Christmas



U se vrime godišta

Traditional folk song

Tamburaški sastav Hrvatske katoličke misije u Stockholmu

Language: Croatian

Christmas traditions in Croatia

Christmas traditions in Croatia vary among regions and might last for an entire month. *Sveti Nikola* (St Nicholas) on 6 December marks the beginning of the gift-giving season: on the eve, children clean their boots and leave them on the window sill, hoping to receive gifts along with wooden sticks. On 4 December, *božićna pšenica* (Christmas wheat) is planted in a round dish; the taller it grows, the more prosperous the coming year will be. By Christmas Eve (24 December), the wheat is tied with a ribbon in red, white and blue – the Croatian flag colours. Christmas Eve and Day are celebrated with close family. After the dinner, Croats attend the solemn Midnight Mass. Christmas celebrations end on Epiphany or *Bogojavljenje* (6 January). In northern Croatia, the tradition is that groups of 3 boys called *zvjezdari* (named after the Star of Bethlehem they carry with them) go from house to house and receive gifts.

About the performers

The Tamburitza Band of the Croatian Catholic Mission in Stockholm consists of 5 music enthusiasts: Igor Sruk, Marija Hornis, Josip Grubešić, Milan Dendić,

Robert Grubešić. The tamburitza is the most common of the Croatian national traditional musical instruments, and a cultural symbol for Croats abroad, binding them to their homeland. Learning to play was passed down from one generation to the next. In 1941, the National TV Tamburitza Orchestra was founded as a professional ensemble performing compositions written for this instrument. The tamburitza ensembles in Croatian communities around the world, including Sweden, reflect the desire to keep the Croatian musical heritage alive for the future generations.

About the song

One of the oldest Croatian Christmas carols, the song is an authentic Croatian folk canto. Due to its popularity, it was given the place of honour to be performed before the Christmas Mass. It is the work of an unknown poet. The melody originates from the old Latin song *In hoc anni circulo*, from the repertoire of Saint-Martial (France) of the 11th century. It describes the birth of Jesus Christ chronologically and is sung with linguistic adaptations from the Middle Ages to the present day.

U se vrime godišta

U se vrime godišta
mir se svijetu navješta
porođenjem djetića
od Djevice Marije

Od prečiste Djevice
i Nebeske Kraljice
Anđeoske Cesarice
svete Djeve Marije

Djeva sina porodi
đavlu silu svu slomi
a kršćane oslobodi
sveta Djeva Marija

U jasle ga stavljaše
majka mu se klanjaše
i slatko ga ljubljaše
sveta Djeva Marija

At that time of the year

At that time of the year,
peace is proclaimed to the world
by giving birth to a child
from the Virgin Mary

From the purest Virgin
and the Heavenly Queen,
the Angelic Empress,
the Holy Virgin Mary

A virgin gives birth to a son,
breaks all the devil's power
and sets the Christians free,
the Holy Virgin Mary

He was put in the manger,
his mother bowed to him
and kissed him sweetly,
the Holy Virgin Mary



Veltījums mīlestībai

Mārtiņš Brauns / Māra Zālīte

Dāmu koris Stokholmietes

Conductor: Sandra Leja Bojsten

Piano: Ginta Vītola

Accordion: Guntis Urtans

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

Stokholmietes is the name of the Latvian Women's Vocal Ensemble in Stockholm, led by Sandra Leja Bojsten. Their artistic activity is inspired by the upcoming *Baltic Song and Dance Celebrations*, marking 150 years since the first edition was held in Latvia in 1873. Inscribed by UNESCO on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, this festival takes place in Latvia every 5 years. They will be joined

for this performance by Kristīna Botrosa, member of staff at the Embassy of Latvia in Sweden, her daughter Rūta Botrosa and the intern Emilija Kate Tomšone.

About the song

The Latvian entry was not originally written as a Christmas song. In the 1990s, it was featured in a Christmas movie that became popular in Latvia and made this song an integral part of the Christmas repertoire. In the words of the composer, Mārtiņš Brauns (1951-2021), it is a song about things that are beautiful and inspire us.

Veltījums mīlestībai

Nevaru es atcerēties,
Kas tas ir, kas tumsā laistās.
Kas tas ir, kas tumsā laistās,
Nevaru es atcerēties.

Atceros es tikai vienu,
Tas ar tevi ļoti saistās,
Tas ar tevi saistās.

Vai tas bija mums un zuda,
Kas tur tagad tumsā laistās.
Kas tur tagad tumsā laistās,
Vai tas bija mums un zuda.

Arvien siltāk, arvien spožāk,
Tas ar tevi ļoti saistās,
Tas ar tevi saistās.

Visas lietas, kas ir skaistas,
man ar tevi saistās.

