



SPANISH  
CHORAL BALLADS  
*Sacred and Secular  
Catalonian Folk Music*

*Edited by*

KURT SCHINDLER

♦♦♦

The Adoration of  
the Shepherds

*(Nit de Vella)*

MEDIEVAL CATALONIAN NATIVITY  
SONG

ARRANGED BY

KURT SCHINDLER

No. 13,304

FOR FOUR-PART CHORUS OF  
WOMEN'S VOICES

12 cents

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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 estrella.  
*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 women's voices (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 four-part Chorus of Women's Voices

English version by  
Deems Taylor and Kurt Schindler

Mediaeval Catalanian Nativity Song  
Arranged by Kurt Schindler

Andantino

SOPRANO I

SOPRANO II

ALTO I

ALTO II

PIANO  
HARP  
or  
ORGAN

(Solo) *mp* Ho - ly night, Oh, night of won - der! In a low - ly man - ger  
Es - ta nit es nit de vet - lla, *p* Es - ta nit es nit de

In a low - ly man - ger  
Es - ta nit es nit de

In a low - ly man - ger  
Es - ta nit es nit de

In a low - ly man - ger  
Es - ta nit es nit de

*mp* (accomp. ad lib.) *p*

Catalan pronunciation:

Nit — pronounce neat.

Vetlla — pronounce vaylia (without "v")

yon - der Lies the lit - tle Sa - viour dream - ing. (Solo)  
 vet - lla, ha nas - cut d'u - na don - ze - lla (La

yon - der Lies the lit - tle Sa - viour dream - ing.  
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*mf* *p dolce*

*dolce* *mp* *mf* *mp* (Solo)  
 Child so pure and sweet!) Like a star His face is beam - ing. (Have  
 mi - ran y fa sol!) un in - fant com u - na est - re - lla, (La

Like a star His face is beam - ing.  
 un in - fant com u - na est - re - lla,

Like a star His face is beam - ing.  
 un in - fant com u - na est - re - lla,

*dolce* *mp* (Chorus) *mf* *mp* (Solo)  
 Child so pure and sweet!) Like a star His face is beam - ing. (Have  
 mi - ran y fa sol!) un in - fant com u - na est - re - lla, (La

*mp* *mp dolce*

## Catalan dialect:

- Ha — pronounce ah.  
 Nascut — pronounce nascoot.  
 Donzella — pronounce don-zay-lia.  
 Estrella — pronounce e-stray-lia.  
 Y — pronounce ee.

*dolce* *mf* (Chorus) *mf* (Solo)

mer - cy on us, Lord! Have mer - cy on us, Lord!) To the ho - ly  
 Ki - ri - e - ley - son! La Ki - ri - e - ley - son!) Los pas - tors la'n

(Have mer - cy on us, Lord!)  
 (La Ki - ri - e - ley - son!)

(Have mer - cy on us, Lord!)  
 (La Ki - ri - e - ley - son!)

*dolce* *mf* (Chorus)

mer - cy on us, Lord! Have mer - cy on us, Lord!)  
 Ki - ri - e - ley - son! La Ki - ri - e - ley - son!)

(Chorus) *mp*

Moth - er - mai - den Shep - herds come with of - f'ings la - den; From their  
 van a ve - u - re; los pas - tors la'n van a ve - u - re; al coll

Shep - herds come with of - f'ings la - den; From their  
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Shep - herds come with of - f'ings la - den; From their  
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Shep - herds come with of - f'ings la - den;  
 Los pas - tors la'n van a veu - re;

Catalan dialect:

Veure — pronounce *vay-ō-re* (3 syllables.)

Coll — pronounce the *ll* as in *brillant*.

