

## The Coventry Carol

Anonymous Christmas carol from the 15th c. The carol was part of the play *The Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors*, which was performed in the city of Coventry. In this play the song was sung by the mothers of Bethlehem to their children before King Herod's soldiers came to slaughter them.

Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child,  
By, by, lully, lullay.

O sisters too, how may we do,  
For to preserve this day  
This poor youngling for whom we do sing  
By, by, lully, lullay?

Herod the king, in his raging,  
Charged he hath this day  
His men of might, in his own sight,  
All young children to slay.

That woe is me, poor child for thee!  
And ever morn and day  
For thy parting neither say nor sing,  
By, by, lully, lullay!

Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child,  
By, by, lully, lullay.