

In Praise of Christmas

K 43

English traditional, 1600
Arr. H. Keyte, A. Parrot, J. Talmar

Cm E♭

1- All hail to the days that me - rit more praise Than
 2- 'Tis ill for a mind to an - ger in - clined, To
 3- This time of the year is spent in good cheer; Kind
 4- When Crist - mas - tide comes in like a bride, With

Fmin Cmin Cmin

all the rest of the year. And wel - come the nights that
 think of small in - ju - ries now. If wrath be to seek don't
 neigh - bours to - ge - ther do meet, To sit by the fire, with
 hol - ly and I - vy clad, Twelve days in the year much

E♭ Fmin G A♭

dou - ble de - lights As well for the poor as the peer! Good
 lend her your cheek, Nor let her in - ha - bit thy brow. Cross
 friend - ly de - sire, Each ot - her in love to greet. Old
 mirth and good cheer In e - ve - ry house - hold is had. The

- In Praise of Christmas -

Chords: Eb, Cmin, Fmin, Gmin

for - tune at - tend each mer - ry man's friend That
 out of thy books ma - le - vo - lent looks, Both
 grud - ges, for - got, are put in the pot, All
 coun - try guise is then to de - vise Some

Chords: Cmin, Gmin, Cmin/G, Ab, Bb, Eb, Cmin

doth bat the best that he may. For - get - ting old wrongs with
 beau - ty and youth's de - cay. And whol - ly con - sort with
 sor - rows a - side they lay. The old and the young doth
 gam - bols of Christ - mas play. Where - at the young men do

Chords: Fmin, Gmin, Cmin, Gmin, Cmin

ca - rols and songs, To drive the cold win - ter a - way. 2- 'Tis
 mirth and with sport, To drive the cold win - ter a - way. 3- This
 ca - rol this song, To drive the cold win - ter a - way. 4- When
 best that they can, To drive the cold win - ter a - way.

We give four of the twelve verses comprising "A pleasant Countrey new Ditty: Merrily shewing how To drive the cold Winter away", from a broadside in the Pepys Collection. The broadside was printed in the early seventeenth century, though the ballad may predate it. The tune is as found in Chappell's *The Popular Music of the Olden Time* (1853).

1. Peer: noblemen. Bat: serve, attend. 2. Wrath: anger. 4. Twelve days: Christmas season, i.e. 25 Dec. to 5 Jan. Guise: custom. Gambol: jump.

IN PRAISE OF CHRISTMAS

All hail to the days that merit more praise
Than all the rest of the year
And welcome the nights that double delights
As well for the poor as the peer!
Good fortune attend each merry man's friend
That doth but the best that he may
Forgetting old wrongs with carols and songs
To drive the cold winter away.

Tis ill for a mind to anger inclined
To think of small injuries now
If wrath be to seek, do not lend her your cheek
Nor let her inhabit thy brow
Cross out of thy books malevolent looks
Both beauty and youth's decay ^{with}
And wholly consort with mirth and sport
To drive the cold winter away.

Kind This time of the year is spent in good cheer
~~And~~ neighbours together do meet
To sit by the fire, with friendly desire
Each other in love to greet
Old grudges forgot are put in the pot
All sorrows aside they lay
The old and the young doth carol this song
To drive the cold winter away.