A tribute to love

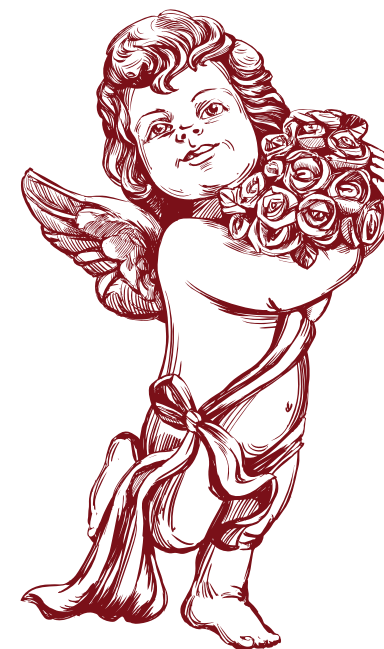
I can't remember
What it is that flashed in the dark
What it is that flashed in the dark
I can't remember

I just remember that
It is related a lot to you
It is related to you

Did it really happen to us and is no more
What is flashing there now in the dark
What is flashing there now in the dark
Did it really happen to us and is no more

Getting warmer, getting brighter
It is related a lot to you
It is related to you

All things that are beautiful
I relate to you



Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht

Franz Xaver Gruber / Joseph Mohr

The Silent Knights

Conductor: Elisabeth Paulovics-Dawid
Language: German

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 19:00, 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

The Silent Knights is an Austrian choir that was formed spontaneously to perform the song *Silent Night* at the EU Christmas concert. The Austrian singers are: Elisabeth Paulovics-Dawid, music teacher and choir director; Martin Glatz, trade attaché; Gabriele Grundnig-Rexberg, teacher; and Wolfgang Matl, journalist. They all grew up singing *Silent Night* with their families every Christmas, and later on, each one of them developed an interest in singing.

About the song

The Austrian song is the favourite Christmas carol that originated in the State of Salzburg. The composer, Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863), wrote the song in 1818 in the village of Arnsdorf, where he was working as an elementary school teacher and organist. He was also playing the organ in St Nicholas Church in the neighbouring town of Oberndorf bei Salzburg. This is where the author, Joseph Mohr (1792-1848), was the auxiliary priest. Sometime before 24 December 1818, the young priest Joseph Mohr handed the six-verse poem to his organist friend Franz Xaver Gruber, with the request to set it to music for the Christmas Mass for two solo voices, choir and guitar. The legend says that on Christmas Day that year, the organ was broken and this provided the opportunity for the song to be performed.

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!

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Hirten erst kundgemacht,
Durch der Engel Halleluja,
Tönt es laut von fern und nah:
Christ, der Retter ist da,
Christ, der Retter ist da!

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht
Lieb aus deinem göttlichen Mund,
Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund,
Christ, in deiner Geburt,
Christ, in deiner Geburt!

Silent night, holy 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!

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia:
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born!

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!



Nu tändas tusen juleljus

Emmy Köhler

(Sing-along)

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 15:00. Dinner starts relatively early and consists of a Christmas buffet (*julbord*), including pickled herring, *gravlax*, *pâté*, *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. He then 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. He has studied Communication, Media and Culture in Athens. Apart from his mother tongue, Greek, he is a speaker of 10 European languages on various

levels, from basic to proficient. Nikos has studied the piano and the flute during his childhood and has been a member of the Choir of the Scandinavian Church in Athens. He is also a big fan of the Eurovision Song Contest – actually having done his dissertation on Europe's favourite show.

About the song

The Swedish entry is a traditional Christmas song from 1898 written – both lyrics and music – by Emmy Köhler (1858-1925). 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.

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!

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!





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, svatá noc

Tichá noc, svatá noc,
Všecho spí, u jeslí,
Pouze přesvatí snoubenci bdí,
Tam, kde spanilý Ježíšek sní,
Anděly opěvován,
Anděly opěvován.

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, vaikne öö!
Puhkab maa rahuga.
Joosep valvab ja Maarjal on seal
väike lapsuke põlvede peal.
Uinu, patuste rõõm!
Uinu, 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

Óíche chiúin, óíche 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 silītē dus,
Jēzus silītē dus.

Lietuvių ★ Lithuanian

Tyli naktis

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

Magyar ★ Hungarian

Csendes éj

Csendes éj, szentséges éj!
Mindenek álma mély.
Nincs fenn más, csak a szent szülőpár
Drága kisdedük 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 ddiēt
Habbret 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 wżem,
A u żłobka Matka Święta
Czuwa sama uśmiechnięta,
Nad Dzieciątką snem
Nad Dzieciątką snem.

Português ★ Portuguese Noite feliz

Noite feliz! Noite feliz!
Ó Senhor, Deus do 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 ★ Slovene 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

Українська ★ Ukrainian Тиха ніч

Тиха ніч, свята ніч!
Ясність б'є від зірниць
Дитинонька Пресвята
Така ясна, мов зоря
Спочиває тихо
Тихо, в тихім сні.

The performers of our EU Christmas Concert 2022



PORTUGAL



ROMANIA



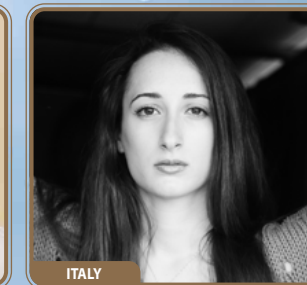
SPAIN



SWEDEN



SLOVAKIA



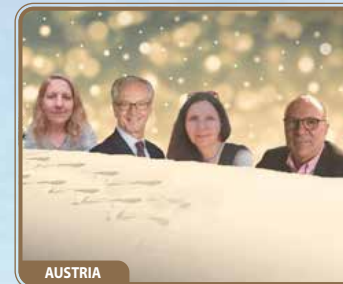
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