

A decorative archway with two columns on either side. The arch is adorned with a series of small, winged angel figures. The columns are topped with ornate capitals. The entire structure is framed by a simple rectangular border.

SPANISH  
CHORAL BALLADS  
*Sacred and Secular  
Catalonian Folk Music*

*Edited by*

KURT SCHINDLER

♦♦♦

The Adoration of  
the Shepherds

*(Nit de Vetlla)*

MEDÆVAL CATALONIAN NATIVITY  
SONG

ARRANGED BY

KURT SCHINDLER

No. 13,300

FOR EIGHT-PART CHORUS OF  
MIXED VOICES

12 cents

BOSTON: OLIVER DITSON COMPANY  
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## THE ADORATION OF THE SHEPHERDS

Nit de Vetlla (Watch-Night)  
Nativity-song of Mediæval Catalonia (XV Century)



### *Original (in Catalan)*

Esta nit es nit de vetlla ;  
ha nascut d'una donzella—  
*La miran y fa sol*  
un infant com una estrelia.  
*La Kirie eleyson !*  
Los pastors la'n van a veure ;  
al coll porten una ovella  
*La miran y fa sol*  
a'n el bras fruita novella.  
*La Kirie eleyson !*  
Porten fruita y ovella  
per donar a la partera  
*La miran y fa sol*  
per que'n sigui mes lletera.  
*La Kirie eleyson !*

### *Literal Translation*

This night is watch-night ;  
there has been born from a maiden  
*(Behold, she shines like the sunlight !)*  
an infant as bright as a star.  
*(O Lord, have mercy upon us !)*  
The shepherds come to see her,  
bearing each a lambkin upon his shoulder  
*(Behold, she shines like the sunlight !)*  
and an armful of fresh fruit.  
*(O Lord, have mercy upon us !)*  
They carry fruit and lambkins  
to give them to the young mother  
*(Behold, she shines like the sunlight !)*  
so that she might take strength to nourish her Babe.  
*(O Lord, have mercy upon us !)*

THE simple melody and naïve words are very typical of the Spanish peasant. The little admiring exclamation, "La miran y fa sol," might well be imagined as being derived from mediæval Christmas miracle-plays, when the Virgin and her Babe were impersonated in the Manger. (Such liturgical dramas were frequently played in mediæval Spain and are still given in some villages in Northern Spain nowadays.) The "Kirie eleyson," which the peasants remember from church-services (it is one of the well-authenticated "Kiries" of the mediæval church) but the meaning of which they do not understand, comes as a refrain to each verse, even though it has no logical sense. The choral setting for eight-part chorus (by Kurt Schindler) follows the melody as collected by Señorita D<sup>a</sup> Julita Farnés and printed in the dissertation on "Religious Folk-Song," by Don Lluís Millet.



# THE ADORATION OF THE SHEPHERDS (NIT DE VETLLA)

For Eight-part Chorus of Mixed Voices

English version by  
Deems Taylor and Kurt Schindler

Mediaeval Catalonian Nativity Song  
Arranged by Kurt Schindler

Prelude for Piano, Harp or Organ

Andantino

HARP

Andantino mosso (Solo) (Chorus)

SOPRANO I  
Ho-ly night, O night of won-der! In a low-ly man-ger yon-der Lies the  
*Es-ta nit es nit de vet-lla, Es-ta nit es nit de vet-lla, ha nas-*

SOPRANO II  
In a low-ly man-ger yon-der Lies the  
*Es-ta nit es nit de vet-lla, ha nas-*

ALTO I  
In a low-ly man-ger yon-der Lies the  
*Es-ta nit es nit de vet-lla, ha nus-*

ALTO II  
In a man-ger yon-der  
*Es-ta nit de vet-lla,*

PIANO Reduction  
(For rehearsal only)

(Solo) (Chorus)

lit - tle Sa - viour dream-ing, (O Child so pure and sweet!) Like a star His  
*cut d'u - na don - ze - lla. (La mi - ran y fa sol) un in - fant com*

lit - tle Sa - viour dream-ing, Like a star His  
*cut d'u - na don - ze - lla. un in - fant com*

lit - tle Sa - viour dream-ing, Like a star His  
*cut d'u - na don - ze - lla. un in - fant com*

