

# Donation of the Month

**Christmas Carols song book, Selected and Arranged by Karl Schulte**

Donor: Ruth Plum

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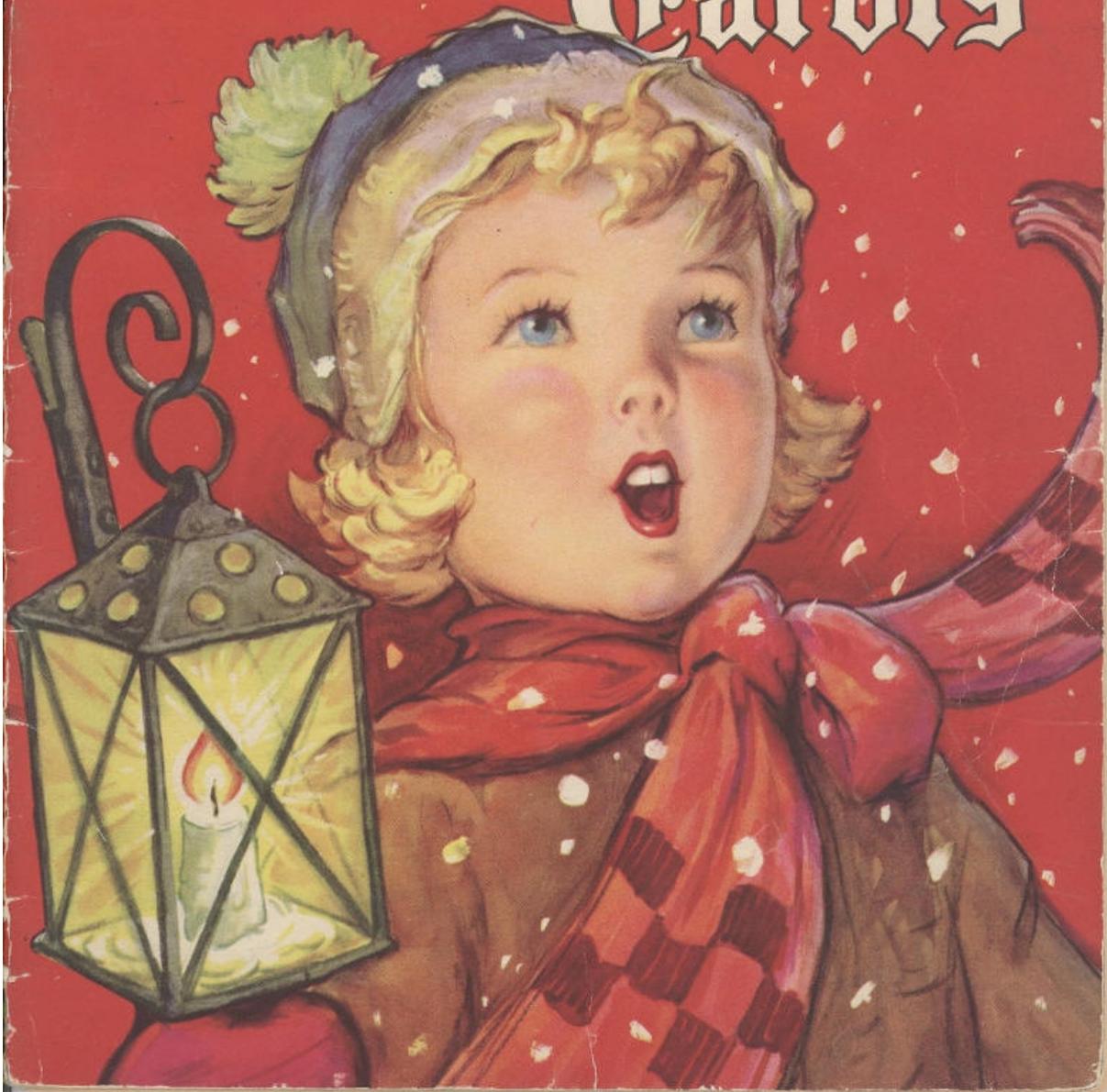
“The first Noel, the angels did say”

While the early origins of Christmas carols and songs are difficult to pin down, Christmas festivities and singing dates back as far as the fourth century when Latin hymns were sung by early Christians.

Christmas songs were introduced to European countries by the Christian Church as a way to convert the celebration of the feast of Yule and mid-wintermas to the celebration of Christmas. The word “carol” has come to be associated with yuletide cheer and singing, but the early meaning of carol simply meant song or dancing. Sacred tunes, Christmas songs, and carols came to be known in French as Noël which is derived from the Latin word for birthday. Today, carols are mostly associated with Christmas songs and holiday merriment.

*Sabine*

# Christmas Carols



“Here we come a-wassailing, among the leaves so green”

Christmas caroling, also known as wassailing, is a tradition in which groups of people visit houses during the winter holiday season and sing carols for the enjoyment (or displeasure) of the home’s residents. Originating during the middle ages in England, wassailing was a way for peasants to receive charities from the English Lords without having to submit to begging. Today, caroling has become a way to spread the holiday spirit and connect with people in your community. The use of Christmas carols as a means to obtain goodies and sweets is evident in the lyrics of “We wish you a merry Christmas.” In this carol, the singers demand the home’s resident to “bring us some figgy pudding” because they “won’t go until they got some.” Carols such as this one are used to encourage residents to be giving during the Christmas season, especially to those who sing holiday melodies.



“Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle all the way”

Christmas carols that we love and sing today come from all over the world. Yet, some of the more popular carols were written and composed in the United States. Carols like "Jingle Bells," "Away in a Manger," "Jolly Old Saint Nicholas," and even "O Little Town of Bethlehem" originated from the United States. The song "O Little Town of Bethlehem" was composed in 1868 by the Americans Phillip Brooks and Lewis H. Redner in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The song was originally written for a Sunday school class as a Christmas song.

# O Little Town of Bethlehem

Phillips Brooks

Lewis H. Redner

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem! How still we see thee lie; A -  
2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry; And gath - er'd all a - bove, While  
3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, The won - drous gift is giv'n! So  
4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem! De - scend to us, we pray; Cast

bove thy deep and dream - less sleep The si - lent stars go by; Yet  
mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love, O  
God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n. No  
out our sins, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day. We

in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing Light; The  
morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth! And  
ear may hear His com - ing, But in this world of sin, Where  
hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad ti - dings tell, O

hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
prais - es sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth.  
meek souls will re - ceive Him still The dear Christ en - ters in.  
come to us, a - bide with us; Our Lord Em - man - u - el!