(Solo) *mp(dolce)*

flocks a lamb - kin bring - ing, (O Vir - gin pure and  
 por - ten u - na o - ve - lla, (La mi - ran y fa

flocks a lamb - kin bring - ing,  
 por - ten u - na o - ve - lla,

flocks a lamb - kin bring - ing,  
 por - ten u - na o - ve - lla, (Solo)

From their flocks a lamb - kin bring - ing, (O Vir - gin pure and  
 al coll por - ten u - na o - ve - lla, (La mi - ran y fa

*mf* *pp(dolce, misterioso)*

(Chorus) *mf* (Solo) *mp dolce*

sweet!) Hum - ble prais - es all are sing - ing. (Have mer - cy on us,  
 sol!) a'n el bras frui - ta no - ve - lla. (La Ki - ri - e - ley -

Hum - ble prais - es all are sing - ing.  
 a'n el bras frui - ta no - ve - lla.

Hum - ble prais - es all are sing - ing.  
 a'n el bras frui - ta no - ve - lla. (Solo)

*mf(Chorus)* *mp dolce*

sweet!) Hum - ble prais - es all are sing - ing. (Have mer - cy on us,  
 sol!) a'n el bras frui - ta no - ve - lla. (La Ki - ri - e - ley -

*mp* *mf* *pp dolce*

Catalan dialect: Ovella — pronounce o-vey-lia.  
 Novella — pronounce no-vey-lia.

(Chorus) *mf* Lord! Have mer - cy on us, Lord!) And the fruit their fields can  
 son! La Ki - ri - e - ley - son!) Por - ten frui - ta y o -

(Solo) *mf*

(Have mer - cy on us, Lord!)  
 (La Ki - ri - e - ley - son!)

(Have mer - cy on us, Lord!)  
 (La Ki - ri - e - ley - son!)

(Chorus) *mf*

Lord! Have mer - cy on us, Lord!)  
 son! La Ki - ri - e - ley - son!)

(Chorus) *mp*

of - fer To the Vir - gin mild they prof - fer For the Babe that  
 ve - lla, Por - ten frui - ta y o - ve - lla, per do - nar a

To the Vir - gin mild they prof - fer For the Babe that  
 Por - ten frui - ta y o - ve - lla, per do - nar a

To the Vir - gin mild they prof - fer For the Babe that  
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To the Vir - gin mild they prof - fer For the Babe that  
 Por - ten frui - ta y o - ve - lla, per do - nar a

Catalan dialect:

Ovella — pronounce o-vey-lia.

(Solo) *p dolce* (Chorus) *mp*

she doth cher-ish, (O Child so pure and sweet!) Lest the lit - tle  
 la par - te - ra, (La mi - ran y fa sol!) per qu'en si - gui

she doth cher-ish, Lest the lit - tle  
 la par - te - ra, per qu'en si - gui

she doth cher-ish, Lest the lit - tle  
 la par - te - ra, per qu'en si - gui

(Solo) *p dolce* (Chorus) *mp*

she doth cher-ish, (O Child so pure and sweet!) Lest the lit - tle  
 la par - te - ra, (La mi - ran y fa sol!) per qu'en si - gui

*mf* *pp dolce* *mp*

(Solo) *p dolce* (Chorus) *mf* *f*

Sa - viour per-ish. (Have mer-cy on us, Lord! Have mer-cy on us, Lord!)  
 mes lle - te - ra. (La Ki - ri - e - ley - son! La Ki - ri - e - ley - son!)

Sa - viour per-ish. (Have mer-cy on us, Lord!)  
 mes lle - te - ra. (La Ki - ri - e - ley - son!)

Sa - viour per-ish. (Have mer-cy on us, Lord!)  
 mes lle - te - ra. (La Ki - ri - e - ley - son!)

(Solo) *p dolce* (Chorus) *mf* *f*

Sa - viour per-ish. (Have mer-cy on us, Lord! Have mer-cy on us, Lord!)  
 mes lle - te - ra. (La Ki - ri - e - ley - son! La Ki - ri - e - ley - son!)

*pp dolce* *mf* *f*

Catalan dialect:

Sigut — pronounce *ssee-ghee*.

Lletera — pronounce *lye-ty-rah*.

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