(Solo) (Chorus)

(O Child so pure and sweet!) Like a star His  
*(La mi - ran y fa sol) un in - fant com*

Note concerning the pronunciation of the Catalan language:

Read like Italian or Latin, but with the following exceptions:  
pronounce all the ending t - sounds: *nit, nascut* (neet, nascoot) *infant* etc.  
pronounce the *lla* like *lye*: *donzeylia, estreylia, oveylia*  
pronounce the *lle* like *lye*: *lyeteyra*  
pronounce the final s - in *pastors*  
The t - in *vetlla* is not pronounced. The phonetic result is *veylia*  
per que'n sigui - speak *per ken sceghee*

face is beam - ing. (Solo) *mp* (Chorus) (Have mer - cy on us, Lord! Have mer - cy on us, Lord!)  
*u - na est - re - lla,* (*La Ki - ri - e - ley - son, La Ki - ri - e - ley - son!*)

face is beam - ing. (Have mer - cy on us, Lord!)  
*u - na est - re - lla,* (*La Ki - ri - e - ley - son!*)

face is beam - ing. (Have mer - cy on us, Lord!)  
*u - na est - re - lla,* (*La Ki - ri - e - ley - son!*)

face is beam - ing. (Solo) *p* (Chorus) (Have mer - cy on us, Lord! Have mer - cy on us, Lord!)  
*u - na est - re - lla,* (*La Ki - ri - e - ley - son, La Ki - ri - e - ley - son!*)

(a few Solo voices)  
 TENOR I (Chorus) *mf*  
 To the ho - ly Moth - er - maid - en Shep - herds come with of - frings la - den; From their  
*Los pas - tors la'n van a veu - re; Los pas - tors la'n van a veu - re; al coll*

TENOR II *mf*  
 Shep - herds come with of - frings la - den; From their  
*Los pas - tors la'n van a veu - re; al coll*

BASS I *mf*  
 Shep - herds come with of - frings la - den; From their  
*Los pas - tors la'n van a veu - re; al coll*

BASS II *mf*  
 Shep - herds come with of - frings la - den;  
*Los pas - tors la'n van a veu - re;*

(Solo-voices) *mp* (Chorus) *mf*  
 flocks a lamb-kin bring-ing; (O Vir-gin pure and sweet!) Hum-ble prais-es all are  
 por-ten u-na o-ve-lla, (La mi-ran y fa sol!) a'n el bras frui-ta no-  
 flocks a lamb-kin bring-ing; Hum-ble prais-es all are  
 por-ten u-na o-ve-lla, a'n el bras frui-ta no-  
 flocks a lamb-kin bring-ing; Hum-ble prais-es all are  
 por-ten u-na o-ve-lla, a'n el bras frui-ta no-  
 flocks a lamb-kin bring-ing; (O Vir-gin pure and sweet!) Hum-ble prais-es all are  
 por-ten u-na o-ve-lla, (La mi-ran y fa sol!) a'n el bras frui-ta no-

(Solo-voices) *mp* (Chorus)  
 sing-ing. (Have mer-cy on us, Lord! Have mer-cy on us, Lord!)  
 ve-lla. (La Ki-ri-e-ley-son, La Ki-ri-e-ley-son!)  
 sing-ing. (Have mer-cy on us, Lord!)  
 ve-lla. (La Ki-ri-e-ley-son!)  
 sing-ing. (Have mer-cy on us, Lord!)  
 ve-lla. (La Ki-ri-e-ley-son!)  
 sing-ing. (Have mer-cy on us, Lord! Have mer-cy on us, Lord!)  
 ve-lla. (La Ki-ri-e-ley-son, La Ki-ri-e-ley-son!)

