

## “A Rhythm Christmas”

N: Long ago, at the very first Christmas, there was music. *Of course, the angels sang,* but if you listened very carefully you could also hear the sounds of all the other rhythms on the earth.

**All: Hark, the Herald Angels (1<sup>st</sup> verse only)**

*All rhythm instruments*

**Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King:  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

**All: Let's go to a village called Nazareth.**

N: Fathers and mothers are building, aunts and uncles are cooking, children are playing.

**All: Yeah! Yeah!**

**Adults: Come Build!**

**Children: Come Play!**

**Adults: Come Eat!**

*All rhythm instruments.*

N: Suddenly, the music of horses galloping along the stony road could be heard.

**All: Clippity Clop  
Clippity Clop  
Clippity, Clippity, Clop**

*Wooden Blocks*

N: A horse and rider stop, and the rider reads the news: “People of Nazareth, Ruler Caesar Augustus needs more taxes. Ruler Caesar Augustus requires a census. Everyone must go to the city where they were born to be counted. Take your wives, take your husbands and take your children; everyone must be counted!” And with that, the rider got back on his horse and left the village:

**All: Clippity Clop  
Clippity Clop  
Clippity, Clippity, Clop**

*Wooden Blocks*

N: Now there was a great confusion in the village! Everyone had to get ready to go to the place where they were born. The journey would take them far away from their homes; so, they boarded up their houses:

**All: Hammer, Hammer, Hammer**  
**Tap, Tap, Tap**  
**Hammer, Hammer, Hammer**  
**Tap, Tap, Tap**

*Wooden blocks*

N: They needed to take their animals on their journey; so, they gathered up the hay:

**All: Swish, Swish, Swish**  
**Brush, Brush, Brush**  
**Swish and Brush**  
**Swish and Brush**

*Sand Blocks*

N: The journey would take a long time; so, they packed up all their food: the beans, the oil, the flour and the sugar:

**All: Rattle, Rattle, Rattle**  
**Shake, Shake, Shake**  
**Rattle, Rattle, Rattle**  
**Shake, Shake, Shake**

*Beans shakers, sand drums, and rain sticks*

N: And they packed up all their pans:

**All: Bang, Bang, Bang**  
**Clang, Clang, Clang**

*SMALL metal pans with wooden spoons*

N: And they packed up all their big brass pots:

**All: BANG! BANG! BANG!**  
**CLANG! CLANG! CLANG!**

*BIGGER metal pans with metal spoons*

N: “What about our money? We have to pay our taxes!” And they gathered up all their money:

**All: Jingle, Jingle, Jingle**  
**Jangle, Jangle, Jangle**  
**Jingle, Jangle, Jingle Jangle**  
**Jingle, Jangle, Jingle Jangle**

*Bells and tambourines*

N: Whew! Now...I think we finally have everything; let's start our journey! And let's sing a song as we go!

**All: Sing and play instruments: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (1<sup>st</sup> verse only)**

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
 O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
 Come and behold him, born the King of angels;  
 O come, let us adore him,  
 O come, let us adore him,  
 O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

N: This news meant that Mary and Joseph must go to Bethlehem. Mary is expecting a baby, so...Mary and Joseph travel slowly...to the town of Bethlehem.

**All: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (1<sup>st</sup> verse only)**

*\*Star leads Mary and Joseph in\**

**O little town of Bethlehem,  
 how still we see thee lie!  
 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
 the silent stars go by.  
 Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
 the everlasting light;  
 the hopes and fears of all the years  
 are met in thee tonight.**

N: They have come a long way. Joseph stops in front of a large inn. From inside the inn comes the happy sound of tambourines and laughter.

**All: Jingle, Jingle, Jingle  
 Jangle, Jangle, Jangle  
 Jingle, Jangle, Jingle Jangle  
 Jingle, Jangle, Jingle Jangle**

*Bells and tambourines*

N: "I don't know if this will be a very *restful* place," Joseph said, "But at least it will be warm and dry. Let's see if there is room in the inn."

