

1. Sweet was the song

16th-century English lullaby
edited by JOHN RUTTER

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

Keyboard reduction

Sweet was the song the Vir-gin sang When she to

Sweet was the song the Vir-gin sang When she_ to

Sweet was the song the Vir-gin sang When she to Beth - lem, to_

Sweet was the song the Vir-gin sang When she to

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Beth - lem Ju - da came And was de - liv - ered of a Son,

Beth - lem Ju - da came And was de - liv - ered of a Son,

Beth - lem Ju - da came And was de - liv - ered of a Son, That

Beth - lem Ju - da came And was_ de - liv - ered of a Son,

2. Coventry carol

from the *Pageant of the
Shearmen and Tailors* (1591)

REFRAIN

SOPRANO
and/or ALTO

TENOR

BASS

Keyboard
reduction

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Fine

-lay, thou lit - tle ti-ny child, By by, lul - ly lul - lay. 1. O sis-ters too, How
2. He - rod the king, In
3. That woe is me, Poor

Fine

-lay, thou lit - tle ti-ny child, By by, lul - ly lul - lay. 1. O sis-ters too, How
2. He - rod the king, In
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Fine

In the *Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors*, one of the cycle of medieval mystery plays performed in Coventry, this carol is sung by the women of Bethlehem to quieten their babies so that Herod's soldiers will not hear and find them. It survives only in a facsimile published in 1825 by Thomas Sharp (for a fuller account, see *The New Oxford Book of Carols*). Although inaccurate and perhaps not altogether reliable, this facsimile is certainly closer to the original than Martin Shaw's SATB choral arrangement which is the form in which the carol has become generally known. Note values have been halved in this edition; pitch is unaltered.