(Solo-voices)

SOPRANO I &amp; II

(Chorus)

*mp* And the fruit their fields can of - fer, To the Vir - gin mild they  
*Por-ten frui - ta y o - ve - lla,* *mf* *Por-ten frui - ta y o -*

ALTO I

*mf*

To the Vir - gin mild they  
*Por-ten frui - ta y o -*

ALTO II

*mf*

To the Vir - gin mild they  
*Por-ten frui - ta y o -*

(Solo-voices)

TENOR I

(Chorus)

*p* And the fruit their fields can of - fer, Ah! \_\_\_\_\_  
*Por-ten frui - ta y o - ve - lla,* Ah! \_\_\_\_\_

TENOR II

*mf*

To the Vir - gin mild they  
*Por-ten frui - ta y o -*

BASS I

*mf*

To the Vir - gin mild they  
*Por-ten frui - ta y o -*

BASS II

*mf*

Ah! \_\_\_\_\_ Ah! \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ah! \_\_\_\_\_ Ah! \_\_\_\_\_

*mp* *mf*



prof - fer For the Babe that she doth cher - ish, (O Child so pure and  
 ve - lla, per do - nar a la par - te - ra, (La mi - ran y fa

*mp* (Solo-voices)

prof - fer For the Babe that she doth cher - ish,  
 ve - lla, per do - nar a la par - te - ra,

prof - fer For the Babe that she doth cher - ish, (O Child so pure and  
 ve - lla, per do - nar a la par - te - ra, (La mi - ran y fa

*p* (Solo-voices)

— For the Babe that she doth cher - ish, (O Child so pure and  
 — per do - nar a la par - te - ra, (La mi - ran y fa

*p* (Solo-voices)

prof - fer.  
 ve - lla,

prof - fer.  
 ve - lla,

(O Child so pure and  
 (La mi - ran y fa

*p* (Solo-voices)

*mp*

(Chorus) *mf* (Solo-voices) *mp* (Chorus) *f*

sweet!) Lest the lit - tle Sa-viour per-ish. (Have mer-cy on us, Lord! Have mer-cy on us, Lord!)  
*sol!* *per que'n si - gui mes lle - te - ra, (La Ki-ri-e-ley - son, La Ki-ri - e - ley - son!)*

*mf* *f*

Lest the lit - tle Sa-viour per-ish. (Have mer-cy on us, Lord!)  
*per que'n si - gui mes lle - te - ra, (La Ki-ri - e - ley - son!)*

(Chorus) *mf* (Solo-voices) *p* (Chorus) *f*

sweet!) Lest the lit - tle Sa-viour per-ish. (Have mer-cy on us, Lord! Have mer-cy on us, Lord!)  
*sol!* *per que'n si - gui mes lle - te - ra, (La Ki-ri-e-ley - son, La Ki-ri - e - ley - son!)*

(Chorus) *mf* (Solo-voices) *p* (Chorus) *f*

sweet!) Lest the lit - tle Sa-viour per-ish. (Have mer-cy on us, Lord! Have mer-cy on us, Lord!)  
*sol!* *per que'n si - gui mes lle - te - ra, (La Ki-ri-e-ley - son, La Ki-ri - e - ley - son!)*

*mf* *f*

Lest the lit - tle Sa-viour per-ish. (Have mer-cy on us, Lord!)  
*per que'n si - gui mes lle - te - ra, (La Ki-ri - e - ley - son!)*

*mf* *f*

Lest the lit - tle Sa-viour per-ish. (Have mer-cy on us, Lord!)  
*per que'n si - gui mes lle - te - ra, (La Ki-ri - e - ley - son!)*

(Chorus) *mf* (Solo-voices) *p* (Chorus) *f*

sweet! Lest the lit - tle Sa-viour per-ish. (Have mer-cy on us, Lord! Have mer-cy on us, Lord!)  
*sol!* *per que'n si - gui mes lle - te - ra, (La Ki-ri-e-ley - son, La Ki-ri - e - ley - son!)*

*mf* *mp* *f*



*Sacred and Secular Music  
of Spain and Catalonia for Chorus*

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Edited by Kurt Schindler

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  - a. For eight-part mixed chorus a cappella (No. 13,313. 25c) Op. 19
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