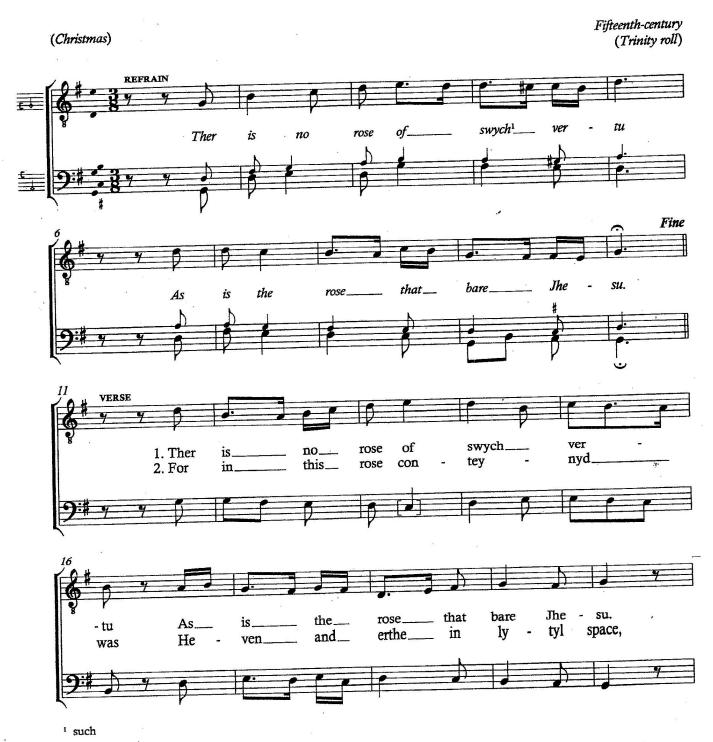


Ther is no rose of swych vertu





- 3 'Be³ that rose we may weel see
 That he is God in personys thre,
 Pari forma.⁴
- 4 The aungelys sungyn the sheperdes to:
 'Gloria in excelsis Deo.'5

 Gaudeamus.6
- 5 Leive we al this worldly merthe,
 And folwe we this joyful berthe:

 Transeamus. 8

Fifteenth-century (Trinity roll)

² a wonderful thing ³ by ⁴ of the same form ⁵ glory to God on high ⁶ let us rejoice ⁷ leave ⁸ let us go

From the same early fifteenth-century manuscript as 'Hayl, Mary, ful of grace' (27). It is the last item, and discoloration and decay make some of the music difficult to decipher: in bar 13, a hole has swallowed the second note of the lower voice. Our added middle part in the refrain is of a kind that might have been improvised. (The resulting succession of chords is characteristic of the English technique known as faburden, which is in fact the addition of parts above and below a melody: three-part realizations with treble tune such as the present one have more in common with the related technique of fauxbourdon.)

The use of the first verse as a refrain is unusual in a carol, and recalls what was sometimes done in processional performances of sequences. The identification of Mary with the rose was a common medieval conceit which forms the

basis of several surviving English carols and a multitude of Latin hymns. The Latin in the first three verses is from the sequence 'Letabundus' (5). 'Gaudeamus' (verse 4) is perhaps from the Christmastide office (*Introit*) antiphon 'Gaudeamus, omnes fideles: Salvator noster natus est in mundum ...' ('Rejoice, all we faithful: our Saviour is born into the world ...'). 'Transeamus' is the first word of the shepherds' response to the angels' 'Gloria in excelsis': 'Let us go now even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass' (Luke 2:15).

See 'There is no rose' (120) for a modern setting of this text by John Joubert. There is also a setting by Britten in A Ceremony of Carols, for high voices and harp.

PERFORMANCE Refrain, two or three voices, or choir; verse, two voices. For a guide to pronunciation see Appendix 1.