**All: Knock, Knock, Knock  
 Knock (Pause) Knock (Pause) Knock  
 KNOCK (PAUSE) KNOCK (PAUSE) KNOCK!**

*Wooden Block with knocker*

N: But the innkeeper shakes his head (*everyone shakes their head*),

“There is no room here. Go to the *other* inn, the other inn *down* the road, maybe there is room there.” So Mary and Joseph go *down* the road.

**All: Knock, Knock, Knock**

**Knock (Pause) Knock (Pause) Knock**

**KNOCK (PAUSE) KNOCK (PAUSE) KNOCK!**

*Wooden Block with knocker*

N: But the innkeeper shakes his head (*everyone shakes their head*),

“No, there is no room here. Go to the *next* inn, the next inn *down* the road, maybe there is room there.” So Mary and Joseph go *down* the road.

**All: Knock, Knock, Knock**

**Knock (Pause) Knock (Pause) Knock**

**KNOCK (PAUSE) KNOCK (PAUSE) KNOCK!**

*Wooden Block with knocker*

N: But the innkeeper shakes his head (*everyone shakes their head*),

“No, I have no room *here*...

**BUT**...I *do* have a stable! The hay is fresh and clean, the walls are warm and safe, and the roof is strong and dry.” And Mary said, “Yes.” And Joseph said, “Yes.” And the innkeeper said, “Welcome.”

**All: “Away in a Manger” (1<sup>st</sup> verse only)**

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,**

**the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.**

**The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,**

**the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

N: All the shy farm animals were there. The wooly sheep was there. The friendly cow was there. The cooing dove was there. Mary rested and Joseph rested. And they all looked out over the town of Bethlehem as the people began to go to sleep...the lights dimmed...and the animals sang a lullaby:

**All: “Jesus, Our Brother, Strong and Good” (1<sup>st</sup> verse only)**

**Jesus our brother strong and good,**

**was humbly born in a stable rude,**

**And the friendly beasts all around him stood,**

**Jesus our brother strong and good.**

*\*Animals process in\**

*Sand blocks, shakers, rain sticks*

N: Then Joseph shut the big stable door and it was very quiet.  
 In the stillness of the night, baby Jesus came to be.  
 In the shelter of the stable, baby Jesus was born.

**All: Sing quietly—no instruments— “Silent Night” (1<sup>st</sup> verse only)**  
**\*Angel brings in Baby Jesus\***

**Silent night, holy night!**  
**All is calm, all is bright**  
**'Round yon virgin mother and child.**  
**Holy Infant so tender and mild,**  
**Sleep in heavenly peace,**  
**Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**All: The Angles welcome baby Jesus.**  
*(Angels gather up with Mary and Joseph)*

N: Angles began to sing the most beautiful music in the world! The angels said, “Let’s go and sing at baby Jesus’ birth.”

**All: “Angels We have Heard on High” (Verses 1 &2)**  
*All instruments*

**Angels we have heard on high,**  
**singing sweetly through the night,**  
**and the mountains in reply**  
**echoing their brave delight.**

**Refrain:**  
**Gloria in excelsis Deo,**  
**gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?**  
**Why these songs of happy cheer?**  
**What great brightness did you see?**  
**What glad tidings did you hear? [Refrain]**

*Entire Nativity tableau is assembled.*

N: And, so it was, on that night long, long ago in Bethlehem, baby Jesus was born and the earth and all that was in it made beautiful music together!

God bless you all...and know...that as long as you have love in your heart, you will make beautiful music in the world! Amen.

**A Medley of Carols**

**What Child is This (Verses 1&2)**

**What Child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?**

**Chorus:**

**This, this is Christ, the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

**Why lies He in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading. [Chorus]**

**Still, Still, Still (Verses 1&2)**

**Still, still, still, He sleeps in the night so chill!  
The virgin's tender arms enfolding,  
Warm and safe the Child are holding.  
Still, still, still, He sleeps in the night so chill!**

**Sleep, sleep, sleep, He lies in slumber deep  
While angel hosts from heaven come winging,  
Sweetest songs of joy are singing.  
Sleep, sleep, sleep, He lies in slumber deep.**

**#29 Go Tell It on the Mountain (Verses 1&2)**

**Refrain:**

**Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!**

**1 While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,**

**behold throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]**

**2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]**